**Anthropology Where You Might Not Expect**

**Speaker BIOs for WAPA November 14 Meeting**

**Stephen Epstein**, Department of State

**Robert Winthrop**, Department of the Interior

**Jennifer Zazo-Brown**, National Museum of African American History &

Culture, Smithsonian Institution

**Stephen Epstein** will speak on “Targets of Opportunity for an Anthropologist in the State Department”

Stephen Epstein came to the Department of State as an anthropologist on a AAAS Fellowship, which places scholars with scientific PhDs in policy-making federal agencies. Steve’s specialty was Pre-Columbian Andean archaeometallurgy. Seventeen years later, he has never been consulted on this subject. Most of his work has been in political-military affairs and traditional diplomacy. Nevertheless, he considers himself an anthropologist. He will try to explain how this is possible.

Steve received a PhD in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, an MA from the School of Postgraduate Studies in Physics of Bradford University in West Yorkshire, and graduated from the U.S. Army War College.

Before coming to Washington, Steve was the Associate Director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. He has also taught archaeology and anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University, and Rider University, and has excavated in Ireland, Belize, Peru, Texas, and New Mexico. Concurrently, he spent 30 years in the U.S. Army Reserve, retiring as a colonel with civil affairs deployments in Bosnia, Haiti, and Iraq.

**Robert Winthrop** will speak on “Beyond ‘It’s Complicated’ – Making the Social Sciences Intelligible and Useful”

Robert Winthrop’s presentation will examine the challenges of communicating anthropological -- and more broadly social science -- perspectives in federal management of the environment and resources through two examples.

* The first draws on his work in the Bureau of Land Management’s socioeconomics program, considering how the economists’ approach to assessing environmental value can be enhanced by acknowledging the social construction of environmental experience and the symbolic character of environmental knowledge.
* The second, drawn from an initiative at the U.S. Global Change Research Program, illustrates how the perspectives of several social science disciplines can enhance the grasp of coupled human – natural systems in federal climate change research, as seen in a 2017 federal - academic workshop.

Rob holds a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from the University of Minnesota (1981), and a master’s degree in international policy from The George Washington University (2004). He is Senior Social Scientist at the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Washington, DC, and Research Professor at the University of Maryland's Department of Anthropology.

**Jennifer Zazo-Brown** will speak on “On the Road to the Smithsonian: Intuitive Uses of Anthropology in the Arts, Education & Museum Programming

Jennifer Zazo-Brown will share some career highlights as well as current projects in process at the Smithsonian. Her career path from art school to the Smithsonian Institution has been slow, varied, and indirect, but nonetheless full of rich experiences that have each collectively contributed to her current museum work. She considers herself to be an untrained anthropologist who has consistently drawn upon anthropological concepts and theories to inform her practice.

Jennifer earned a bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts from The School of Visual Arts; a master’s degree in Communications from the College of New Rochelle; a second masters in Museum Studies from New York University; and a post-graduate certificate in American History from the American Military University. She is a Museum Research and Program Specialist for the Office of Strategic Partnerships at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution.