



TO: Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley
FROM: Dr. Bethany Usher (SUNY Potsdam) and Dr. Shinu Abraham (St. Lawrence University)
DATE: May 28, 2008
RE: Faculty Seminar Program- Renewed Funding

The Anthropology Writing Roundtables during the 2007-2008 academic year were a success, bringing together faculty from the Anthropology Departments at SUNY Potsdam and St. Lawrence University to review and critique our scholarly written work. We request funding for this program to be extended through the 2008-2009 academic year.

NAME OF SEMINAR:

Anthropology Writing Roundtable 2008-09

SEMINAR ADMINISTRATORS:

Shinu Abraham 229-5723 Anthropology, SLU sabraham@stlawu.edu	Bethany Usher 267-2051 Anthropology, SUNY Potsdam usherbm@potsdam.edu
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VALUE:

As faculty who teach anthropology at the undergraduate level, we often are so focused on our teaching that we do not take the time to discuss our research. One of the most fulfilling aspects of our work is discussing the interrelationships between our research interests and how they relate to the broad field of anthropology. It is also hard to ask busy colleagues to take the time to critique our written work. Thus, our research often feels as if it happens in a vacuum, and is the last in a long list of higher, immediate, priorities. However, research and academic conversation is the foundation that makes us better anthropologists and better teachers, and we need to find a way to focus on this. We also need to mentor new faculty in balancing their teaching with their research. Our workshops, bringing together anthropology faculty from all the subdisciplines and colleges in the area, allows us to have these larger conversations and encouraging academic publication. We have reviewed grant applications, research plans, conference presentations, journal submissions, and book chapters. The discussions have brought the departments closer together, and helped recruit new faculty, as well as supporting our research.

POTENTIAL FACULTY PARTICIPANTS IN SEMINAR:

Shinu Abraham (SLU)*	Carolyn Schwartz (SUNY Potsdam)*
Richard Gonzalez (SLU)*	Jaimin Weets (SUNY Potsdam)
Renee Koster (SLU)*	Patricia Whelehan (SUNY Potsdam)
Celia Nyamweru (SLU)*	Karen Johnson-Wiener (SUNY Potsdam)
Alice Pomponio (SLU)	Susan Stebbins (SUNY Potsdam)
Bethany Usher (SUNY Potsdam)*	Morgan Perkins (SUNY Potsdam)
Benjamin Pyckles (SUNY Potsdam)*	John Omohundro (SUNY Potsdam)
Hadley Kruczek-Aaron (SUNY Potsdam)*	Daniel Bradburd (Clarkson)
Alan Hersker (SUNY Potsdam)*	Annegret Staiger (Clarkson)

*Faculty who participated in 2007-2008 seminars. We will be in contact with Clarkson faculty again this year to encourage their participation.

PROPOSED BUDGET:

Last year, the budget was used to buy the book *How to Write A Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing* (Silvia, 2007), to pay for refreshments at meetings, and to cover childcare for one meeting. The book served to help center discussions about the difficulty in writing “a lot” given our respective teaching loads, and gave some practical tips. The food kept interest, and the childcare helped increase attendance. We had run into a conundrum in scheduling, realizing that the only time everyone was free at the same time was during late afternoons, but many young faculty could not attend then because of the lack of child care. Adding childcare helped considerably, and we plan to do this in the future.

For this year, we are asking for the following funds, for the same reasons as last year. The seminar will also provide each faculty with a copy of *The Craft of Research, 3rd edition* by Booth, Colomb, and Williams (2008, University of Chicago Press).

<i>The Craft of Research:</i>	18 copies @ \$11.90 each	=	\$ 214.00
Childcare (July, January, and June):	3 meetings @ \$50 each	=	\$ 150.00
Light Refreshments:	5 meetings @ \$125 each	=	<u>\$ 625.00</u>
		TOTAL:	\$ 989.00

MEETINGS:

We plan to have five scheduled meetings: July 2008, October 2008, January 2009, March 2009, and June 2009. The group discussed the timing and success of meetings during the last round, and decided that we were best able to devote time to both writing and reading research before and after each semester. Our new format will be to have more frequent and longer meetings in July, January, and June, and shorter meetings in the middle of each semester, near but not on the breaks. These mid-semester breaks will be committed to projects with upcoming deadlines, especially conference presentations, and the July, January, and June meetings will be devoted to longer written works.

2007-2008 meeting dates and attendees:

- July 16, 2007 (Organizational meeting at SUNY Potsdam): Bethany Usher (SUNY Potsdam), Benjamin Pykles (SUNY Potsdam), Alan Hersker (SUNY Potsdam), Richard Gonzales (SLU), Renee Koster (SLU)
- September 21, 2007 (at SLU): Bethany Usher* (SUNY Potsdam), Shinu Abraham* (SLU), Benjamin Pykles (SUNY Potsdam), Alan Hersker (SUNY Potsdam), Richard Gonzales (SLU), Renee Koster (SLU), Ashley Kisler (SLU), Carolyn Schwarz (SUNY Potsdam)
- November 15, 2007 (at SUNY Potsdam): Bethany Usher (SUNY Potsdam), Shinu Abraham (SLU), Benjamin Pykles (SUNY Potsdam), Alan Hersker (SUNY Potsdam), Richard Gonzales (SLU), Renee Koster* (SLU), Ashley Kisler* (SLU), Carolyn Schwarz (SUNY Potsdam)
- February 12, 2008 (at SLU): Bethany Usher* (SUNY Potsdam), Shinu Abraham (SLU), Benjamin Pykles (SUNY Potsdam), Richard Gonzales* (SLU), Renee Koster (SLU), Ashley Kisler (SLU), Carolyn Schwarz (SUNY Potsdam)
- April 24, 2008 (at SUNY Potsdam): Bethany Usher (SUNY Potsdam), Shinu Abraham (SLU), Benjamin Pykles (SUNY Potsdam), Richard Gonzales (SLU), Renee Koster* (SLU), Ashley Kisler (SLU), Carolyn Schwarz* (SUNY Potsdam), Hadley Kruczek-Aaron (SUNY Potsdam), Celia Nyamweru* (SLU)
- June 17, 2008 (to be held at SUNY Potsdam): expected to attend: Bethany Usher (SUNY Potsdam), Shinu Abraham* (SLU), Benjamin Pykles* (SUNY Potsdam), Richard Gonzales (SLU), Renee Koster (SLU), Ashley Kisler (SLU), Carolyn Schwarz (SUNY Potsdam), Hadley Kruczek-Aaron* (SUNY Potsdam), Celia Nyamweru (SLU)

*presenters