WCAA webinar speaker biographies

Convenor - Clara Saraiva - WCAA and APA
Clara Saraiva (PhD 1999) is a social and cultural anthropologist, a senior researcher at Centre for Comparative Studies in Lisbon, University of Lisbon, where she coordinates the Research Group Citizenship, Critical Cosmopolitanism, Modernity and (Post)Colonialism (CITCOM). She was a Visiting Professor at University of California Berkeley (2013), Brown University and a Research Fellow at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown (2001-2002 and 2008). Her main fields of research deal with the anthropology of religion and ritual, in the relation with medical anthropology and also with heritage. She has published extensively on these themes and is the co-editor (with Peter Jan Margry) of the Lit-Verlag series on the Ethnology of Religion. She is the President of the Association of Portuguese Anthropology (APA), a board member of the of the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA), as well as a board member of the WCAA Ethics Task Force, and a former vice-president of the Society for International Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF).

Portugal - Cristiana Bastos, ICS, University of Lisbon (ICS-UL)
Cristiana Bastos (PhD CUNY 1996) is an anthropologist whose interests combine the disciplines of anthropology, history, and the social study of science, technology and medicine. She is a core team member of the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, where she currently leads the Research Group Identities, Cultures, Vulnerabilities. She taught at the University of Lisbon, Coimbra, ISCTE, Brown, UMass, UNICAMP, UERJ, and guest lectured at Museu Nacional-UFRJ, FIOCRUZ, UFSC, UnB, Yale, Chicago, Oxford, JNU, U Eduardo Mondlane, among others. In her previous research projects, she addressed population dynamics, transnational mobility, colonial biopolitics, medicine and empire, and the social history of health and well-being, with field and archival research in Portugal, Brazil, the US, Mozambique and India. She is currently the PI of the ERC project The Colour of Labour (ERC AdG 695573), where she is directly involved with the fields of Guyana, Hawai'i, New England and Angola. She has published extensively on her research topics, with articles in the journals Medical Anthropology, Anthropology & Medicine, History and Anthropology, Social Analysis, Bulletin of the History of Medicine, International Migration, Journal of Southern African Studies, Identities, Análise Social, Etnográfica, Horizontes Antropológicos, and a variety of edited volumes and monographs.

France - Frederic Keck, Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)
Frédéric Keck studied philosophy at the École Normale Supérieure and at the Université Lille III, as well as anthropology at the University of California Berkeley. He has written numerous publications on the history of French anthropology in its relations to philosophy (Comte, Lévy-Bruhl, Durkheim, Bergson, Lévi-Strauss). After joining the CNRS in 2005, he carried out ethnographic studies on health crises relating to animal diseases: BSE, SARS, and “avian” and “swine” flu. His work, at the interface between the history of science, the sociology of risk, and the anthropology of nature, more generally addresses the “bio-security” standards applied to humans and animals, as well as the forecasting methods that they produce with respect to health and ecological disasters. He was a laureate of the Fondation Fyssen en 2007, received the CNRS bronze medal in 2011, and was a fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research in 2015. He directed the research and teaching department at the Musée du quai Branly between 2014 and 2018. He has been the director of the Laboratory for social anthropology since January 2019.

Norway - Karine Aasgaard Jansen, University of Bergen (UB)
Karine Aasgaard Jansen is a senior researcher and a lecturer in ethnology at the Department of Culture and Media Studies at Umeå University in Sweden. She holds an Msc in social anthropology
and a PhD in cultural studies from the University of Bergen, Norway. Karine has done extensive ethnographic fieldwork in Réunion, Mauritius and Madagascar, and is currently leading the research project “Contagion and culture: The 2005-2007 chikungunya epidemic in the Western Indian Ocean”. The study is funded by the Swedish Research Council, and is a comparative medical anthropological project on human-environment interaction, and its effect on the diffusion and understanding of vector-borne diseases such as chikungunya across the islands of Réunion and Mauritius. She has worked within the field of medical anthropology throughout her whole career, primarily focusing on issues at the interface between health and politics. Her primary research interests concern cultural conceptualisations of disease and contagion, in particular how political discourses and public health interventions feed into local illness experiences. She is also strongly committed to issues concerning women’s health, especially gender-based violence and fertility control. Since 2016 she has been affiliated to the Centre for International Health at the University of Bergen with a study on the black market for illegal abortion in Madagascar.

Brazil - Sergio Carrara, University of the State of Rio Janeiro (UERJ)
Sergio Carrara, is an anthropologist in Social Anthropology at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, associate professor at the Institute of Social Medicine/State University of Rio de Janeiro. He is the co-founder of Latin-American Center on Sexuality and Human Rights and Editor of Sexualidad, Salud y Sociedad - Revista Latinoamericana. His areas of interest are history of science and medicine, law and sexuality.

USA - Charles Briggs, University of California Berkeley (UC Berkeley)
Charles Briggs is a professor in the Department of Anthropology at UC Berkeley. He is interested in philosophical and ethnographic issues regarding how bodies, media, viruses and bacteria, narratives and songs, and race constantly get mixed up, sometimes fatally. He has engage these issues by investigating epidemics of cholera and rabies in Venezuela, struggling with relatives, doctors, nurses, healers, and epidemiologists to figure out why so many people die from preventable diseases. His concern with infectiousness spreads from microbes to narratives, to thinking about who produces the stories of H1N1, Ebola, diabetes, etc. that proliferate in traditional and social media, thereby shaping the imaginations of policymakers, clinicians, journalists, and publics.

Kenya - Isaac Nyamongo, The Cooperative University of Kenya
Isaac K. Nyamongo is a Professor of Anthropology. He holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Florida, USA and has close to 30 years in Teaching, Research and Consultancy. He has supervised and mentored more than 40 students both at Doctoral and Masters Levels. Prof. Nyamongo has held research and training grants from many organizations including the European Union, World Health Organization, International Development Research Center, Wenner Gren Foundation and Toyota Foundation among others. His research and training experience spans several countries within the Africa region including Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Prof. Nyamongo has more than 60 peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals. In addition, he has published books and book chapters. Further, he has held visiting Professor positions in the US as a Fulbright Scholar (2009-2010) and in South Africa where he was a Carnegie Mellon Fellow (2012).

China- Jing Wang- New York University-Shangai (NYU_Shangai)
Jing Wang is currently a Global Perspectives on Society (GPS) fellow at NYU Shanghai. During COVID-19, she initiates the Sinophobia Tracker project. This project archives and documents the information on anti-Chinese and anti-Asian racism, and on people's efforts to counter such trends worldwide during COVID-19 outbreak for future alarms against racism and xenophobia.