Carolyn Rouse

Welcome and Welcome Back!
Once again, we are blessed with a new cohort of brilliant first-year graduate students. In addition, we are lucky to count among our faculty Professors Agustin Fuentes and Jerry Zee who joined us this fall, and Professor Hanna Garth who will join us next year. We also have two new colleagues in other programs: Society of Fellows Postdoc and Lecturer Aniruddhan Vasudevan and Postdoctoral Fellow Milad Odabaei. They add so much to our already exciting and vibrant community, it’s a pleasure to be back!

For my sabbatical, I lived in Morocco and studied Darija. When I was a graduate student, I had wanted to study women’s religious associations in Morocco. Being married, with a small child, I decided that fieldwork in Los Angeles was more practical. Twenty-eight years later, I felt it was time to go and see the possibilities.

Nothing was particularly easy, from having to wear a winter coat inside the riad to the social demands of family life, but I loved every minute of it. The beauty of our discipline is not being able to live in amazing places, it’s having the opportunity to inhabit new worlds. Being able to put one’s values aside in order to appreciate the values of others is priceless.

If I am grateful for one thing, it is that the Covid pandemic reminds us not to take our discipline and ability to travel for granted. We will conduct in-person fieldwork again, but perhaps with a greater appreciation for the fact that fieldwork has never been easy. In the meantime, I love the stillness and the focus that has come with the slowdown.

Finally, I anticipate that 2020 will end on a hopeful note. Before we know it, we will be back in the field and once again breaking bread together.

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Sabrina Jiang

Jiang is interested in birth, maternity, and disabilities in urban China. She is intrigued by pregnant women’s, families’ and doctors’ narratives around aborting fetuses with disabilities. She hopes to examine how these discourses frame fetuses with disabilities as carrying both an imagined life and an imagined death. Prior to coming to Princeton, Sabrina holds a BA in Anthropology and Philosophy from Stanford University. Her previous research engaged women who had recently given birth in Guangzhou and Kunming, China. She studied how bodies in pain challenged philosophical accounts of the understandability of pain by constructing new modes of understanding. While at Princeton, she hopes to explore how ethnography can substantiate and challenge “the problem of other minds” in philosophy, and investigate how perceptions, beliefs and reasons, which are seemingly inner processes, are products of and continue to inform people’s interactions with the outside.

Darius Sadighi

Sadighi earned his BA in music composition and sound studies from NYU’s Gallatin School of Individualized Study and an MA in anthropology from the University of Chicago. He is interested primarily in healthcare, the startup sector, computational capitalism, and media. Currently, he is researching the emergent digital healthcare industry in Vietnam (particularly Saigon) and the ways in which biocapital, technology, and health intersect in a postcolonial, late socialist, and neoliberal setting. He wishes to examine health and technics in relation to notions of value and alienation under regimes of increasing privatization. In addition to medical anthropology, he is interested in science and technology studies, postcolonial studies, and media studies.

Alisa Sopova

Sopova’s research interests focus on the production of resilience in the civilian communities in the war zone in Eastern Ukraine. She seeks to investigate the specifics of everyday life in the environment of military conflict and adjustments and coping mechanisms employed by its residents in order to recreate the normality of their livelihoods. Born and raised in the region, Alisa worked as a journalist and a news editor for the largest local newspaper, Donbass. When the war broke out, she was faced with the challenge of reporting on violence in her own city. With the local journalism collapsing, she began working for international media, including The New York Times and Time magazine where her coverage focused on the war and its humanitarian impact. Alisa is an author and co-founder of a #5Kfromthefrontline project that aims to bring to light everyday experiences of civilian life at the frontlines. Alisa holds a BA in journalism from Moscow State University and an MA in Regional Studies from Harvard University.

Ayluonne Tereszkieiwicz

Tereszkiewicz is interested in the nexus of temporality, political emotions, and the urban material landscape, as components of city planning. She holds a BA in Anthropology from Columbia University. She is energized by the challenge of researching urban built environments and urban redevelopment as an assemblage of emotional and intellectual forms, bodies, and materials. Her current research highlights San Francisco’s large-scale redevelopment of public housing into mixed-income housing, and asks: In cities known for progressive politics, how do mixed-income redevelopment strategies become flashpoints for contesting the “post-race” and “post-class” imaginations of urban futures?
### New Faculty Members

**Agustín Fuentes**  
Fuentes is trained in zoology and anthropology. His research delves into the how and why of being human. From chasing monkeys in jungles and cities, to exploring the lives of our evolutionary ancestors, to examining human health, behavior, and diversity across the globe, Professor Fuentes is interested in both the big questions and the small details of what makes humans and our close relations tick.

**Hanna Garth**  
Garth will join the department in September 2021 as a sociocultural and medical anthropologist. Garth's scholarship is broadly focused on the ways in which marginalized communities struggle to overcome structural inequalities and prejudice as they attempt to access basic needs. Garth studies these questions in Latin America and the Caribbean, and among Black and Latinx communities in the United States. She has focused on the ways in which the global industrial food system affects food access inequalities.

**Jerry Zee**  
Zee is jointly appointed in the Department Anthropology and the Princeton Environmental Institute. Zee is a sociocultural anthropologist whose research explores geophysical and environmental emergence as sites of political experiment. His work is situated at the intersections of feminist science and technology studies, environmental humanities, and experimental ethnography. He considers the rise of China as a matter of geophysical and geopolitical entanglement, moving across weather systems that connect inland land degradation, major dust storm formation, and the eventual scattering of Chinese land as meteorological fallout across the Northern Hemisphere.

### Lecturer

**Aniruddhan Vasudevan**  
Vasudevan is a sociocultural anthropologist whose research focuses on the intersections of gender and sexuality, religion, and ethics of relationality and care. He recently completed his Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. His dissertation is an ethnographic study of religious and communal life among a group of thirunangai transgender women in Chennai, India, and it details the place that attachment to goddess Angalamman holds in shaping ethical life for these actors.

### Postdoctoral Fellow

**Milad Odabaei**  
Odabaei is a postdoctoral fellow at the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies. He received his PhD in Anthropology with a Designated Emphasis in Critical Theory from the University of California, Berkeley in May 2018. His research and teaching bring together critical and anthropological approaches to the study of translation and transmission of knowledge as well as religion and politics in the theorization of modern Iran. At Princeton, Odabaei will be working on his first book manuscript, The Outside: Translation and Iranian Travails of Learned Politics, which offers a historical and anthropological reflection on the translation of European social thought in post-revolutionary Iran. The Outside draws on ethnographic and archival research in the Iranian academy, the research centers of the Shi’i seminaries, and private translation circles in Tehran and Qom.

### Faculty on Sabbatical

Professor João Biehl  
Professor Ryo Morimoto  
Professor Lauren Coyle Rosen

### Events

**Thursday Sept. 7 @ 5:00 PM EDT**  
Decolonizing the Discipline discussion with undergraduate students and faculty

**Thursday, Oct. 1 @ 7:00 PM EDT**  
Anti-Racism Discussion with undergraduate students and faculty

**Thursday, Oct. 15 @ 4:30 PM EDT**  
Rosalind Morris  
Columbia University  
*The Ancestors Call from the Future*

**Thursday, Oct. 29 @ 4:30 PM EDT**  
William Mazzarella  
University of Chicago  
*On Patience, or, Don’t Just Do Something, Stand There!*

**Thursday, Dec. 3 @ 4:30 PM EDT**  
Post-Election Analysis discussion with undergraduate students and faculty

**Thursday, Dec. 10 @ 4:30 PM EDT**  
Mark Drury, Lecturer  
Princeton University  
“*They film us...we film them*”: Human Rights Activism and Proliferating Forms of Veillance in the Western Sahara Conflict

**DATE: TBD**  
Post-Election Analysis discussion with undergraduate students and faculty

All events will be virtual via Zoom

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