

**Ethics Committee, 2019 Report to the AAPA membership**  
**Prepared by Robert L. Anemone, Chair of the Committee**

The 2018-19 Ethics Committee was chaired by Robert L. Anemone and consisted of the following members (in alphabetical order): Michele Goldsmith, Nina Jablonski, Heather Norton, Julienne Rutherford, David Strait, Christina Torres-Rouff, Trudy Turner, and Jen Wagner. Two Ethics Fellows joined our committee this year: Alyssa Bader (University of Illinois) and Cara Hirst (University College London), and we also welcomed back one returning Fellow: Tisa Loewen (Arizona State University).

Over the course of the 2018-19 year, the Ethics Committee worked on various items, including:

1. We began to collect information, reading lists, topics of concern, and pre-existing syllabi for courses on Ethics in Biological Anthropology. We hope to be able to provide resources and guidance for those seeking to include modules or entire courses on ethical issues in our field.
2. Completion of the returning Ethics Fellow Tisa Loewen's survey/questionnaire intended to gauge the current state of ethical concerns within the biological anthropology community. A final report on the results of this survey instrument was prepared by Tisa with the help of committee member and mentor Jen Wagner and presented to the committee in January 2019 and is included as an attachment to this report.
3. Organization of a professional ethics workshop (*Repatriation in the Digital Age: What can we learn about the ethics of collecting, curating, and using digital representations of the human body?*) for the 2019 AAPAs. The workshop was designed by our two new Ethics Fellows (Bader and Hirst) with help from their mentors (Norton, Anemone, and Torres-Rouff). The entire committee is very enthusiastic about this workshop and looking forward to taking part in it.
4. Discussion of an ancient DNA ethics checklist developed by our colleague Varsha Pilbrow (University of Melbourne) and consideration of the desirability of creating similar ethical checklists for other issues/areas within our discipline (see attached aDNA checklist).
5. Upon the suggestion of Committee Member Jen Wagner, the Committee discussed and agreed to move to the Executive Committee for possible endorsement by the AAPA of a position document developed by the American Society of Human Genetics entitled *The Responsibility to Recontact Research Participants After Reinterpretation of Genetic and Genomic Research Results*. The document is attached to this report.
6. We discussed the issue of territory acknowledgement at professional conferences (<https://native-land.ca/territory-acknowledgement/>) and the Committee was unanimously in favor of requesting that the Executive Committee consider creating a policy in which territorial acknowledgement of indigenous lands becomes part of our annual meetings.

The Ethics Committee will continue its very successful Ethics Fellow Program. The purposes of the program are (1) to provide interested members—particularly those early in their careers—an opportunity to engage actively with the Ethics Committee and gain experience with ethics educational and research projects and (2) to help raise ethics literacy across the association. For 2019-20, we solicited applications and selected two Fellows: Alyson Caine, graduate student at the University of California at Merced, and Nicole Burt, Curator of Human Health and Evolutionary Medicine at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The 2 newly-appointed Fellows will be working closely with mentors within the Ethics Committee on the development of projects of interest to themselves and the Committee. Returning Fellow Tisa Loewen has completed her survey and report on ethical concerns among the membership and will be ending

her fellowship term this year. Current Fellow Alyssa Bader will also complete her term after the completion of the planned AAPA meeting workshop, while Current Fellow Cara Hirst will be continuing for a second fellowship year.

The terms of two members are ending this year: Christina Torres-Rouff, and Trudy Turner. Robert Anemone will chair the committee for the second year of a three-year term. Returning members and their remaining term years are as follows: Michele Goldsmith (1 year), Nina Jablonski (1 year), Heather Norton (2 years), Julienne Rutherford (2 years), David Strait (2 years), and Jen Wagner (2 years). We will need to recruit 2 new members for 3-year terms to replace Torres-Rouff and Turner.

As part of its usual duties, the Committee will be available as a non-adjudicative body to promote ethics literacy among AAPA members and to serve as a resource for AAPA members to discuss ethical challenges. Information about ethics consultations for AAPA members is available on the AAPA website.