

American Association of Biological Anthropologists
Report of the Vice President 2021-22
Submitted by Leslea J. Hlusko, Vice President and Program Chair

Introduction

The duties of the Vice President primarily revolve around effectuating our programming for the year by convening and chairing the Program Committee. This past year, programming was divided into two main efforts: continuing AABA's webinar series and the 91st annual meeting. These are discussed in detail below.

The Program Committee

Past practice has been for the Program Committee members to serve for two years in conjunction with the Vice President. Given the workload from the 2020-2021 program, and anticipating the increased work associated with a dual-venue conference, I increased the size of the Program Committee from 44 to 68 members. In the June 2021 Newsletter that was sent out on June 23, 2021, we included a form for members to volunteer to serve on the Program Committee. New members were recruited from these volunteers. The Program Committee roster for 2021-2022:

Donovan Adams	Morgan Hoke	Kathryn Reusch
Francisca Alves Cardoso	Jennifer Hotzman	Terry Ritzman
Eduardo Amorim	Kent Johnson	Gwen Robbins Schug
Benjamin Auerbach	Erin Kane	Julienne Rutherford
Karen Baab	Saige Kelmelis	Krithivasan
Heather Battles	Brittany Kenyon-Flatt	Sankaranarayanan
Jonathan Bethard	Kristina Killgrove	Lauren Schroeder
Michelle Bezanson	Marc Kissel	Maja Šešelj
Tara Cepon-Robins	Krystiana Krupa	Eric Shattuck
Susanne Cote	Susan Kuzminsky	Michelle Singleton
Elisabeth Cuerrier-Richer	Myra Laird	Tanya Smith
Miguel Delgado	Nathan Lents	Elizabeth St Clair
Victoria M Dominguez	Christopher Lynn	Katie Starkweather
Amanda Ellwanger	Heli Maijanen	Bethany Usher
Kori Filipek	Melanie Martin	Caroline VanSickle
Rebecca George	Lumila Paula Menéndez	Catalina Villamil
Rebecca Gilmour	Alison Murray	Cara Wall-Scheffler
Jesse Goliath	Christina Nicholas	Kerryn Warren
Kathleen Grogan	Heather Norton	Karen Weinstein
Lauren Halenar-Price	Cara Ocobock	Julie Wieczkowski
Angela Harden	Rob O'Malley	Teresa Wilson
Kevin Hatala	Marin Pilloud	Xinjun Zhang
Amber Heard-Booth	Thomas Rein	

Catherine Taylor served as the Assistant to the Vice President.

The Webinar Series

The webinar series was initiated in the summer of 2020 to provide a platform for the dissemination of science, as a forum for discussion, and to facilitate communication about AABA activities. For the 2021-2022 Program, we hosted six webinars. Five of the webinars were designed as discussion forums and one focused on AABA activities. Details are provided below.

The 2nd webinar in the three-part Dialogues in Decoloniz(s)ation Series

This webinar series was envisioned and organized by two AABA committees: Committee on Diversity – International, and Committee on Diversity-TASK. Sheela Athreya provided the lead in organizing this second webinar in the series.

Description of the webinar: What does decolonization entail? What strategies might be employed to achieve a decolonized biological anthropology? The goal for this webinar series is to provide a space where participants can explore the impact that colonial practices have had on biological anthropology, including on our curricula, our practices, and our narratives. To facilitate grounding general topics (e.g. decolonizing curricula, fieldwork, authorship) within regional issues and concerns (e.g. decolonizing African palaeosciences), and with an eye towards incorporating diverse views and perspectives, these webinars will feature experts from around the world actively engaging in these issues in their home countries.

Part II: Southern, Southeastern and Australasia

October 6, 2021

Co-organizers: Sheela Athreya, Martin Porr, Rebecca Rogers Ackermann, and Lauren Schroeder

Panelists:

- Dr. Amber Aranui, *Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand*
- Dr. Matthew Go, *SNA International, supporting the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI, USA*
- Dr. Kaberi Kar Gupta, *Urban Slender Loris Project, Bangalore, India and North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences*
- Mr. David Johnston, *Australia National University, Canberra, Australia*
- Dr. Erin Riley, *San Diego State University, CA USA*

Moderators:

Dr. Sheela Athreya, *Texas A&M University-Qatar*

Dr. Martin Porr, *The University of Western Australia*

Video posted on AABA's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/tzh2-iSl1ak>

Number of registrants: 182

Number of attendees at the live event: 96

Number of YouTube views as of March 9, 2022: 102

The #Hackademics Series: Hacks for succeeding in academia

From January to early February 2022, we ran a four-part webinar series called #Hackademics. Christopher Lynn, a member of the Program Committee, proposed the idea of a webinar series that builds off of a series of articles published in the *American Journal of Human Biology* aimed provided professional/career support on a variety of topics. He recruited Delaney Glass to co-host these events. Christopher Lynn and Cara Ocobock co-host the podcast *Sausage of Science*, sponsored by the Human Biology Association. Delaney Glass is an associate producer of the *Sausage of Science*. This webinar series built on their experience and promoted a highly valuable professional resource created by AABA's sister organization, the Human Biology Association.

Description of webinar: Does the academic career path seem like a mystery? An unsolvable puzzle? Maybe you could use some insider insight as to how to make it all work? AABA has the webinar series for you: #Hackademics Building off of the series recently published in the *American Journal of Human Biology* by our sister organization the Human Biology Association, in early 2022 AABA hosted a four-part webinar series of discussions by those same authors.

The #Hackademics Series did not get as much promotion as we had planned, and consequently the attendance numbers were lower than typical for AABA webinars. We plan to promote these on social media, as they have potential to be a highly valuable resource on YouTube.

#Hackademics 1: Balancing Family, Drama, Fieldwork, AND Teaching?

A conversation with:

Adam Johnson and Rebecca Lester, authors of *Mental health in academia: Hacks for cultivating and sustaining wellbeing* (doi: 10.1002/ajhb.23664)

Lisa Brazelton and Christopher Lynn, authors of *Impacts of family and fieldwork on career/family balance among tenure-track and tenured anthropologists* (doi: 10.1002/ajhb.23686)

Moderated by:

Sausage of Science podcast associate producer Delaney Glass

Video posted on AABA's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/3dbi48TmLhQ>

Number of registrants: 76

Number of attendees at the live event: 47

Number of YouTube views as of March 9, 2022: 54

#Hackademics 2: On Mentoring and Un-Teaching in Anthropology

A conversation with:

Marc Kissel and Susan Blum, authors of *Let's talk teaching: Progressive pedagogy in anthropology courses* (doi: 10.1002/ajhb.23706)

Cara Ocobock, Alexandra Niclou, Tisa Loewen, Kendall Arslanian, Rebecca Gibson, and Claudia Vallengia, authors of *Demystifying mentorship: Tips for successfully navigating the mentor-mentee journey* (doi: 10.1002/ajhb.23690)

Moderated by:

Sausage of Science podcast co-host Cara Ocobock (for Delaney Glass and Lisa Brazelton)

Video posted on AABA's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/E8NHZAGFDVE>
Number of registrants: 81
Number of attendees at the live event: 48
Number of YouTube views as of March 9, 2022: 27

#Hackademics 3: The Cultureshocks of Coming Home and Communicating across Disciplines

A conversation with:

Mallika Sarma & Theresa Gildner, authors of *There and back again: The biosocial dynamics of returning from the field* (doi/10.1002/ajhb.23673)

Stephanie McClure & Anne Sebert Kuhlmann, authors of *Practices of disciplinary symbiosis: (Re)blending theory and method, anthropology and public health* (doi/10.1002/ajhb.23683)

Moderated by:

Sausage of Science podcast associate producer Delaney Glass and *Sausage of Science* co-host Christopher Lynn

Video posted on AABA's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/QsBZjJ0upZo>
Number of registrants: 32
Number of attendees at the live event: 9
Number of YouTube views as of March 9, 2022: 24

#Hackademics 4: Sharing with the Public & Getting the Academy to Count It

A conversation with:

Marc Kissel, Lara Durgavich, and Katie Hinde, co-authors of *Integrative approaches to dispersing science: A case study of March Mammal Madness* (doi/10.1002/ajhb.23659)

Kim Tommy and John Hawks, co-authors of *Strategizing public-facing work within an academic career* (doi/10.1002/ajhb.23699)

Moderated by:

Sausage of Science podcast associate producer Delaney Glass and *Sausage of Science* co-host Christopher Lynn

Video posted on AABA's YouTube channel: not yet posted
Number of registrants: 70
Number of attendees at the live event: 35
Number of YouTube views as of March 9, 2022: not yet posted

AABA Town Hall: Planning for the 2022 Annual Meeting

December 13, 2021

Updates and a Q&A on the 2022 annual meeting scheduled for March 2022.

Panelists:

Steve Leigh, AABA President

Leslea Hlusko, AABA Vice President & Program Committee Chair

Lori Strong, AABA Conference Executive Director

Moderator: Brett Burk, Burk & Associates

Video posted on AABA's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/33t3AA-NAhI>

Number of registrants: 87
Number of attendees at the live event: 57
Number of YouTube views as of March 9, 2022: 89

The 91st Annual Meeting, A Two-Venue Conference

Given the uncertainty of the continuing pandemic, in the summer of 2021 AABA leadership decided on a two-venue annual meeting for 2022. This plan would serve three purposes:

1. We would be able to include everyone who would be unable to attend an in-person conference in Denver.
2. Everyone who appreciated the different session format that we use for the online program in 2021 would get to participate in the same session format in 2022 (either in lieu of a Denver presentation or in addition to it).
3. If the pandemic surged in March 2022 and we could not meet in-person, we would already have the online infrastructure in place to move the entire Denver program online.

The schedule of deadlines leading up to the annual meeting were held constant to prior years or pushed back in order to match expectations and relieve the stress on meeting attendees. Given that the annual meeting is 3 to 4 weeks earlier than usual, we could not accommodate a later abstract submission date and still get the review process and session planning done in time.

Deadlines in the lead-up to the 91st annual meeting:

July 2, 2021:

- Deadline to volunteer to serve on the Program Committee

July 15, 2021:

- Symposium proposal portal opens

August 16, 2021:

- Deadline for Invited Symposia Proposals

September 15, 2021:

- Abstract submission portal opens

October 15, 2021:

- Abstract Submissions for Podium and Poster Presentations
- Nominations for Executive Committee
- Nominations for Early Career Liaison
- Applications for Student Liaison
- Nominations for Charles R. Darwin Lifetime Achievement Award
- Nominations for Gabriel W. Lasker Service Award
- Nominations for AAPA Communication and Outreach Award

November 15, 2021:

- Deadline for workshop proposals

December 8, 2021:

- Registration window opened and abstract acceptance emails were sent

January 1, 2022:

- All authors of abstracts must have registered for the conference and indicated their preference for the format of their presentation in order to be included in the tailored portion of the program (virtual, in-person, or both)

January 7, 2022:

- Deadline for Pollitzer Award submissions

January 15, 2022:

- All authors of contributed abstracts must have registered for the conference and indicated their preference for the format of their presentation in order to be included in the program (virtual, in-person, or both). If you missed the January 1st deadline, you will be put into a "sampler" session of your venue choice rather than a subject-area session.

January 17, 2022:

- Deadline for Cobb Professional Development Awards

February 1, 2022:

- Deadline for submissions for the Undergraduate Research Symposium

February 22, 2022:

- Deadline for Student Volunteer applications (*registration fee is waived for volunteers*)

February 27, 2022:

- Last day to register for the annual meeting at the lower fee rates

March 1, 2022:

- Deadline for submissions for the Student Presentation Awards
- Deadline for free child care registration

March 15, 2022:

- Deadline for workshop pre-registration

March 16, 2022:

- COD-URS participants in the online program need to upload their presentations

March 18, 2022:

- Presentations for the online invited symposia and contributed scientific sessions need to be uploaded

March 23-26, 2022:

- Denver events, in-person

March 28 - April 1, 2022:

- Online events, Pathable platform

Local Arrangements Committee

The duties of the Local Arrangement Committee have morphed over the years, especially when AABA hired Burk Associates to take over logistics. This has enabled the Local Arrangements Committee to focus more on how the in-person conference articulates with the local community (from planning and recommending excursions to choosing the organization included in our new carbon offsets program). The Denver local arrangements committee members were:

Caley Orr, University of Colorado Denver
Michala Stock, Metropolitan State University of Denver
Anna Warrener, University of Colorado Denver

Registration

Price.

In consideration of the financial difficulties that many of the AABA community are still feeling from the pandemic, we held registration fees at the same level as in 2019. The next leadership team of AABA will need to explore the financial impact and whether or not the Association can continue to absorb the cost

of the annual meeting that is not covered by the registration fees. The 2022 annual meeting will give us a good sense of what the cost ultimately is for this type of dual-format conference.

Venue.

Registration was the same cost regardless of the venue chosen. The online program is fully available to everyone who registered for the conference, even if they only intend to participate in the Denver program. We are inviting all presenters to upload their podium/video or poster to the Pathable program regardless to whether or not they were assigned to an online session. The Pathable site includes the session structure from Denver in addition to the structure for the live sessions that will run online.

Dissociation of registration from abstract submission.

In order to give presenters more time to decide if they could come to Denver, we dissociated registration from abstract submission. Presenters were invited to pay their registration when they were notified of their abstract acceptance. During the registration process, we asked which venue they wanted to present in. Presenters had three options: Online only, Denver only, both venues. The latter option meant that the abstract would be assigned to two sessions, one in Denver and another on the Pathable platform. We did our best to accommodate the presenters who missed the registration deadline, including emailing people individually to check in with them, and consequently there were only a few abstract submissions that were ultimately not included in the final program. All accepted abstracts were included in the abstract volume even if they were later not included in the final program, as we had to proceed with the abstract volume before the registrations had all trickled in. I recommend that AABA return to requiring registration at the time of abstract submission next year.

Carbon-offset Program.

As we look towards a more sustainable conference-going future, we implemented a new program this year. In order to support the local environment of the city hosting our in-person conference, we invited the Local Arrangements Committee to choose non-profit organization that we, as an association, could collectively donate to.

The AABA Local Arrangements Committee for Denver chose the **Colorado Carbon Fund** (<https://www.coloradocarbonfund.org/>) for an opt-in donation program that was included with registration for the 2022 annual meeting. This organization partners with local businesses, people, and projects to protect Colorado's beautiful spaces.

Conference registrants were given the option to include a donation at the same time that they paid for meeting registration. Upon payment, donors received an email noting their donation to a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States. This donation may be tax-deductible depending on individual circumstances.

Invited Symposia

Proposals for Invited Symposia were due on August 16, 2021. Proposals were reviewed and ranked by the full Program Committee and the Executive Committee. Thirteen proposal were accepted. A total of 13 invited symposia (143 abstracts) are included in this year's program: six podium presentations will take place in Denver and be live-streamed onto the Pathable platform, five poster

symposia that will also be in the Denver program, and two symposia will be exclusive to the online program. The invited symposia consist of 143 presentations with abstracts.

Abstract Submission and Review

A total of 784 abstracts were submitted by the October 15, 2021 deadline. Each abstract was subjected to peer-review by at least two members of the program committee, with reviews completed by December 1, 2021. The committee recommended rejection for just over 1% of the abstracts. One abstract was rejected because the Program Committee perceived the topic as too far outside of biological anthropology. The other abstracts were rejected because they did not clearly include the analysis of data. The next Program Committee may want to consider the criteria for acceptance as this leaves little room for more theoretical presentations.

Authors of accepted abstracts were notified on December 8, 2021. The abstracts illustrate the remarkable breadth of our discipline, covering a range of research topics and approaches, and with global reach and incredible time depth. Four abstracts were withdrawn by January 23, 2022. Twenty more abstracts were withdrawn by March 9, 2022.

Workshop Proposals

Workshop proposals were due on November 15, 2022. These proposals were reviewed by the President and Vice President. The President considered the request for financial support and decided on funding. Two of the accepted workshops were withdrawn due to the constraints of the pandemic. There are nine workshops scheduled for the Denver Program and one for the Online Program. One of the workshop proposals was for the Science for Social Change podcast. This is being hosted as a three-day long event rather than as a workshop.

Abstracts for the *American Journal of Biological Anthropology* meeting supplement

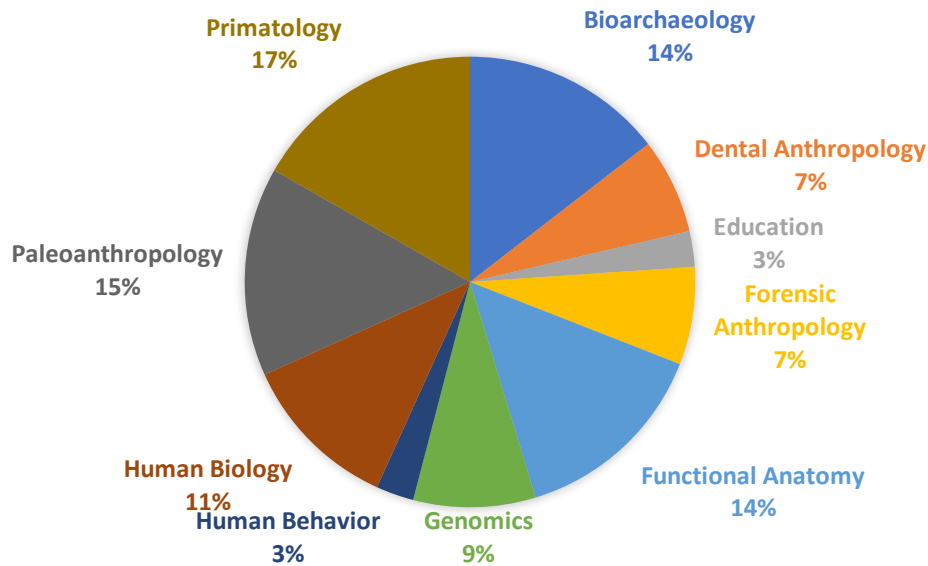
The abstract volume consists of accepted abstracts submitted for presentation at both venues: in Denver, Colorado, from March 23-26, and online on the Pathable platform from March 28 -April 1. The 2022 AAPA abstract issue of the *American Journal of Biological Anthropology* includes 770 peer-reviewed scientific papers presented in alphabetical order by the last name of the first author. The Invited Symposia include 143 abstracts. There are 627 contributed abstracts. The proportion of presentations by subfield are reported in Table 1 and shown graphically in Figure 1.

Table 1. Number of Abstracts in Each of the Ten Major Topics

Bioarchaeology (n=91)	Genetics & Genomics (n=55)
Dental Anthropology (n=43)	Human Behavior (n=17)
Education in Biological Anthropology (n=16)	Human Biology (n=72)
Forensic Anthropology (n=44)	Paleoanthropology (n=94)
Functional Anatomy & Tissue Biology (n=90)	Primatology (n=105)

The formatted PDF of the abstract volume produced by Burk Associates was submitted to AJBA on February 14, 2022. As of the writing of this report, Wiley has not yet published this volume.

Figure 1. Proportions of presentations for AABA 2022 by major keyword.



The 98 Scientific Sessions for the Conference Program

There are 98 scientific sessions planned for the combined program for AABA 2022. As noted above, there are 13 invited symposia (6 podium symposia that will be hosted in Denver and live-streamed onto the Pathable platform, 5 poster symposia that will be hosted in Denver, and 2 online-only symposia hosted on the Pathable platform). Many thanks go to the organizers of these invited symposia for pulling together truly inspired and timely events:

Table 2. Invited Symposia for the 2022 Annual Meeting

Organizer	Symposium Title	Venue & Format
Siân E. Halcrow, Carlina de la Cova, Gwen Robbins Schug	Ethics in the Curation and Use of Human Skeletal Remains	Denver, podium
Rick W. A. Smith, Graciela Cabana	Disrupting Genomics: Bringing Critical and Theoretical Approaches into Practice	Denver, podium
Amanda Wissler	Biocultural Approaches to Pandemic Studies: Implications for Pandemic Preparedness	Denver, podium
Ashley C. Smith	Advances and Challenges in the Identification of Sex and Gender in Human Osteological Contexts	Denver, podium
Trent M. Trombley	Biocultural Taphonomies: Teasing apart taphonomic filters in bioarchaeology	Denver, podium
Miki Ben-Dor and Herman Pontzer	Current and multidisciplinary perspectives on hominin diets and trophic level during the Pleistocene	Denver, podium
Tim D. Smith, Valerie DeLeon	Cartilage and craniofacial growth	Denver, poster
Brigitte Holt, Alison Murray	Physical activity and limb bone structure: New approaches to reconstructing behavior in the past	Denver, poster
John K. Dalton, Michelle Sauther, Frank Cuozzo, Luca Pozzi	What They Do in the Shadows: New Perspectives on Africa's Nocturnal Bushbabies	Denver, poster

Lara Noldner	Collections that Represent Marginalized Communities: current work and future developments	Denver, poster
Benjamin M. Auerbach	The weight of the evidence: A session to honor the legacy of Chris Ruff	Denver, poster
Tina Lasisi, Ben Schaefer	Integumentary Anthropology: Examining the Exterior	Online, podium
Karen R. Rosenberg	Building on the legacy of Adolf Portmann: Interdisciplinary approaches to human evolution and development	Online, podium

The 85 contributed scientific sessions were developed by a subcommittee of the Program Committee. The committee was divided into 10 subgroups based on the 10 main keywords that authors used to categorize their abstracts during abstract submission (see Table 1). These subcommittees met between January 3-7, 2022, to create the 36 contributed sessions for the Denver program. They met again between January 10-14, 2022, to create the contributed sessions for the Online program, as of March 9, 2022, there are 49 contributed sessions in the online program.

The **Contributed Sessions Planning Committee** members were:

Francisca Alves Cardoso	Kent Johnson	Kathryn Reusch
Karen Baab	Saige Kelmelis	Terry Ritzman
Jonathan Bethard	Marc Kissel	Gwen Robbins Schug
Tara Cepon-Robins	Krystiana Krupa	Eric Shattuck
Susanne Cote	Myra Laird	Michelle Singleton
Elisabeth Cuerrier-Richer	Nathan Lents	Elizabeth St Clair
Victoria M Dominguez	Christopher Lynn	Catalina Villamil
Amanda Ellwanger	Heli Maijanen	Kerryn Warren
Jesse Goliath	Christina Nicholas	Julie Wieczkowski
Lauren Halenar-Price	Heather Norton	Xinjun Zhang
Jennifer Hotzman	Cara Ocobock	

We are pleased to be joined for the 91st annual meeting by our partner organizations: the American Association for Anthropological Genetics, the Dental Anthropology Association, the Human Biology Association, the Paleoanthropology Society, and the Paleopathology Association. The program is truly international, with scientists from all over the world including Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Of the 770 abstracts, 610 were originally scheduled to be presented during the in-person portion of the program in Denver. Initially, the online program included 311 abstract presentations, with 173 presenters choosing to present in both parts of the program. By March 10, 2022, 342 presenters were scheduled to present online, either in conjunction with their Denver presentation or in lieu of it. We created a series of “Topics in Biological Anthropology” sessions to accommodate the presenters who need to change venue after the original program was set (i.e., after January 15, 2022). We accommodated shifts to the online program up until March 20th.

As of the writing of this report on March 10, 2022, both venues will run as fully anticipated. The conference will follow the schedule shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Overview of the Two-Venue conference

Date	Venue	Programming
Wednesday, March 23	Denver	Events begin with workshops, the COD-Undergraduate Research Symposium, and the opening reception
	Pathable	Platform is launched and all uploaded presentations are available to all registrants
Thursday, March 24	Denver	Scientific sessions and other events run all day, evening auction
	Pathable	Invited podium symposia are live-streamed to the Pathable platform
Friday, March 25	Denver	Scientific sessions and other events run all day, evening AABA Business Meeting
	Pathable	Invited podium symposia are live-streamed to the Pathable platform, as is the evening AABA Business Meeting
Saturday, March 26	Denver	Scientific sessions and other events run all day, closing reception in the evening
	Pathable	Invited podium symposia are live-streamed to the Pathable platform, as is the President's Panel
Monday, March 28	Pathable	Two on-line only invited symposia, live contributed scientific sessions begin
Tuesday, March 28	Pathable	Live contributed scientific sessions, other online events
Wednesday, March 29	Pathable	Live contributed scientific sessions, other online events
Thursday, March 31	Pathable	Live contributed scientific sessions, other online events
Friday, April 1	Pathable	Live contributed scientific sessions, other online events
Saturday, April 2 – May 31	Pathable	All content will remain open to conference registrants. Chat and messaging functions active. No live events scheduled.

Meeting Registration as of March 9, 2022

As of March 9th, there are a total of 1,124 people registered for the 2022 annual meeting. Of these, 938 are planning to participate in the Denver program. There are 186 people who only plan to participate in the online program. (There are 342 abstracts scheduled for presentation in the online program, meaning that 156 people are presenting at both venues.

Table 4. Trends in Registration Since 2019

	2019	2020	2021
Number of registrants	1,802	1,079	1,124 (as of March 10)

International registrants. Researchers from 36 countries are participating in the 2022 annual meeting. In terms of proportionality, people living in the United States represent 84% of the registrations. The break-down of the other 16% is shown in Figure 2. These counts are compared to the data for 2019 and 2021 in Table 5.

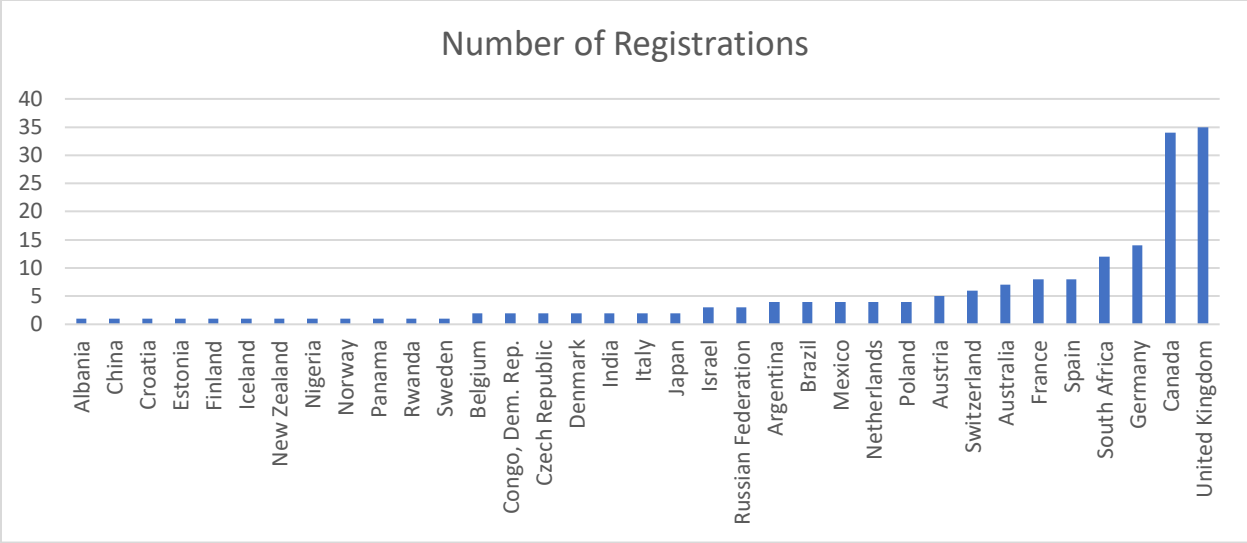


Figure 2. Histogram Showing Number of Registrations from Countries Other Than the United States.

Comparing registration for the Denver versus Online programs, 12% of the Denver program registrants will be coming from outside the United States. In contrast, 38% of the Online-only registrations are people with addresses outside the United States (71 registrations out of 186). There are 10 countries represented in the online-only registrations that are not in the Denver program: Austria, China, Estonia, Finland, France, Iceland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, and Rwanda.

Table 5. Number of Annual Meeting Registrants from Outside the United States 2019, 2021, 2022

Country	2019	2021	2022
Albania			1
Argentina	1	5	4
Australia	6	7	7
Austria	2	4	5
Belgium		4	2
Brazil	16	6	4
Canada	74	51	34
Chile		1	1
China	23	2	1
Colombia	2	1	
Croatia	3		1
Cyprus	1		
Czech Republic	5	1	2
Denmark	5		2
Egypt, Arab Rep.		1	
Estonia			1
Ethiopia	2		
Finland	4		
France	17	4	1
Germany	21	14	14
Greece	1		
Hong Kong SAR, China		1	
Iceland			1
India	2	3	2
Iran, Islamic Rep.	1		
Israel	2		3
Italy	2	2	2
Japan	4	4	2
Kenya	1		
Korea, Rep.	1	2	
Lebanon	1		
Mexico	4	12	4
Netherlands	3	1	4
New Zealand	7	5	1
Nigeria	2	2	1
Pakistan	1		
Panama	1		1
Peru		2	
Poland	3	3	4
Portugal	1		
Russian Federation		2	3
Singapore	1		
South Africa	4	18	12
Spain	11	5	8
Sweden	1	1	1
Switzerland	4	8	6
Tanzania	1		
Uganda		2	
United Kingdom	60	27	35
Total count	301	201	170
% of registrants	16.7	18.6	15.1

Acknowledgements and Thanks

AABA's Scientific Programming represents an immense amount of effort on the part of many, many people. I am forever grateful to everyone who was involved, from the Program Committee who created the program, the Executive Committee who provided valuable feedback on whether or not to move forward with new ideas (and to pay for them), to the people who envisioned and made real webinars and symposia, to the presenters, panelists, moderators, and discussants who shared their time and expertise, to the audience members and anyone who "liked" a tweet about AABA content. It takes a village. Without each other, we would not be the vibrant intellectual community that we are.

I am immensely grateful to the 67 talented, generous, and dedicated members of our Program Committee who reviewed abstracts and provided feedback on programmatic shifts. Additional thanks goes to the 32 members of the Program Committee who took on the task of organizing the contributed sessions for both the Denver and the Online programs in the first two weeks of January. Three factors made this an especially tough year for the Program Committee: because of the pandemic we delayed the abstract registration date to January 1st to give authors more time to decide which venue they wanted to present in, the conference began a month earlier than it does most years, and we had to develop two separate programs (Denver and Online) for the first time. If you run into someone who served on the Program Committee, please be sure to say thank you!

Thanks also to the people who made the webinar series a reality this past year. Sheela Athreya, Martin Porr, Rebecca Rogers Ackermann, and Lauren Schroeder co-organized the second in the three-part series on Decoloniz(s)ation. Christopher Lynn and Delaney Glass signed on for the inspired four-part series #Hackademics, and thanks also to Cara Ocobock who stepped up to moderate when life threw too many curve-balls at our best laid plans.

On behalf of all of AABA, I want to extend a huge thank-you to our extraordinary business partners, Annual Meeting Executive Director Lori Strong and her team from Burk & Associates. Lori's leadership, wisdom, and unflappable calm is central to the success of our annual meeting and our year-round programming. Thanks also to Brett Burk and Jill Drupa, who were always there to support us even when we decided to host a webinar in 10 days time. The entire Burk & Associates team is the ideal improvisation partner, always responding with "yes, and..." Their positivity, knowledge, and enthusiasm are exactly what we have needed to quickly innovate our programming during the pandemic and respond on a dime to events and circumstances.

I also want to express my deep gratitude to the nine members of the Denver Local Arrangements Committee and the Denver Program Advance Team who met in Denver in January to set up the in-person part of the annual meeting program. These colleagues stepped up when I was unable to travel to be there in person to lead the effort: Steve Leigh, Lori Strong, Anne Grauer, Heide Rohland, Anna Warrener, Caley Orr, Michala Stock, Gwen Robbins Schug, Kristi Lewton, and the student volunteers: Catherine Morgan, Alexandria Kennedy, Bridget McGann, Ellie Berg, and Jamie Ernewein.

Of course, none of the program organization would be possible without the immense effort of Ed Hagen, our website and abstract database developer. And without Cat Taylor's ever-present

support as the Assistant to the Vice President, I might not have made it through to the end of these “exciting” two years of service intact.

I also want to thank the officers and other members of the Executive Committee for their year-round hard work that makes our annual meeting possible. There are so many moving parts to these events, and to our association more generally, far beyond what I ever imagined before I held this position. I want to give a big thanks to Sheela Athreya, AABA Secretary for the past two years. We were both initiated-by-fire into our offices at the dawn of the pandemic, and then coincidentally and simultaneously moved our families to the other side of the world while juggling the pandemic, our AABA officer duties, family, and life. It has been immensely comforting to have someone beside me who knows this unique mental space. Many thanks also to AABA President Steve Leigh and AABA Past-President Anne Grauer for their leadership, grace, wisdom, and commitment during yet another very challenging year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Athreya', written in a cursive style.