

AAA Annual Meeting (San Jose, California; Nov. 2018)  
Conference theme: “Change in the Anthropological Imagination: Resistance, Resilience, Adaptation”

### **Class, Creed, and Climate Change Denial**

We invite papers that, to paraphrase Geertz, share the natives’ points of view—the natives who reject the labels of the science class. This panel opens dialogue on ethnographic research of “climate change deniers;” seeks to problematize class roots and hidden injuries of belief and creed; and reassesses anthropology’s role in recognizing “deniers” as populations worthy of study.

Anthropology has underappreciated its ability to analyze cases in which scientific epistemologies are deliberately rejected or denied. In neglecting to understand those who profess not to agree with science, anthropology has neglected its role in understanding the production of “climate change denial” and in explaining the phenomenon to a broader public.

Much of the discourse concerning “climate change denial” has focused public attention on lack of access to science education. While acknowledging this as a contributing factor, this panel seeks to move beyond explanations that portray “deniers” as simple, backward, or ignorant folk.

What does it mean to reject scientific orthodoxy or, alternatively, to claim it as a professed belief? Likewise, how are various economic interests connected to professed beliefs that may touch ontological and even religious veins? How are past anthropological concepts such as “traditional ecological knowledge” (TEK) squared with beliefs of groups anthropology has not typically conceptualized as indigenous? What connection do current “deniers” have to histories of anti-intellectualism, and why are they characterized by denial, rather than skepticism, contrarianism, or anti-intellectualism? Instead of single-pronged explanations, we might problematize our understanding of “deniers” as populations who embody overlapping articulations of identities, all of which have bearing on the expression of their creeds and logics.

Please send abstracts (250 words max) with paper title and presenter information to Jonna Yarrington ([jmknep@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jmknep@email.arizona.edu)) by the end of the day on Friday, 6 April. If included on the panel, session participants must be registered AAA members and registered for the meeting by 16 April.