

ANNOUNCING

The University of California Press, in association with the Center for a Public Anthropology, is sponsoring two international competitions focused on encouraging anthropologically inclined authors to address major public problems and broad audiences. Both competitions will award book contracts at early stages in the research/writing process. The hope is that an author, knowing that he or she has a book contract in hand prior to conducting research or writing a manuscript, will move beyond academic styles and write about a major public concern in a manner that non-academics find valuable.

To date, the California Series in Public Anthropology has enjoyed significant success, garnering prestige within anthropology through its publication of many prominent scholars – from Paul Farmer, Margaret Lock, and Aihwa Ong to Nancy Scheper-Hughes, Philippe Bourgois, and Carolyn Nordstrom. These authors have helped shape how important social concerns are addressed beyond the academy.

THE CALIFORNIA SERIES IN PUBLIC ANTHROPOLOGY

As a way of continuing and expanding these efforts the University of California Press, in association with the Center for a Public Anthropology, is sponsoring two international competitions. The Series will award a formal, publishing contract to the best submission in each of the competitions – without the applicant necessarily having completed (or even started) his or her research or writing of the specified manuscript.

The first competition focuses on mid-career professionals. The winner will be selected based on (1) the public significance of the problem being addressed, (2) the way the problem is being approached, and (3) the author's ability to write for a public audience (as judged by one or more previous publications). The winner will receive, in addition to a formal book contract from U.C. Press, a ten thousand dollar advance.

The second competition focuses on graduate students who are preparing to conduct fieldwork or who have not, as yet, completed their doctoral dissertations. The winner will be selected based on (1) the public significance of the problem being addressed, (2) the way the problem is being approached, (3) a sample of the student's writing, and (4) a signed agreement from the student's dissertation committee supporting the student writing up his or her research in a form readable by a broad, public audience rather than as a standard academic dissertation.

Interested individuals should read with care the statement in the *Overview* section relating to the U.C. Press Book Series on the Public Anthropology website at

<http://www.publicanthropology.org/Bookseries/-overview.htm>). It provides style guidelines as well as models to emulate. Prospective authors, the *Overview* suggests, should ask

themselves: Are they writing for the same audiences as Fadiman, Ehrenreich or Diamond? Are they dealing with problems of broad import that others, beyond the academy, find compelling? Will their relatives and friends find the manuscript absorbing?

Submission Process:

1. Interested individuals should submit a 3-4,000 word overview of their proposed manuscript – detailing (a) the problem to be addressed, (b) the manner in which the problem will be approached, and (c) the style of writing to be used in writing the manuscript.

2. Individuals interested in the mid-career award should also submit one or more publications which demonstrate the ability to write for a public audience.

3. Individuals interested in the graduate student award should also submit (a) the statement at <http://www.publicanthropology.org/Bookseries/-gradstudent-form.htm> signed by members of the individual's doctoral committee confirming their support for the applicant writing his or her doctoral dissertation in a form readable by a broad, public audience as well as (b) a paper, published or unpublished, that demonstrates the applicant's ability to write for a broad, public audience.

The deadline for submissions is October 1, 2008. Winners will be announced at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in San Francisco.

Submissions should be emailed to: Borofsky@publicanthropology.org with the relevant material enclosed as attachments. Questions regarding the competition should be also directed to Borofsky@publicanthropology.org.