



## History of Anthropology Newsletter

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# History of Anthropology Panels 2012 AAA Meetings

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In the final session, Philip Batty, Melbourne Museum, gave two presentations. First, he discussed how an Aboriginal object, the secret/sacred churinga, figured in colonial and post-colonial programs. For early missionaries, churingas were impediments to Indigenous "salvation." For evolutionist anthropologists like Baldwin Spencer, they represented a stage in a standard narrative of the replacement of "primitive" beliefs by science. Recently, possession and knowledge of a churinga have served to establish legal rights to traditional land. Then, Batty described an Australian Research Council project in which he is participating, "Reconstructing the Spencer and Gillen Collection," which is digitizing everything that Spencer and Gillen collected, photographed, wrote about, recorded, and filmed. Material comes from over thirty institutions world-wide, including: Museum Victoria, Melbourne; American Museum of Natural History, New York; South Australian Museum, Adelaide; Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford; Manchester Museum, Manchester; Pigorini Museum of Ethnography, Rome; Mikluho-Maklay Institute of Ethnography, St Petersburg; and the British Museum, London. A website will be available shortly.

### **History of Anthropology Panels 2012 AAA Meetings**

**History of Berkeley's Anthropology: New Subjects, New Questions, New Perspectives** (Organizer: Sergei Kan). Presenters: Sergei Kan (Dartmouth); Ira Jacknis (Hearst Museum, Berkeley); Priscilla Faulhaber-Barbosa (Museum of Astronomy and Related Sciences, Ministry of Science and Technology, Brazil); Robert V. Kemper (Southern Methodist University); Carolyn Smith (Berkeley); Samuel J. Redman (Berkeley). Discussant: Harold C Conklin (Yale)

**Ancestor Worship or Parricide? Anthropological Genealogies** (Organizer: Joshua Smith). Presenters: Robert G. Launay (Northwestern); Andrew Lass (Mount Holyoke); Margaret B. Bodemer (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo); Herbert Lewis (Wisconsin); Paul Shankman (Colorado); Joshua James Smith (Western Ontario). Discussant: Regna Darnell (Western Ontario).

**Crossings Past to Present: Stocking Symposium in the History of Anthropology in Anthropological Practice** (Organizer, David W. Dinwoodie) Presenters: Char Peery (New Mexico); Suzanne Oakdale (New Mexico); Kirk Dombrowski (CUNY John Jay College); Kristen Adler (Antioch College); David W. Dinwoodie (New Mexico); Michelle Lelievre (William and Mary); Olga Glinskii (New Mexico); Sebastian Braun (North Dakota); Susan Trencher (George Mason University). Discussant: Robert Brightman (Reed College).

Those with ideas for sessions for the 2013 AAA meeting should contact David Dinwoodie, Convener of the History of Anthropology interest group, [ddinwood@unm.edu](mailto:ddinwood@unm.edu). The theme for the meeting is "Future Publics, Current Engagements."