Future of EAS Survey Results

Are you a current member of EAS?
62 responses

NO 32.3%
YES [VALU E]%

What is your current status?
62 responses

Graduate Student
Postdoctoral Scholar
Faculty (junior)
Faculty (tenured)
Retired (professor emeritus)
Policy Thinktank researcher
Researcher
Researcher

How often do you attend the AAAs?
62 responses

Every Year
37.1%
Most Years (e.g. 3 out of 5)
30.6%
Infrequently (less than half the time)
16.1%
Never
16.1%

#1 Benefit of Staying
- Networking (18)
- Non-EAS Sessions (16)
- Visibility (13)
- Presenting (13)
- Meeting Peers (12)
- Meeting Editors/POs (11)
- Seeing What’s New (10)
- Conference Timing (10)

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Of the conferences you attend, which is your overall favorite?
62 responses

AAA 27.4%
AAPA/HBA 22.6%
CES 9.7%
HBES 32.3%
PAA 25.8%
SAA 25.8%
EHBEA 25.8%

#1 Cost of Staying
- Low Representation of BA (31)
- Cost (23)

If EAS were to leave AAA and join another conference (e.g. AAPA) how would it affect your attendance?
62 responses

Less likely to attend EAS
More likely to attend EAS
Equally likely

25.8
48.4
25.8
In Favor of Staying....

“Many of us work across disciplines. At least some of the sessions we attend as multidisciplinary researchers would be lost.”

“I hate AAA, but I think it's important that EAS remain. It provides a meeting at a diversified time (everything else is in April) where young researchers are likely to need to be anyway for interviews. It means that EAS members keep a strong argument that they are actually anthropologists who can get hired in anthropology departments.”

“In my view, evolutionary anthropology is not the same as or limited to biological/physical anthropology, but applies wherever 'blind variation and selective retention' is at work. There are archaeologists, sociocultural anthropologists, and biological anthropologists -- perhaps even a few linguists -- who share this interest, thus EAS should remain a (core) section of AAA.”

“Less ethnographic work in AAPA.”

“It would be a disaster for people like me who are on the job market. It would reinforce the view among other anthropologists that we are just a special kind of biological anthropologist (especially if we joined the AAPA/HBA) and cut in half the number of available jobs. We straddle the line between traditional subfields, and by maintaining our association with the AAA we strengthen our position to make that argument. That allows people like me to continue to apply for both cultural and bio positions. Retreating from the AAA would be a disservice to people seeking employment; would further marginalize us in the discipline; cut our presence in academic departments; and would be letting others define us rather than defining ourselves.”

“I would be extremely disappointed if the EAS were to leave the AAAs. I think this is absolutely the wrong idea. If the issue is the cost of the conference, let's work to resolve that issue directly. If there are other concerns, I'd like to hear them. I would hope that the results of this survey and any other EAS-wide discussions of this would be made available to all members.”

In Favor of Leaving....

“Acceptance. I've never attended the AAA meetings because I don't feel welcome in that organization as a biological anthropologist. The conference is huge and evolutionary/biological anthropology is a small fraction of it. I love my colleagues who are affiliated with EAS, so I’m often tempted to attend, but it’s too expensive to feel left out, especially when our discipline has a lot to contribute.”

“Research areas tend to be more relevant (particularly with HBA). Venues tend to be less expensive. Short interviews for jobs are no longer held at AAA but are virtual.”

“You are finally associating with the biological anthropology national organization “

“Lower registration costs, not giving money to an organization that doesn't respect my research, not giving money to an organization that doesn't represent my viewpoint, better/less confusing abstract submission process, abstract submissions not being initially reviewed by postmodernists, not being bound by weird AAA rules requiring thematic symposiums, smaller cheaper conferences overall, not being restricted to select major cities, more possibility of interaction with other subfields, more diversity of viewpoint represented in bioanth”

“Smaller conference, easier to get to know everyone, nice to keep on top of new work by people doing stuff on human health/biology/nutrition/etc. and people studying actual human evolution (i.e., paleo folks) who don't attend AAA”

“More interesting talks outside of EAS sessions. Better possibilities for making new connections within our field (but outside of EAS). Better impact on our field.”

“More relevant conference - lots of EAS people are already going to AAPAs”