**PDAC Abstract Formatting Guidelines**

Awardees should follow this format. These abstracts may be presented to the college community unless you indicate otherwise.

**Awardee(s)** *Rank Discipline Department*

**Presentation Title** *Conference Title and Date Conference Theme*

**Sample Abstract**

**Lisa Pope Fischer, PhD** *Assistant Professor Anthropology*

*Social Science*

**Fragmented Publics: Identity, Time, and Spatial Locations of Mothers Left Behind**

*American Anthropology Association Conference 2009*

*The End/s of Anthropology*

**ABSTRACT**

As our globalized world creates elastic boundaries, as familial bonds extend across continents, Anthropology can become a liminal threshold to create textured understandings of space and time as they connect to power, memory and identity. In 1993 I began going to Hungary forming connections with people defying fragmented boundaries. I befriended a group of Hungarian immigrants in Los Angeles. Some staying illegally with long expired tourists visas feared that going home to Hungary would prevent their return to America. With each trip I made back to Hungary they would fill my suitcases with seemingly simple gifts of “American” chocolate, coffee, and handwritten notes for their parents--in most cases this meant widowed senior women.

As Hungarian hospitality is key, a quick stop to drop off gifts was not possible-- I had to sit, eat, and talk with these elderly women who often lived alone. I began to realize that these gifts were not simply

forms of reciprocity between my US research group and me, but rather that I had become a human conduit that stretched a human bond between emigrant child and mother. On my return to the US, Hungarian mothers would ask me to bring gifts for their children-- “Hungarian” chocolate, simple foods not found in the US, a Hungarian crossword magazine. This paper explores textured meanings of time and space as we engage in fieldwork communities that live in new forms of social and economic interactions. How does one understand the experience of senior women left behind in terms of gender, memory and identity?

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*Office of the Provost*