Greetings from Chicago—a city characterized by a beautiful lakefront, an abundance of great food, political “windiness,” a diversity of neighborhoods, class and racial tensions, a fairly efficient mass-transit system, and a contentious mayor. Given NCA’s 2014 convention theme, “The Presence of Our Past(s),” I thought it would be appropriate to think about the pasts of ethnography, NCA, and the Ethnography Division in this city—as well as how these pasts continue to inform our present/presence.

Chicago has been central to the development and practice of ethnography. I think about the emergence of sociology and the “Chicago School of Ethnography” at the University of Chicago. As a Communication scholar, I think about Gerry Philipsen’s work in Teamsterville and about the first Mayor Daley, Dwight Conquergood’s research on gangs in Albany Park (the neighborhood in which I currently live), and Mara Adelman and Lawrence Frey’s ethnographic work at the Bonaventure House, where a group of people living with HIV/AIDS (“the fragile community”) continue to reside.

I also think about the past of NCA and the Ethnography Division. NCA held its first convention in Chicago in 1915. The convention has since been held in Chicago 30 times. Given that the Division did not form until 1998, we have only met in Chicago only four of these times: 1999, 2004, 2007, and 2009.

In 1999, the Division had its first convention program. It included sessions about evocative writing, performance ethnography, the significance of Gerry Philipsen’s ethnographic research, and one panel on “Black on Black Ethnography,” featuring Rex Crawley who passed away a few days after last year’s NCA (2013). Carolyn Ellis, Nick Trujillo, Ron Wendt, and Stacy Holman Jones served as the Division’s first officers. 

Preconference on Expanding Venues

Expanding Research Venues into the Next Century: Exploring Places for Public Scholarship – This year’s preconference will address the challenges of taking our ethnographic work to wider, more diverse audiences. While most academics are familiar with traditional venues for publication, this preconference features scholars who have published and/or performed their research in a variety of formats and venues, including, but not limited to: blogs, whitepapers, websites, e-publishing, community and organizational venues, documentaries, and more....
And the Awards Go to....

**2014 Legacy Award:** Arthur P. Bochner

**2014 Best Book Award:** Arthur P. Bochner, *Coming to Narrative: A Personal History of Paradigm Change in the Human Sciences*

**2014 Best Book Chapter Award:** Devika Chawla, *Walk, Walking, Talking, Home*

**2014 Best Journal Article Award:** Kurt Lindemann, *Access-Ability and Disability: Performing Stigma, Writing Trauma*

**2014 Best Visual/Aural Ethnographic Work:** Lisa Tillmann, *Off the Menu: Challenging the Politics and Economics of Body and Food*

*Congratulations to these awards winners!*

Each community has its own cultural values about speaking and these are linked to judgments of situational appropriateness. –Gerry Philipsen, “Speaking like a man” in Teamsterville, 1975

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**Preconference, Continued...**

Join some of our division’s outstanding scholars for this preconference, which is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Chicago Hilton, PDR 2 – 3rd floor. [Register now!](#)

**Joined the Division’s Google Group?**

We are transitioning to a new email list to communicate with division members. To join click [here](#)!

*Looking for other ways to connect – here are a few:*

In the past year, [Ethnography Division Website](#) was streamlined to make finding information easier. If you would like to add content, please contact the division secretary.

Find us and like us on [Facebook](#)!

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**Need to Contact a Division Officer?**

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In 2004, Bob Krizek organized the preconference, “Moving Forward with your Fieldwork: Taking Fieldnotes and Creating Research Texts.” The morning of the preconference consisted of off-convention-site fieldwork; in the afternoon, participants reconvened to discuss the fieldwork. In this same year, NCA membership dues increased to $60 for students (still the same rate in 2014!), and Michael Kramer – currently a candidate for the Second Vice President of NCA, had one of the division’s Top Four papers (“An Ethnography of Communication and Synergy in a Fund-raising Marathon Group”). The Division program included panels about reflexivity, the Israel-Palestine conflict, and a memorial session for Janice Rushing (who died in 2003).

In 2007, Patty Sotirin organized the preconference, “Speaking of Ethnographic Faith.” The preconference included presentations by Robin Clair, Gerry Philipsen, Carolyn Ellis, Bryan Taylor, Stacy Holman Jones, Amira de la Garza, and Bob Krizek, as well as John T. Warren, Nick Trujillo, and Bud Goodall. “The Ethnogs” first appeared, and they graced preconference attendees with the “Premier Performance” of the “Ethnography Anthem.” You can still access the video of this performance here.

In 2009, Keith Berry organized the preconference, “Reconciling Reflexivity in Ethnography: Virtues and Challenges for Ethnographers and Ethnography,” which evolved into a special issue of Cultural Studies Critical Methodologies (April 2011). That same year, the Division’s program included numerous sessions on identity, one session on The Ethnogs, and top papers by current Division members Sherianne Shuler, Carolyn Ellis, and Devika Chawla.

This year, the Division continues its memorable and momentous history in NCA and Chicago. Shirley Drew has developed a compelling preconference—“Expanding Research Venues into the Next Century: Exploring Places for Public Scholarship”—and Sarah Tracy has planned a phenomenal program, including sessions about fieldwork, narrative, social class, and stigma. We celebrate new books by Division members Tony Adams, Jay Baglia, Art Bochner, Robin Boylorn, Devika Chawla, Aisha Durham, Carolyn Ellis, Sandra Faulkner, Lawrence Frey, Stacy Holman Jones, Ron Pelias, Lisa Tillmann, and Sarah Tracy, as well as a special issue of Self, Storytelling & Society (edited by Andrew Herrmann and Kristen Di Fate) devoted to the lives of Bud Goodall and Nick Trujillo.

I conclude by wishing you a good visit to Chicago. I hope to see many of you at the Ethnography Division Business Meeting (Friday, November 21, 11:00-12:15, Hilton, Boulevard Room C, 2nd Floor). I also hope to see you again, in Chicago, at the Division’s business meeting, 100 years from now.
Many Thanks to our Reviewers

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Thank you to our wandering scholars:
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