

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
November 1, 3, 2022
Virtual Meeting**

**Annual Report: Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct
(Prepared by Mary A. Larson, Co-Chair)**

For the 2021-2022 term, CEPC worked on the following:

Early Career Member Contributions:

In 2021-2022 the CEPC hosted its second Early Career Member, Grace Muñoz, who became an equal member of the committee actively contributing to meeting discussions and working with Celeste Brewer on the subcommittee for ethics case studies. Lydia Curliss will be joining CEPC as the Early-Career Member for 2022-2023.

New Iteration of Ethics Case Studies:

Celeste Brewer and Grace Muñoz continued the rejuvenated work on case studies that was begun by Tywana Hodges and Rosemary K. J. Davis the previous year. Celeste met with Stacie Williams, Abigail Christian, and Amy Cooper Cary in July to discuss the publishing venue for future case studies in archival ethics, since there had been some discussion previously about the possibility of a dedicated special section in the *American Archivist*. They decided that the CEPC's microsite would be the best home for these case studies. The 2012 group of case studies already has an established home there, and the *American Archivist's* special sections are planned out through 2024. Celeste also shared the draft call for case studies with Stacie, Abigail, and Amy. Abigail confirmed that the timelines proposed for responding to authors and editing draft case studies would work for everyone involved. Abigail offered to help promote the call for case studies through various other SAA venues, and Nikki Thomas agreed to help update the microsite to remove the 2012 call for case studies and replace it with the current call. Work will continue on this in the upcoming year.

Author talks

Once again this year Renee James and Mary Larson organized a small series of discussions focused on ethics as viewed through recent articles in the field. While the 2020-2021 series was modeled on a reading circle template, experience with that format suggested a move to a model featuring authors' presentations with time for Q&A but not extended group discussion. In

February, Ricky Punzalan delivered a talk on “Words Matter: Reparative Description as Decolonial Action,” and in April attendees heard from Krista McCracken and Skylee-Storm Hogan-Stacey, who discussed their 2021 article from the *International Journal of Information, Diversity, & Inclusion*, "[Laughter Filled the Space: Challenging Euro-Centric Archival Spaces.](#)" As with the previous readers circles, the organizers ensured that all materials under discussion were either open access or could be distributed freely to all registrants, because the goal was to make these sessions as accessible as possible. Approximately 150 people registered for the two events, so turnout was good.

Documentation Review

The CEPC has been making an effort the last two years to use our microsite to better document the history of the committee’s work. Cliff Hight and Nikki Thomas have been continuing the work of coordinating with past committee members to pull together previous minutes, reports, agendas, and other documentation relevant to the committee. As material is gathered it will be made more readily available on the committee’s microsite.

Annual Meeting:

The CEPC annual meeting was held virtually on Wednesday, July 20th, with 75 committee and SAA members in attendance. The beginning of the meeting featured updates on the CEPC's projects during the year (outlined above), followed by a Council report from Derek Mosley. After the business portion of the meeting, the committee sponsored a panel discussion on how to ethically extend the concept of reparative description to a broader overall approach to archival work. Invited panelists included:

- Kim Anderson, Director of Special Collections and University Archives, University of Nevada-Reno
- Jolene Beiser, Archivist for Special Collections, University of California-Irvine
- Selena Ortega-Chiolero, Museum Specialist, Nay'dini'aa Na' Kayax (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)
- Shaneé Yvette Willis, Director of Community Engagement, Digital Public Library of America

Co-chair Cliff Hight moderated the discussion and made the recording of the panel available after the session ended.

Committee Membership:

Co-chair Mary Larson rolls off the committee after the SAA conference, and Nikki Thomas will join Cliff Hight as CEPC co-chair. Ashley Williams has been appointed as a new committee member, and, as noted above, Grace Muñoz is being replaced by Lydia Curliss as the Early Career Member.