



Society for Linguistic Anthropology

Greetings Linguistic Anthropologists!

As we close out 2024, we have much to celebrate, both in terms of recent accomplishments and upcoming events and programming. This includes SLA's new accessibility, mentoring and virtual programming initiatives, the JLA's positive momentum and innovation under Anna Babel's leadership, as well as all the exciting work underway on the 3rd Biennial SLA Conference. Last month's online business meeting was well attended, reflecting members' strong commitment to the organization. And although attendance at the AAAs in Tampa was significantly lower than usual, the spirit of community engagement among linguistic anthropologists was clear to see in well-attended panels and during SLA's informal mixer. This bodes well for SLA's May conference in Chicago—*Imagination, Creation, Critique*—which we have designed to maximize opportunities to exchange ideas while experimenting with innovative formats, distributing labor in equitable ways, and generating fun for all attendees. I hope I will see many of you there! In the meantime, Andy Graan and Rafadi Hakim will launch *SLA Online* with a discussion on the politics of free speech on January 24th. Keep your eyes peeled for more information on that event.

Speaking of engagement, thirty-five members have volunteered to serve as blind reviewers for submissions to the spring conference. This is just one example of how our members contribute to the vitality of our organization. Much of this volunteer work happens behind the scenes, often with little to no fanfare. Thanks are owed, for instance, to the many SLA members who thoughtfully participated on book and paper prize panels. Others served in more visible roles within the organization, including Lynnette Arnold, who accomplished so much during her three-year term as Member-at-Large on the SLA Executive Board. Her contributions include helping to organize our most recent extended board meeting, which was designed to orient incoming officers and foster collaborations. Special thanks to Lynnette, as well as to our incoming MAL, Karl Swinehart, who was elected to fill this critical role.

In other news, we owe gratitude to Sandhya Narayanan, who is rotating off an extended term as Program Chair and is passing the reins to Andrew Carruthers. Elaine Chun will join the Nominations Committee as its newest member, alongside Britta Ingebretson (Chair) and Chip Zuckerman. Thanks also to Jocelyn Ahlers for her service. Courtney Handman will replace Michael Wroblewski as *Anthropology News* co-editor. Last but not least, Jennifer Delfino (Mentoring Coordinator) and Steven Black (Accessibility Coordinator) are ramping up in brand-new positions—work that promises to make the SLA more accessible, vibrant, and sustainable.

Importantly, SLA members continue to play key roles within the AAA, ensuring our section's interests are well represented. I'm pleased to announce that Chaise LaDousa will serve on the AAA Executive Board in the Undesignated Seat, and Sandhya Narayanan has been elected to the Minority Seat on the Nominations Committee. Congratulations to Chaise and Sandhya!

Finally, I'd like to express my gratitude to Eman Elshaikh for her critical assistance in launching and editing this newsletter. Please read on if you are interested in the following topics:

1. **Imagination, Creation, Critique: 3rd Biennial SLA Conference Updates**
2. **2024 SLA Business Meeting Summary**
3. **Announcements**

1. **Imagination, Creation, Critique: 3rd Biennial SLA Conference Updates**

The 3rd Biennial SLA Conference—**IMAGINATION, CREATION, CRITIQUE**— will take place in Chicago from **May 29 to May 31, 2025**. Please note that submissions are due soon: **December 20, 2024**. Below, you will find key information about this exciting opportunity for members to gather and share their latest work. To learn more, visit the conference website: 2025slaconference.org.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO IMAGINE TODAY?

The **2025 Society for Linguistic Anthropology Conference** invites participants to explore the many ways that imagination critically shapes, reproduces, and transforms social worlds across times, spaces, and scales through discursive and non-discursive processes and practices. Starting with the idea of imagination as movement toward a thing, state of affairs, and/or set of ideas that does not (yet) exist, we prompt participants to ask: Who imagines? What gets imagined? Toward what ends and with what effects? How do particular imaginaries resist or engage practices and technologies of mediation? What happens when imagination is not just linked to, but is also untethered from temporal terms and logics? What is the relationship between imagination and forms of individual and collective action, including narrative, claims-making, and other rhetorical modes? How can we understand the myriad instantiations of imagination, creation, and critique—from innovation, construction, or invention to destruction, violence, or the reinforcement of the status quo?

KEY DATES:

December 20, 2024:	Submissions due
February 2025:	Acceptance letters sent
March 2025:	Conference program released; volunteering sign-up sheet distributed
May 29–31, 2025:	2025 SLA Conference

CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

The conference will feature a variety of session formats, including:

- **Poster Plenary Presentations:** Highlight your research asynchronously and during a marquee plenary event.
- **Lightning Talk/Project Incubator:** Share emerging ideas or ongoing research in a concise 5-minute presentation.
- **Individual Paper Presentations:** Present a 15-minute talk as part of an assembled panel.
- **Panels:** Organized sessions with 4–6 papers, with or without a discussant.
- **Community-Engaged Skills Labs:** Interactive sessions to exchange tools, methods, and resources.
- **Pedagogy/Professional Development Workshops:** Hands-on sessions focused on teaching and professionalization strategies.
- **Making and Doing Sessions:** Collaborative, tangible, hands-on activities.

Please read the complete call for proposals [here](#).

MEET THE ORGANIZERS:

JOSHUA BABCOCK	Program Committee Chair
DOMINIKA BARAN	Conference Chair
STEVEN BLACK	Accessibility Advisor
SUMMERSON CARR	Conference Convenor
ARIS CLEMONS	Program Committee Member
EMILY KURET	Design and Communications Coordinator
DOZANDRI MENDOZA	Program Committee Member
SHUNSUKE NOZAWA	Program Committee Member
BOB OFFER-WESTORT	Volunteer Coordinator
JUDITH PINE	Program Committee Member
THEA STRAND	Logistics/Local Committee Chair

Visit the website to learn more about the organizers—as well as to register, volunteer, and access complete and up-to-date information.

2. 2024 SLA Business Meeting Summary

What follows is a summary of the meeting minutes, prepared by Courtney Handman and Sarah Muir, for the SLA Business Meeting held virtually on November 15, 2024:

Opening Remarks

SLA President E. Summerson Carr initiated the Zoom meeting by reiterating the Board's decision to conduct official events online. This approach was designed to ensure accessibility for members not attending the AAA meeting in Tampa. The awards ceremony, which traditionally follows the business meeting, will take place at the SLA Conference in the Spring.

SLA Executive Board Updates

The SLA Executive Board highlighted its focus over the past year on three key areas:

- 1. Strengthening Organizational Infrastructure:** Enhancing infrastructure through projects such as developing organizational archives and driving membership growth.
- 2. Improved Communication:** Introducing initiatives like a quarterly newsletter and the "SLA Futures" event.
- 3. Responsiveness to Membership:** Addressing members' needs, particularly in terms of accessibility and mentoring.

Committee Reports and Member Initiatives

- **Language and Social Justice Committee:** Nadxieli Toledo-Bustamante outlined ongoing efforts to refine accessibility practices and policies within the SLA.
- **Mentoring Initiatives:** On behalf of Jennifer Delfino, Steve Black discussed upcoming mentoring opportunities focusing on work-life balance for mid-career scholars, students, and early-career professionals.
- **Section Publications:** Michael Wroblewski reviewed recent contributions to *Anthropology News* and encouraged members to send submissions for the 2025 themes (migration, signal/noise, invisibility, fluidity) to Sarah Muir and Courtney Handman.
- **Digital Media Presence:** Shannon Ward described efforts to expand SLA's presence on its website and blog, while Nora Tyeklar outlined similar work across social media platforms (Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram).

SLA Meeting Events at the AAAs

Program Chair Sandhya Narayanan summarized the SLA's activities at the Tampa meeting, which included: 15 panels; 3 roundtables; 6 poster presentations; 3 virtual individual talks; 2 flash presentations and 3 executive sessions. She noted that the number of events for the 2024 meeting represents approximately 50% of the 2023 total.

Virtual Programming and Accessibility Coordination

Virtual Program Chairs Rafadi Hakim and Andrew Graan introduced their new initiative and announced two upcoming virtual events: a discussion on the politics of free speech (January 24, 2025) and a professionalization and mentoring workshop (March or April 2025).

As the newly appointed Accessibility Coordinator, Steve Black invited members to share concerns, suggestions, and ideas, particularly in preparation for the Spring 2025 SLA Conference in Chicago.

Journal Updates

Journal Editor Anna Babel reported a significant increase in the *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* impact factor (from 0.8 to 1.8). She emphasized efforts to enhance the journal's accessibility and relevance through:

- The inclusion of diverse genres,
- Thematic issues, and
- A revitalized social media strategy.

She highlighted the journal's efficient timeline of seven months from submission to acceptance and encouraged continued submissions and citations of recently published articles to boost visibility.

Nominations and Membership

- Elise Berman (AAA Nominations Committee) encouraged nominations and self-nominations for AAA positions.
- Jocelyn Ahlers (SLA Nominations Committee) invited nominations for SLA roles, including President Elect, Member-at-Large, and Nominations Committee positions.
- Joel Kuipers (AAA Executive Board) discussed declines in AAA membership and revenue, recent AAA office reorganization, and deliberations on how the association should address political issues, such as the issuing of statements.

2025 SLA Conference

Conference Chair Dominika Baran outlined the vision for the 2025 SLA Conference, focusing on interdisciplinary collaboration, innovation, shared labor, community building, and enjoyment. Program Chair Joshua Babcock introduced new submission formats, urging members to consider presenting their research in the planned poster plenary session. Logistics and Local Chair, Thea Strand, discussed accommodation options in conference-affiliated hotels and plans for a student housing cooperative.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Netta Avineri addressed a decline in section membership, which is tracking both with seasonal trends and with overall AAA membership numbers. She assured members that reduced costs have mitigated immediate financial concerns but noted the need for additional funds for next year's SLA conference and expanded accessibility initiatives.

Recognition and Announcements

Summerson Carr began by stressing the importance of membership renewal for the health and sustainability of the organization, and to support new initiatives. She also acknowledged the contributions of outgoing Extended Board members and urged members to participate actively in SLA initiatives, including, serving on the extended board, writing for *JLA* and *Anthropology News*, mentoring students and other junior members, and serving on prize committees.

Summerson also introduced the incoming 2025 SLA Executive Board:

- **President:** E. Summerson Carr
- **President Elect:** Jillian Cavanaugh
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Netta Avineri
- **Members-at-Large:** Kate Graber, Xochitl Marsilli-Vargas, Karl Swinehart

Awards Announcements

Summerson also announced awards, which will be celebrated at the Spring SLA Conference. The winners are:

- **2024 SLA Undergraduate Paper Prizes:**
 - Bel Cairns (Prof. Adrienne Lo, University of Waterloo)
 - Zhaniya Murat (Prof. Eva-Marie Dubuisson, Nazarbayev University)
- **2024 SLA Gumperz Graduate Student Prize:**
 - **Winner:** Robyn Holly Taylor-Neu (Profs. Charles Briggs and Daniel Fisher, UC Berkeley)
 - **Honorable Mentions:**
 - Ayden Parish (Prof. Kira Hall, University of Colorado Boulder)
 - Zia Khoshsirat (Prof. Norma Mendoza-Denton, UCLA)
 - Manuel Ariel Soldevila (Prof. Rupert Stasch, University of Cambridge)
 - Denisse Gómez Retana (Profs. Melissa Checker and José del Valle, CUNY)
- **2024 Sapir Book Prize:** The winner will be announced at the 2025 SLA Conference.

3. Announcements

Language and Social Justice (LSJ) Committee: Call for New Members

The Language and Social Justice (LSJ) Committee is seeking two to three new members to join the core committee for an (almost) three-year term starting ASAP and ending in January 2028. The LSJ is a standing committee of the Society for Linguistic Anthropology dedicated to increasing awareness of and responding to language-related injustice. Core members organize the committee's efforts and serve three-year terms to ensure strong institutional memory within the group. New core committee members will become co-chairs in their third year (calendar year 2027).

How to Apply:

If you are interested, please send a short email (approximately 300 words) expressing your interest to the current co-chairs at your earliest convenience:

- Kyle Fraser: kfraser@bmcc.cuny.edu
- Mara Green: egreen@barnard.edu
- Nadxieli Toledo Bustamante: toledobustamante@csus.edu

There is no formal deadline, as positions will remain open until filled. In your statement of interest, please include the issues you are particularly passionate about and any experience you have in advocating for language-related justice.

We strongly encourage applications from historically marginalized and underrepresented groups, including (but not limited to) BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and other people of color) scholars, disabled scholars, queer and trans scholars, and scholars with diverse language backgrounds. Applicants at all career stages (including graduate students) and those with any or no institutional affiliation are welcome.

Submissions Open: 2023-2024 New Voices Book Prize

Submissions are now open for the 2023-2024 New Voices Book Prize. The SLA welcomes books with a conceptual and theoretical focus, as well as ethnographic and descriptive works. Single- or multi-author books—but not edited collections—are eligible. Books must be written in English and published between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2024, to qualify for the 2024 award.

Eligibility and Submission Details:

A book may only be submitted in one biennial round of competition and cannot be entered into both the Sapir Prize and the New Voices Book Prize competitions. Authors must be SLA members at the time of submission.

Established in 2021, the New Voices Book Prize is a biennial award recognizing a book by a junior scholar (published within twelve years of earning the PhD) that makes a pathbreaking contribution to the field of linguistic anthropology.

The submission deadline is **March 15, 2025**.

Renew Your SLA Membership

Renew Your SLA Membership Today! Membership in the SLA is a powerful way to invest in our vibrant and inclusive community. Your support enables critical initiatives such as mentoring programs, accessible virtual events, and resources for graduate students and international scholars.

While the majority of SLA members are students, we need faculty and sustaining members to help grow and sustain these vital efforts. Renewing your membership—or upgrading to a sustaining membership—ensures we can continue to provide opportunities that strengthen our field and support the next generation of linguistic anthropologists.

Renew your membership here: <https://my.americananthro.org/joinrenew>.

For the latest SLA news and newsletters, updates, and announcements, visit our website and follow us on social media.



<https://linguisticanthropology.org/>

