The Department of ANTHROPOLOGY

Academic Report
2019-2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Message from the Chair</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty News</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate News</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures &amp; Events</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Sponsored Events</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences and Workshops</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Fieldwork</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D. Recipients</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Awards</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Awards</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Theses</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Certificate of Proficiency</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VizE Lab</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Humanities Fair</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centers and Programs</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni Publications</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING CHAIR

September 2020

Dear all –

This welcome letter is the last thing that is left for me to do in my capacity as Acting Chair of the Department. Recalling our first departmental meeting in September 2019, I remember stating that it would be a quiet and measured year. No major upheavals. No big changes. No radical innovations. Nothing like that. Zip. Null. Nada.

Life, as we all know, is always more complex than we think it would be. The past academic year was far from being slow and uneventful, to put it mildly.

In the fall, in addition to our usual routine, we went – rather unexpectedly – through three exciting hiring processes. Two were successful. This year, Jerry Zee joins our Department. This appointment was one of those infrequent cases when we cooperated with another institution on campus: as an expert on weather systems, Jerry will be splitting his time between the Princeton Environmental Institute and our Department. Hanna Garth is the other new member in our Department. An anthropologist of food, she is particularly interested in studying food distribution systems and structural inequalities that such systems generate and sustain. Hanna will join us in the fall of 2021.

The two new members not only bring with them new theoretical approaches and new forms of anthropological knowledge, but also, they come with the area studies expertise that we were lacking for quite some time: Hanna has done extensive fieldwork research in Cuba, while Jerry works in China as his primary ethnographic location.

The excitement of hiring new colleagues was followed – almost immediately – by the confusion produced by the COVID-19. It is still far from being over; we are still coping with it. But I do want to say this: the speed and orderliness with which we as a department performed the transition from teaching in-person to virtual teaching were nothing short of a miracle. It was not easy for anyone; it took some adjustment, sacrifice, and patience. But it worked in the end. In fact, it worked much better than most of us had expected.

It could have been a disaster. Instead you saw it as an invitation to experiment with new forms of teaching and learning. And I want to thank faculty, students, and staff for the time, effort, and energy that you invested in making this happen.

It was a very productive research year, too. Lauren Coyle Rosen and Laurence Ralph published their books last year; Lisa Davis and Carolyn Rouse prepared manuscripts for publication. Several of our graduate students got prestigious awards: Tyler Adkins (Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships); Elizabeth Durham (Center for Human Values Fellowship); Kamal Kariem (The Stephen F. Cohen–Robert C. Tucker Dissertation Fellowship); Alexandra Middleton (Jacobus Fellow, Princeton University), Sofia M. Pinedo-Padoch (Charlotte Newcombe Fellowship). And, finally, last spring, our new faculty member, Agustín Fuentes, was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

Despite all the obstacles and emergencies, we did quite well last year. I am sure we will do even better in the new year. After all, we’ve managed the worst of the COVID-19.

Welcome back, and good luck!

Serguei Oushakine
During 2019-2020, Biehl directed the Brazil LAB and co-directed the Global Health Program. His book *Vita: Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment* was translated into Japanese and traditional Chinese. Biehl published articles on the judicialization of the right to health in *Humanity and Health and Human Rights*. Reflecting on Medical Anthropology in the Times of COVID-19, he published “How to Teach Anthropology in a pandemic?” Biehl helped organize the exhibition *States of Health: Visualizing Illness and Healing* at the Princeton University Art Museum and collaborated with Gary Hurst on the video *Timed* (based on *Vita*). He reflected on this artistic collaboration in the essay “Illness of Time.” Biehl was the keynote speaker of *Anthropologies of the South* (XIII Reunião de Antropologia do Mercosul). He is co-editor of the series *Critical Global Health* at Duke University Press and serves on the board of *Cultural Anthropology*, *Anthropological Quarterly*, *Common Knowledge*, and *Revista de Antropologia*. At the Brazil LAB, Biehl is leading a partnership with the Graduate Program in Social Anthropology of the Museu Nacional and is co-organizing the platform Captured+Escaped: Storying Images of Slavery and Post-Abolition in Brazil. Reflecting on the Amazonian Leapfrogging project, Biehl published a report in *Folha de S. Paulo*. He is collaborating with the think-and-do-tank Igarapé and the initiative Amazônia 2030. Biehl is also an adviser to the Brazilian Institute for Health Policy Studies (IEPS). Biehl is currently co-editing the book *Arc of Interference: Medical Anthropology for Worlds on the Edge* and revising *Memento Vivere: War and Worldmaking in the South American Borderlands, 1864-1874*.

**Elizabeth Davis**

In 2019-2020, Davis completed her second book, *Artifactual: Forensic and Documentary Knowing*, which addresses public secrecy and evidence-making in Cyprus, focusing on forensic investigations of missing persons and visual-documentary archives; expected publication in spring 2021, Duke University Press. She drafted an additional book manuscript, *The Time of the Cannibals: On Conspiracy and Context*, on so-called conspiracy theories and presidential power in Cyprus, the United States, and other locales. She continued to work on her documentary film, *These Sacred Bones*, about the public life of human remains and their entanglement of religion and politics in Cyprus, as well as ethnographic research on orthodox and heterodox burial practices in Greece. At Princeton, Davis taught a hybrid graduate/undergraduate seminar, “Conspiracy Theory and Social Theory,” and two new courses: “Sensory Anthropology,” offered in the Medical Anthropology Track of the undergraduate curriculum, and an interdisciplinary graduate seminar on “The Problem of Context,” offered by the IHUM Program (Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities), where she has been a member of the Executive Committee since 2018. She served as Faculty Fellow in the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, and continued her service as a member of the Institutional Review Board (IRB).

**John Borneman**

During 2019-2020, Borneman assumed the directorship of the Certificate Program in Ethnographic Studies, and continued directing the Program in Contemporary European Politics and Society, under the auspices of PIIRS. Borneman is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Society for Ethnographic Theory, which publishes both a book series and journal, *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, with the University of Chicago Press. In 2019, he presented papers on “Attachment and Separation in the Field,” at the American Anthropological Association Meetings in Vancouver, Canada, and delivered a keynote address on “Germany: The State of the Nation in 2019,” at a conference at Notre Dame, Indiana. In Spring 2020, together with Barbara Buckinx, he organized a conference at Princeton on remittances. Some of his current research, a longitudinal study of the incorporation of Syrian refugees in Germany, has now begun to appear in publications. Among these were articles on the psychosocial dimensions of refugee incorporation into the welfare state (“Witnessing, Containing, Holding? The German social welfare state (Sozialstaat) and people in flight”) and on crowds in the Syrian revolution (“The Syrian Revolution: Crowds, the political field, the political subject”).
In 2019-20, Elyachar was on sabbatical for the academic year. She spent the year in three locations: Princeton; Cairo, Egypt; and Ljubljana, Slovenia. In Cairo, she conducted ongoing fieldwork and worked on a project to preserve and digitize archives collected by longtime colleagues and friends there. In Princeton and Ljubljana, Elyachar revised her book manuscript called *Exterritorial: A Political Anthropology from the Levant*. For a different project, she wrote a first draft of a book called *Diaries of a Palestinian Jew*.

Jeffrey Himpele spent 2019-2020 digging into several collaborations with faculty in the VizE Lab and expanding his course “Visible Evidence: Documentary Film and Data Visualization” into a multi-species ethnographic experience during a field trip to Princeton’s Mpala Wildlife Research Centre in Kenya. Alas, the COVID-19 travel restrictions hit days before the trip. But the preceding weeks of preparation revealed new possibilities for using visual media to explore multi-species dynamics. Once the course resumed on-line and students began working from home, they pivoted to new individual projects that revealed multi-species relationships in the context of the pandemic in an impressive set of films, interactive maps and data visualizations. Himpele also produced a new MOOC (on Coursera) called “Real Bones: Adventures in Forensic Anthropology” taught by Janet Monge, and funded by his 250th Grant for Teaching Innovation. During summer 2020, Himpele launched the Virtual VizE Lab with students hired from his spring course, creating a set of online tutorials for doing remote ethnography through online interviews and visual data.

As director of the VizE Lab, Himpele edited *The Torture Letters*, the animated short film produced by Laurence Ralph based on his book; it appeared on NY Times Op-Docs series. Himpele also extended his collaboration with Frederick Wherry (SOC) on Dignity and Debt. He published “The Problem of Colored Lines.” a gallery in the style of W.E.B. Dubois visualizations and he helped organize an international forum on the student debt crisis. He joined the NJ Families Study team with Thomas Espenshade (SOC) as a co-PI. Finally, Himpele completed a rough cut of his musical documentary *Men of Steel*; he and his co-producer are raising funds for post-production and music licenses.

In February 2020, Himpele visited Rice University as guest speaker at the Annual Ethnographic Studio in the Anthropology Department. In the theme of “Graphics,” participants produced a set of innovative ethnographic projects in a range of media.

As Director of Graduate Studies, Lederman participated in the Faculty Committee of the Graduate School meetings and served on its Policy subcommittee. Within the department, Lederman tracked the first full year of the restructured Generals timeline: research proposal presentations of the rising third year students happened later than anticipated, with implications for dissertation research grant applications. However, beginning in March the COVID-19 pandemic upended spring courses, advising rhythms, working conditions for first and second year students, and fieldwork, writing, and life possibilities for all of us. Restrictions on in-person interaction hit anthropologists particularly hard; and politicized global travel restrictions posed pervasive graduate program challenges.

COVID-19 only sharpened preexisting racialized historical/structural pathologies of American political culture. Especially since 2016, that unequally distributed pain has been articulated increasingly explicitly by students Lederman has worked with. Because she has taught departmental core courses so regularly over the past several years (ANT 300 and 501 in 2019/2020), those concerns have inflected her understanding of the critical value of disciplinary anthropology—surfacing, for example, in her 2019 article “My Favorite Book!': Voicing Mary Douglas for Twenty-First Century Conversations” (American Anthropologist 121 (3): Vital Topics Forum on Voicing the Ancestors: Readings for the Present from Anthropology’s Past, ed. Ira Bashkow).
Ryo Morimoto

Morimoto served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in 2019-2020. He enjoyed his term very much as he was able to work closely with the Department’s amazing majors. Morimoto also served as a Faculty-in-Residence at Forbes College. He will continue his position at Forbes into the next academic year, working with Forbes’ residents to design and participate in activities that promote environmental sustainability on campus. Morimoto taught a department core course, “The Ethnographer’s Craft,” and two undergraduate interdisciplinary courses, “Catastrophes across Cultures” and “Nuclear Things and Toxic Colonization.” His chapter contribution appeared in “Disaster Upon Disaster: Exploring the Gap Between Knowledge, Policy, and Practice,” edited by Susanna M. Hoffma and Roberto E. Barrios. Another chapter contribution on irradiated homes is forthcoming in an edited volume by João Biehl and Federico Neiburg. Morimoto is now finishing his article on wild boars in coastal Fukushima and their lives, deaths and the legacy of radioisotopes in the area’s shifting radioactive environment. He was planning to conduct research on transnational security at the Tokyo Summer Olympics with the Center on Transnational Policing in collaboration with the University of Tokyo. He and his collaborators are currently researching Tokyo’s responses to COVID-19 as they relate to Japan’s future security measures. During the 2020-2021 academic year, Morimoto will be a visiting assistant professor at University of Tokyo and a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, where he will complete his book manuscript, “Nuclear Ghost: Atomic Livelihood in Fukushima’s Gray Zone.”

Laurence Ralph

Ralph taught two undergraduate courses—“Gangsters and Troublesome Populations” and “Disability, Difference and Race”—as well as a graduate course called “Ethnographic Narrative: Beyond the Gaze.” Ralph published an article for a special issue of disability studies in Current Anthropology, entitled “Torture without Torturers: Police Violence and Racialization in Black Chicago.” He also published “The Making of Richard Zuley: The Ignored Linkages between the US Criminal In/justice System and the International Security State” in American Anthropologist. Additionally, Ralph’s 2019 Lewis H. Morgan Lecture, entitled “Black Cargo,” was published in HAU. His new book, The Torture Letters: Reckoning with Police Violence, was published in January 2020 by the University of Chicago Press. The library on digitization of some of these materials. So far, the focus has been on illustrated books for children from the 1920s-1930s. The volume explores how these picture-books condensed Communist ideas into visually appealing and informative idioms. By looking at the connection between text and image, they tried to reconstruct the type of graphic literacy that books offered to and cultivated in their readers. Oushakine is particularly proud of the fact that the volume will feature almost 300 (color!) images.

Oushakine’s second book project is a small(ish) book on what he calls the optical turn in early Soviet Russia. Realism with Gaze-Appeal: Lenin, Children, and Photomontage is partly a visual anthropology project and partly a historical research. Mindful of the fact that their main audience is largely illiterate, the state and the party created a diversified universe of illustrated printed media after the Russian revolution of 1917.

Oushakine analyzed in detail the role of photomontage in this process. Photomontage is rather unique in the way it organizes documentary representations of reality (photos) as highly unrealistic multi-scalar visual landscapes. Being both mimetic and avant-gardist, photomontaged compositions force viewers to actively adapt their vantage point and recalibrate their interpretative strategies. The book is expected in Russian in 2020, and is being published by Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, the key private Russian institution in the field of visual arts and media.

Serguei Oushakine

In addition to being acting Department Chair in 2019-2020, Oushakine completed two important book projects. The Pedagogy of Images: Depicting Communism for Children (University of Toronto Press) is a volume of essays co-edited with a colleague. It is a result of a long-term project on printed media from the USSR that are deposited at Princeton’s Rare Books and Manuscripts collections.

Since 2014, Oushakine has been working with the
In January, Borovoy was invited to the National University of Singapore to discuss her current book manuscript, *A Living Laboratory: Japan in American Social Thought*. Traveling there was a fascinating window into society, governance, and public health in the moment just before the COVID-19 crisis hit. Borovoy has also been studying the ethics of kidney replacement in Japan and globally, supported by an NEH grant. Kidney disease is a costly effect of global aging, and Japan has the second highest proportion of people on kidney dialysis in the OECD. It has the lowest percentage of individuals living with a transplanted kidney because of ethical and cultural concerns around the notion of “brain death.” The question of kidney replacement sits at the intersection of anthropology, bioethics, and history of medicine. In January, Borovoy presented findings at a symposium, “Bridging Humanities, Social Sciences and Medicine at Keio University.” Recently, she was invited to join the Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Hospital, New Brunswick Bioethics Committee.

**Lauren Coyle Rosen**


**Carolyn M. Rouse**

For sabbatical, Rouse spent the fall studying intensive Darija Arabic in Fez, Morocco. After returning, Rouse finished the final edits on her book *Development Hubris: Adventures Trying to Save the World*. She also published “It’s All Free Speech Until Someone Dies in a Pandemic,” in *Anthropology Now*.

**ASSOCIATED FACULTY**

**Amy Borovoy**

In January, Borovoy was invited to the National University of Singapore to discuss her current book manuscript, *A Living Laboratory: Japan in American Social Thought*. Traveling there was a fascinating window into society, governance, and public health in the moment just before the COVID-19 crisis hit. Borovoy has also been studying the ethics of kidney replacement in Japan and globally, supported by an NEH grant. Kidney disease is a costly effect of global aging, and Japan has the second highest proportion of people on kidney dialysis in the OECD. It has the lowest percentage of individuals living with a transplanted kidney because of ethical and cultural concerns around the notion of “brain death.” The question of kidney replacement sits at the intersection of anthropology, bioethics, and history of medicine. In January, Borovoy presented findings at a symposium, “Bridging Humanities, Social Sciences and Medicine at Keio University.” Recently, she was invited to join the Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Hospital, New Brunswick Bioethics Committee.

**DEPARTMENT LECTURERS**

**Tiffany C. Cain**

During her first year at Princeton, Cain taught two new undergraduate courses: “Native American and Indigenous Studies: An Introduction” and “Making History: Museums, Monuments, and Cultural Heritage.” She also served as a faculty fellow at Mathey College and for a Pace Center Breakout Seminar called “Healthcare in the Homeland: Exploring the Native American Experience of the US Healthcare System.” Cain contributed to Princeton’s intellectual community through several workshops where she presented her research on political violence, colonialism, and memory in southeastern Mexico. She is editor on a forthcoming special issue called “Engendering Heritage: Contemporary Feminist Approaches to Archaeological Heritage Practice” and a volume titled *Coloniality in the Maya Lowlands: Archaeological Perspectives*, (University of Colorado Press). She is currently working on several new essays and beginning to draft her book manuscript *Things of War: Conflict & Heritage on Mexico’s Maya Frontier*. In fall 2020, she’ll teach a new upper-level seminar, “Race, Gender, Empire.”

In 2019-2020, Drury published two articles about borders, mobility and political belonging in and around the disputed territory of Western Sahara, The most recent, part of a special issue in CSSAAAME on loyalty and betrayal, is entitled “Disidentification with Nationalist Conflict: Loyalty, Opportunism, and Mobility in Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara.” The other, in L’Année du Maghreb, is entitled “On the Border in Northern Mauritania.” He also wrote an essay for PolAR reviewing two ethnographies of transnational solidarity politics. Thanks to a Tuck Fund research grant, he consulted archives in Paris and Aix-en-Provence concerning a joint French-Spanish military counterinsurgency operation in the Sahara in the 1950s. This research will inform his contribution to a conference at Brown’s Center for Middle East Studies, postponed until fall 2020, on “Decolonization, Development, and State Building in North Africa.”

Onur Günay’s book in progress, Living As If: Political Violence and Ethical Imagination in Kurdish Istanbul, focuses on the processes by which displaced Kurdish migrants become urban laborers in Istanbul, exploring how ethnic and cultural differences are recast through labor, as these differences mark migrant Kurdish men’s bodies, sexualities, life prospects, and senses of belonging in the city. Based on this project, he published two articles in Fall 2019. The first, “In War and Peace: Shifting Narratives of Violence in Kurdish Istanbul,” was published in American Anthropologist. The second, “Governing Ethnic Unrest: Political Islam and the Kurdish Conflict in Turkey,” (co-authored with Erdem Yörük), was published in New Perspectives on Turkey. This past year, Günay co-taught a graduate seminar on “Ethnographic Theory” and a large undergraduate course “Medical Anthropology” with João Biehl. Together, they wrote an essay, “How to teach anthropology in a pandemic?” for Somatosphere, reflecting on their experience of teaching Medical Anthropology during the COVID-19 pandemic.
**VISITING FACULTY**

**Didier Fassin**
Fassin, the James D. Wolfensohn Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study, has dedicated the year to four distinct projects. He conducted a counter-investigation of the killing of a “traveler” by French special SWAT-like units, the case of which was dismissed by the justice system, and converted his research into an experimental essay. He prepared the “leçon inaugurale” and the eight other lectures for his Chair in public health at the Collège de France, which will be postponed to 2021. He finalized an “ethno-graphic” based on his earlier ethnography of policing in the French banlieues. And he continued his fieldwork on international migrations, repression and solidarity at the French-Italian border. He published *Mort d’un voyageur. Une contre-enquête*, the translation of which is forthcoming at Polity Press, edited *Deepening Divides. How Physical Borders and Social Boundaries Delineate our World* and coedited *A Time for Critique* with Bernard Harcourt.

**EMERITUS FACULTY**

**Carol J. Greenhouse**
Greenhouse’s new publications include articles and an edited volume. The articles explore the current political moment for its implicit challenges to the anthropology of politics – particularly regarding the interpretive opacity of partisanship and the inchoateness of political structure in the federal U.S. (e.g., in AA and Holbraad et al.’s *Ruptures*, UCL Press). The book, co-edited with political scientist Christina L. Davis, is *Landscapes of Law: Practicing Sovereignty in Transnational Terrain* (University of Pennsylvania Press). The volume originated in an interdisciplinary international conference sponsored by the Anthropology Department, PIIRS and LAPA. Contributors reveal how state and non-state actors’ claims of national culture circulate in the making of transnational law – complicating what are often taken-for-granted assumptions about the inevitability of an antithesis between nationalism and globalism, and the subordinate status of culture in relation to states. In September 2019, Greenhouse lectured at the Princeton Athens Center.

**Abdellah Hammoudi**
Hammoudi finished a book on how an anthropology written in Arabic would look like published in 2019. It got some attention in Morocco, Tunisia and The Middle East. It is right now considered for translation in English. As adviser, he chaired Quincy Amoah’s dissertation defense in May 2020. The committee included John Borneman and Carol Greenhouse. He completed four chapters for a new book, which is sequel to the one mentioned above. In September 2019, Hammoudi delivered a keynote on the transformations of authoritarianism in Agadir, Morocco.

**Alan Mann**
Mann advanced to emeritus status in 2015. He continues to work with his colleagues at the Université de Bordeaux on the analysis of the Neandertal fossils that were excavated, with the participation of Princeton undergraduates, at an archaeological site in Southwest France. Several co-authored papers on various aspects of Neandertal anatomy have been published this past year. With colleagues, he has focused on the development of techniques that will further our understanding why most of the Neandertal fossil bones from the site possess clear evidence of being butchered; whether for dietary cannibalistic or ritual purposes, or both, remains unknown. In fall 2019, he was invited to give a paper on the evolution of middle childhood at an international conference on the evolution of human cognition that was held in France. He continues to give talks for the Princeton Alumni Association, including the Paris Alumni Club.

**Lawrence Rosen**
During the spring semester 2020, Rosen was a Senior Fellow at Harvard Law School. He published reviews in the *London Review of Books, Science, Literary Review*, and several articles in edited volumes. He is currently writing a general book about tribes and another on various aspects of American political and legal culture. He lives on Mount Desert Island, Maine.
Alkhamissi spent 2019-2020 preparing for fieldwork. In the fall semester, she was an Assistant Instructor (AI) for Professor Elizabeth Davis’ course on sensory ethnography. She conducted preliminary research in Tunis and Cairo over winter break. She came back to Princeton for the spring semester where she presented her fieldwork proposal talk titled “In the name of God, the more Gracious, the Most Merciful, Tunis is the answer.”

Bradley spent the year working towards completing her dissertation fieldwork near Kachemak Bay in Homer, Alaska. In February, she presented preliminary results of her fieldwork at the Alaska Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska.

In Summer 2019, Dey was awarded the Society for Psychological Anthropology’s Robert Lemelson Fellowship to conduct pre-dissertation fieldwork in Fiji where she explored topics in environmental imagination, devotional religious practice, and health precarity among Fijian Indian sugarcane farmers. During the 2019-2020 school year, Dey was a Yoga Philosophy Fellow at the Office of Religious Life and a Graduate Research Fellow at the Center for the Study of Religion (Religion and Public Life Program), where she studied “bhakti devotional” perspectives on ecological activism in the Hindu diaspora. In fall 2019, in her position as a Graduate Fellow at the Center for Digital Humanities, Dey began working on a visual project that records the visual and physical deterioration of abandoned Fijian sugar cane plantations (those from which Fijian Indians have been displaced) as they turn into rural overgrown “bush.” Dey has completed all of her departmental coursework and completed her two qualifying exam essays over Summer 2020, while also studying Advanced Hindi at the American Institute for Indian Studies’ intensive summer language learning program.

Durham finished two years of fieldwork on wellbeing in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in November 2019. Since then, she has been working on a variety of projects -- reviewing for Medical Anthropology Quarterly and PoLAR, co-editing a series on transnational medical anthropologies for Somatosphere, writing and teaching as a University Administrative Fellow with the Princeton Writes program, and, most importantly, drafting her dissertation. Due to COVID-19, she was unable to return to Yaoundé as planned in the summer 2020, but continues to remotely participate in the University of Yaoundé I anthropology working group. Durham was awarded a Laurence S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Gigerenzer was awarded a Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation fellowship for the academic year 2019-2020, and spent the year writing her dissertation and teaching. In the fall, she was a preceptor for ANT 300: “Ethnography, Evidence and Experience,” taught by Professor Rena Lederman. In November 2019, she co-organized a panel at the American Anthropological Association conference called “Outtakes from Fieldwork,” which focused on episodes from fieldwork that never make it into our writing, but continue to linger with us years later. She was awarded a Dissertation Completion fellowship by the Global Religion Research Institute at Notre Dame for the academic year 2020-2021, and plans to defend in the Spring 2021.

During academic year 2019-2020, Hunter-Pazzara concluded fieldwork in late 2019 and is now writing his dissertation. He is currently a research fellow with American University’s Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, and will serve as a fellow in the fall 2020 with the University of California San Diego’s Center for US-Mexican Studies. Hunter-Pazzara also published a number of pieces this past year, including an article with NACLA’s Report on the Americas entitled “Cancun’s
Uber Battle,” an article for a special issue of Social Sciences on neoliberal tourism development entitled “12th Street is Dead: Techno-Heritage and Neoliberal Contestation in the Maya Riviera,” and an article for a special issue of Palgrave Communications on the meaning of Guns entitled, “The Possessive Investment in Guns.” In spring of 2020, Hunter-Pazzara precepted for Professor Leslie Gerwin’s Public Health seminar, an especially challenging, but ultimately rewarding experience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hazal Hürman

In addition to completing her first year coursework, Hürman worked on two research papers in 2019-2020. One on the ways in which Kurdish youth come to trust and/or distrust others in the context of the excessive criminalization of their daily lives, and the other on the prison and re-entry experiences of formerly incarcerated Kurdish minors in Turkey. While she presented the former paper in Inequalities, Peace, Conflict & Justice in Turkey Workshop, the latter has been accepted for publication in the Kurdish Studies journal. Another book chapter Hürman co-authored was published in the International Handbook on the Demography of Marriage and the Family by Springer in 2020. Towards the end of the spring semester, Hürman also published an op-ed in Turkish on the situation of Turkish prisons during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Luke Johnson

This year Johnson finished his course work and continued his research on cannibalism and interracial desire in France. He published an article entitled “Foreign Food, Foreign Flesh: Apathetic Anthropophagy and Racial Melancholia in Houellebecq’s Submission” in SubStance, an interdisciplinary journal of theory and literary criticism. Through a close reading of the work of novelist Michel Houellebecq, the article explores the cannibalistic dimensions of white nationalist melancholia in France. In spring 2020, Johnson was admitted into the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities (IHUM) at Princeton. As an IHUM fellow, Johnson will take a year-long detour away from anthropology to embark on a research project at the intersection of classical reception studies, psychoanalysis, and modern European history. The project will examine the relationship between philhellenism and white supremacist discourses of “Man” in Western Europe, focusing in particular on the aesthetics and erotics of white marble statues.

Monica Joyce

After completion of her first year at Princeton, which ended in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Joyce maintained her research ties to Brazil from afar. She spent her summer translating and researching for The Brazil LAB’s Freedoms/Liberdades project (a project aimed at bringing to light histories of slavery and their relation to colonial art in Brazil), participating in the BLM protest movements, and deepening her education in prison/police abolition. Through the Freedoms/Liberdades project, Joyce was able to conduct archival research directly related to her dissertation interests, which include an investigation of how Rio de Janeiro’s public spaces are organized and imagined, both by artists and the state, and especially as they relate to racial politics and racialized geographies.
During 2019-2020, Kariem was awarded a Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship and a Fulbright US Student Study/Research Award to Russia. He published a reflection from the field on beginning fieldwork during the COVID-19 Pandemic in *American Ethnologist’s Pandemic Diaries* titled “A Calm Panic” and co-authored the paper “Prospects for Ethno-ecological Research of the Cultures of Indigenous Peoples of the Russian Far East” with Olga Nikolaeva Danilova. During summer 2020, he attended the online summer school «Transcending Nature: the Anthropocene and environmental history of Northern Eurasia». Kariem is currently in Vladivostok, Russia affiliated with Vladivostok State University of Economics and Service to complete his dissertation research.

**Navjit Kaur**

During 2019-2020, Kaur continued her coursework as a second year graduate student. In the fall semester, she was an Assistant Instructor (AI) for the gender and sexuality course offered under the South Asia Program. As part of the course, she traveled with a group of 32 students to the city of Lucknow, India where she joined with the course Instructor Dr. Fauzia Farooqui in exploring the questions of gender with the students in the course. The spring semester witnessed the interruption of COVID-19 and therefore Kaur continued with her coursework online. In the summer, she sat to prepare and write her qualifying exams. For fall 2020 semester, Kaur will continue with her qualifying exams, grant proposals and coursework.

**Aleksandar Kostić**

During 2019-2020, Kostić continued his ethnographic fieldwork in Kyrgyzstan, which he started the previous summer, and will continue in fall 2020. Kostić’s project is on environmental activism and biodiversity conservation, the networks of non-governmental, governmental, international, and non-human environmental actors, and environmentalization of state-making in post-socialist Kyrgyzstan. Besides his fieldwork activities, Kostić was accepted to present at 2020 Annual Meeting of SOYUZ (AAA’s interest group on postsocialist cultural studies) in St Petersburg, Russia; however, the meeting is postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19. With field research largely halted due to the pandemic, Kostić spent the summer writing, and planning for a possibility of conducting socially distanced fieldwork, for example through archival research and phone interviews.

**Karolina Koziol**

In 2019-2020, Koziol returned to Princeton after finishing her doctoral fieldwork on Sino-Russian encounters and migration from the Russian Far East to Harbin, China. She gave her post fieldwork talk in October and is now working on her dissertation. Koziol’s photo essay was featured in a special issue of *Eurasian Geography and Economics* entitled “Exploring China’s borderlands in an era of BRI-induced change.” In the spring semester, Koziol served as a preceptor in Professor Christina Collins’ class “Intoxicating Cultures: Alcohol in Everyday Life.”

**Alexandra Middleton**

Middleton completed nearly two years of fieldwork research in Gothenburg, Sweden at the end of 2019, and is currently writing her dissertation on biotechnologically-mediated sensation, phantom limb pain, and the experimental development of embodied neuroprosthetic technologies. During the 2019-2020 academic year, she was a visiting scholar at the Centre for Medical Science and Technology Studies (MeST) at the University of Copenhagen, and delivered several invited talks on her dissertation research to anthropological, medical, and engineering audiences. In 2020, Middleton published three peer reviewed journal articles—in the *Journal of Pain Research*, *Frontiers in Neurorobotics*, and *BioSocieties* (forthcoming)—and is currently working on a chapter for an anthology on Sensory Feedback for Neuroprosthetics (Elsevier). Middleton was awarded the 2020-2021 Porter Ogden Jacobus Fellowship, Princeton’s top graduate student honor, to complete her dissertation, which she plans to defend in 2021.
**Caitlin Morley**

May 2020 brought Morley’s first year of coursework to a close. In preparation for her ethnographic research among humanitarian teams of forensic anthropologists, she spent the summer advancing her knowledge of techniques for the exhumation and identification of human remains, and of English and Spanish forensic terminology. While present global health circumstances have rendered this coursework necessarily virtual and text-based, she plans to build upon this knowledge through several forensic intensive workshops and visits to her field site in Mexico in fall and winter of 2020.

**Lindsay Ofrias**

Ofrias returned from the field in August 2019. She focused the academic year on writing her dissertation titled, “Healing Justice: Environmental Defenders and a Thriving Future for Amazonia” (to be filed in May 2021). Coupling Medical Anthropology’s concern with theories of violence with Political Ecology and Legal Anthropology’s interest in how profit incentives and liability structures mechanize disaster, Ofrias’ work probes the relationship between violence against environmental defenders and harm to the environment. In December 2019, she published an article on her research titled, “Organized criminals, human rights defenders, and oil companies: Weaponization of the RICO Act across jurisdictional borders” (with Gordon Roecker) in *FOCAL*: *Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology*. In July 2020, she presented a working paper titled, “Collaboration/Conspiracy: Ethics, Decolonization and the Power of Law” at the European Association of Social Anthropologists virtual meeting. During spring 2020 semester, Ofrias was an Assistant Instructor (AI) for Professor Ryo Morimoto’s course “The Ethnographer’s Craft” (with Professor Mark Drury) and is thankful for how everyone came together to make the course a success in the midst of COVID-19 chaos. During the 2020-2021 academic year, Ofrias will be a Graduate Fellow with the Program in Latin American Studies and the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies.

**Sofia Pinedo-Padoch**


**Lucas Prates**

In his first year, Prates took courses in the departments of Anthropology and Politics. He was actively involved in many events held by the Program in Latin American Studies and the Brazil LAB: among other examples, he interviewed Professor Marcelo Medeiros (PLAS Visiting Fellow/UnB) and co-organized a lunch discussion with Professor Aparecida Vilaça (Museu Nacional/UFRJ). Prates worked, since spring 2020, as a research assistant for Brazil LAB in a project on Amazonian conservation and the judicialization of the environment. In the summer 2020, he started to collaborate in a CHW/Princeton School of Public and International Affairs project, conducting research with Professor João Biehl on the judicialization of COVID-19 in Brazil. Also during summer 2020, Prates carried out exploratory online interviews with interlocutors in Brazil and East Timor, where he intends to conduct fieldwork for his dissertation project.
EB Saldaña

In April 2019, Saldaña attempted to start fieldwork in Kentucky, but some housing and access issues pushed it back a few months. She spent that time reworking her project and attending public meetings on federal child welfare legislation before pivoting to a different dissertation fieldwork project on life-after-care and aging out among former foster youth. Since then, she has been splitting her time between advocacy organizations in Louisville, hanging out with former foster youth, and taking a lot of road trips across Kentucky. She had planned to present as part of a childhood risk roundtable at the Society for Applied Anthropology Conference in March 2020, but COVID-19 put a pause on both the conference and fieldwork. She returned home to Rhode Island to start drafting the dissertation while continuing remote fieldwork. Saldaña was awarded the Graduate School’s Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Aderayo Sanusi

During her third year, Sanusi successfully presented her fieldwork proposal, worked as a University Administrative Fellow at Princeton University Press, and applied for external grants. Of these she was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship to study Yorùbá at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria during the summer of 2021. She also worked as an Assistant Instructor (AI) for “Special Topics in Social Entrepreneurship: Peer-Driven Social Change,” a course offered by the Keller Center for Innovation in Engineering Education. During summer 2020, Sanusi was awarded fellowships by the Princeton-Mellon Initiative and the Center for Digital Humanities to research how local computer engineers are using digital technology to transform the political landscape in Nigeria. For the academic year 2020-2021, she is working as an AI for Business Anthropology and auditing courses in the department. In addition to serving as the President of the Princeton African Graduate Student Association, Sanusi will be helping graduate students with their personal well-being as one of an inaugural cohort of Graduate Student Peer Mentors selected by the McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning. She plans to begin conducting the virtual component of her ethnographic fieldwork on computing and social entrepreneurship in Nigeria during Spring 2021 semester.

Alexandra Sastrawati

Sastrawati spent the summer 2020 in Singapore while working on her research titled “Mental Health and Urban Marginality in Contemporary Singapore and Japan.” She received summer funding from the Princeton-Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities and the Center for Digital Humanities. In her first year, she presented papers at the American Anthropological Association and the Asian American Psychological Association annual meetings. In her second year, Sastrawati will be learning Japanese and completing her coursework and general examinations.

Jagat Sohail

Since spring 2019, Sohail has spent his time in Berlin, where he is conducting ethnographic research on refugee life in Berlin. During the past year, he also wrote and published a review essay on the politics of victim-hood, along with completing a forthcoming book chapter, based on his fieldwork, in an edited volume about foreigner incorporation in Europe. Sohail plans to continue his ethnographic fieldwork in Berlin until spring 2021.
Serena Stein
Stein spent the year as a visiting researcher with the Yale Program in Agrarian Studies while writing her dissertation on an ACLS Mellon Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship. Entitled “Kindred Frontiers: South-South Experiments in Aid, Agribusiness, and Conviviality,” her dissertation examines a decade of the making and unmaking of a Brazilian soy frontier in northern Mozambique, told through extensive ethnography living and farming in villages, accompanying development interventions, and gaining access to foreign plantation investments. While at Yale, Stein rehearsed key arguments from the dissertation on postcolonial kinship; multispecies co-habitations of crop commodities and cultivators; women farmers and technology; and settler enclaving in new African plantations at the Yale Anthropology Department’s Ethnography and Social Theory Colloquium, at a symposium on Queer Africa by the Program in African Studies, and as an invited participant at the ULisboa workshop on landscapes, resource extraction, and epistemologies of the Anthropocene. Her essay on farmers’ struggles with proliferating parasitic plants in the aftermath of abandoned plantations in Mozambique is to be published in the Feral Atlas, a Stanford Digital Project (forthcoming). An article on agricultural corridors as an infrastructural form generating inequalities on African resource frontiers was published in Environment & Society. She has several other articles in the pipeline: a piece on pesticide toxicity and smallholder farmer embodiment of risk in Africa, and a piece on constructions of race and nature among white Afrikaans farmers connecting transnationally across settler subjectivities through social media. Stein will defend her dissertation in Fall 2020 and begin a 3-year postdoctoral fellowship in Political Ecology and Development & Change at Wageningen University in The Netherlands.

Junbin Tan
Apart from coursework, Tan spent 2019-2020 working on general examinations on “borders/ borderlands” and “rituals”, working as an Assistant Instructor (AI) for the undergraduate course “The Self and the Person” taught by Professor John Borneman, and on self-directed projects. Tan spent summer and fall 2019 at Kinmen, Taiwan on his dissertation project, titled “Borderland Personalities: Rituals and Political Inter-subjectivities in Post-Cold War Kinmen,” with support from PIIRS, Center for Contemporary China, East Asian Studies Program, and the Department of Anthropology. This project inspired two papers, “Where Pasts Border/ Bother the Present: Mnemonic Encounters in Postwar Kinmen”, scheduled for a workshop organized and funded by University of Edinburgh but canceled due to COVID-19, and a dissertation proposal that will be published in the European Association of Taiwan Studies E-newsletter. He also conducted an interview with Myron Cohen, “Collaborations, Legacies, and Shifts in Chinese Anthropology,” to be published by the International Sociological Association. Tan took advanced Chinese classes with the International Chinese Language Program (National Taiwan University) in summer 2020.

Christopher Zraunig
The academic year 2019-2020 was Zraunig’s first at Princeton. In November, he attended the AAA’s in Vancouver, presenting findings from his Research Master’s (University of Amsterdam) about human-viral becomings in the light of increasing pharmaceuticalization of HIV prevention and treatment. During winter break, Zraunig conducted preliminary fieldwork in Berlin. Zraunig built on these insights over the summer by working on an online research project on intergenerational queer cohabitation initiatives, for which he received funding from the Princeton-Mellon Initiative.
LECTURES & EVENTS

Clifford Geertz Commemorative Lecture

FEBRUARY 27, 2020
Michael T. Taussig, Columbia University
“Lost and Found”

For the Geertz Lecture, Taussig drew upon the way that lost objects swell in our imagination to take on a life of their own and destabilize reality, begging for alternative forms of writing (and lecturing), especially the making of lists.

LECTURE SERIES 2019-20

SEPTEMBER 26
Caitlin Zaloom, New York University
“INDEBTED: Student Finance, Social Speculation, and the Future of the US Family”

OCTOBER 10
Webb Keane, University of Michigan
“The Ethical Stance and the Possibility of Critique”

OCTOBER 18
CONFERENCE
“Digging Out With Dignity. Solving the student loan crisis and honoring meaning at the margins”
A Forum Co-Presented by the Dignity + Debt Network and The Aspen Institute’s Financial Security Program

OCTOBER 18
CONFERENCE
Co-organized by Lauren Coyle Rosen
Generously supported by the David A. Gardner ’69 Magic Grant, the Department of Anthropology, the University Center for Human Values, the Program in African Studies, and the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies.

NOVEMBER 7
Carlos Fausto, Museu Nacional, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
“The Poetics of Indigenous Amazonia, Flutes, Spells, Necklaces, and Manioc”

NOVEMBER 14
Work-in-Progress: Wine, Cheese & Anthro
John Borneman, Princeton University
“Historical and Survivor Guilt in the Incorporation of Refugees in German”

DECEMBER 5
UNSCRIPTED SERIES
Kristina M. Lyons, University of Pennsylvania
In conversation with Sebastián Ramírez
“Rivers and Reconciliation: The Reconstruction of Environmental Memory in Times of Conflict and Transition”

FEBRUARY 6
Aparecida Vilaça, Museu Nacional, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
“Forest Mathematics, Unstable Sets in Indigenous Amazonia”

MARCH 6
BOOK TALK
Laurence Ralph, Princeton University
“The Torture Letters”

Subsequent lectures were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
CO-SPONSORED EVENTS 2019-20

SEPTEMBER 19
“Radicalized Brazil | Now What?”
Co-sponsored with the Brazil LAB

SEPTEMBER 24
“The Sun on My Head: A Book Discussion with Geovani Martins”
Co-sponsored with the Brazil LAB

OCTOBER 3
“Public Security and Democracy in Brazil: Challenges and Opportunities”
Co-sponsored with the Brazil LAB

OCTOBER 5
“Sexual Citizens, A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus”
Co-sponsored with the Center for Health and Wellbeing

NOVEMBER 7
CONFERENCE
“Amazonian Poetics”
Co-sponsored with the Brazil LAB

NOVEMBER 21
“On Brazilian Authoritarianism: A Book Forum with Lilia Schwarcz”
Co-sponsored with the Brazil LAB

DECEMBER 9
“Labor and Gender: Alternative Social Policies in Brazil”
Co-sponsored with the Brazil LAB

DECEMBER 10
“Wellbeing in the Field”
Co-sponsored with the Center for Health and Wellbeing

FEBRUARY 28
“Solidarity and Activism When Democracy Fails”
Co-sponsored with the Brazil LAB

MARCH 5
“When the Africans Hid Themselves: The 1857 Strike in Bahia”
Co-sponsored with the Brazil LAB

APRIL 14
“Cooperation and Conflict Inside and Outside the Capoeira Roda”
Co-sponsored with the Brazil LAB

APRIL 22
“Covid-19 and Amazonía’s Future”
Co-sponsored with the Brazil LAB

MAY 6
“Pandemic and Chaos: Where to Next, Brazil?”
Co-sponsored with the Brazil LAB

JANUARY 23
“ Forced Life: Female Sexual Reproduction as Panacea and Poison in the Sixth Age of Extinction”
Co-sponsored with the Princeton Environmental Institute

FEBRUARY 24
“Domestic Violence: The Limits and Possibilities of a Concept”
Co-sponsored with the Department of German

FEBRUARY 28
“Solidarity and Activism When Democracy Fails”
Co-sponsored with the Brazil LAB

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CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

OCTOBER 18, 2019

DIGGING OUT WITH DIGNITY.
Solving the student loan crisis and honoring meaning at the margins
Co-organized by Jeffrey Himpele

A Forum Co-Presented by
The Dignity + Debt Network and
The Aspen Institute’s Financial Security Program

The forum brought together scholars, practitioners, journalists and other public figures from around the world. The highly interactive panels and open discussions addressed a wide range of selected topics by sharing meaningful, data-rich analyses of debt and developing innovative dignity-affirming financial products. The forum explored international perspectives, changing the narrative, and establishing action items surrounding the student loan crisis while offering a platform to begin to draw lessons from political and cultural systems.

OCTOBER 18, 2019

The Powers of African Spirituality in Global Consciousness: Light, Vision, & Truth Conference
Co-organized by Lauren Coyle Rosen

Co-sponsored with the Humanities Council’s
David A. Gardner ’69 Magic Project
Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
University Center for Human Values

The interdisciplinary conference, gathered scholars who research African traditional religions with Akan path priests and priestesses from Ghana and the US. The speakers broadly examined the revitalization of African spirituality in Africa and in the US, and the novel lenses that it can offer into questions of knowledge, truth, healing, justice, and empowerment. Spiritual authorities spoke about their various forms of interacting with ancestors, deities, and other forms of spirit to help to elevate consciousness and to promote alternative modes and paths of healing for themselves, for their families, and for their communities. The spiritual authorities, along with scholars, reflected upon the broader history and the present trajectories of traditional African spirituality in contemporary times, including forms of continuity and change. The priests and priestesses also poured traditional libations, sang ritual songs, played traditional ritual music, and performed ceremonial dances. Art and literature was also on display. Short films were also shown.
"CAST was an excellent opportunity to connect and network with graduate students at other institutions. Our discipline of Anthropology is so excitingly diverse, that literary canons, perspectives on critical theory, and even methodological commitments can vary widely among institutions. It was constructive and enlightening to witness these perspectival differences through the current work of graduate students at neighboring institutions. And, of course, it’s always fun to build collaborative spaces where graduate students can share their works-in-progress! The relationships we build now with our peers will help us as we are navigating through academic life, both personally and professionally."

- Ipsita Dey, Graduate Student

The Princeton Colloquium for Anthropology and Social Theory (CAST) was a speaker series organized by the second-year graduate student cohort. Each meeting featured a guest from an institution in the Northeast—either an advanced (post fieldwork) graduate student, a post-doc, or a junior faculty member. CAST aimed to expose graduate students to a wide range of research happening in their field, to provide them a forum for impassioned intellectual discussion and debate, to allow them to build their scholarly network outside of Princeton, and to serve as a professionalizing exercise in academic event management skills. The series also provided an opportunity for junior scholars to present and refine their work. While CAST was a (sociocultural) anthropological colloquium, it welcomed diversity in terms of theoretical frameworks, ethnographic orientations and approaches, and regional focuses.

**CAST**
Colluquim for Anthropology and Social Theory
Organized by the 2nd Year Anthropology Cohort

**OCTOBER 21**
Shilpa Dahake
River, Religion, and the Making of Fluid Identities in Environmental Politics in Urban India

**NOVEMBER 11**
Ishani Dasgupta
Enemies of the State: How the Weaponization of “Terrorism” Fractured and Wounded a Deterritorialized Nation

**NOVEMBER 13**
Zach Levine
Per Monstra ad Astra: Ayahuasca, Carceral Healing, and the Dialectics of Monstrosity in Rondônia, Brazil
GRADUATE FIELDWORK

FIELDWORK PROPOSALS

Mai K. Alkhamissi
*In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, Tunisia is the answer*

Wei N. Gan
*A Philanthropy Multiple: Resonance, Ethical Economy, and Politics Among Chinese and Chinese-American Practitioners*

Max A. Cohen
*Engineering Value: Venture Capital Investment & Technological Development in San Francisco Bay Area Startups*

Aderayo Sanusi
*Designing Africapitalism: Business Innovation, Intellectual Property, and Social Enterprise as Development in Nigeria*

Max Horder
*Britannia Unbound: Populism, Intergenerational Strife and the Erosion of Social Democracy in the UK*

POST FIELDWORK PRESENTATIONS

Alexandra S. Middleton
*Ethnography of/as the Experimental: Reflections on Integrating Laboratory, Clinical, and Home Encounters*

Elizabeth A. Durham
*“Just Living in the Everyday”: Psychiatry, Pentecostalism, and Political Violence in Cameroon*

Brandon Hunter-Pazzara
*Between Precarity and Authority: Ethnographic Reflections on Labor and Solidarity in Mexico (and the United States)*

Karolina Koziol
*Representing Foreignness: Living in the Chinese-Russian Borderlands*
PH.D. RECIPIENTS

Emma Patten
January 9, 2020

‘History is Who We Are’:
Theor, Community, and Crafting the Past in York, United Kingdom and Northern California and Nevada

Shreya P. Subramani
April 15, 2020

Carcerality in Transition:
The Productive Relations of Reentry Governance in New Orleans

Kessie Alexandre
May 7, 2020

Floods and Fountains:
Water Politics and Black Ecologies in Newark, NJ

Quincy Amoah
May 12, 2020

Ejok!
Experience, Language, and Aesthetico-Moral Expression in Karamoja
Tyler B. Adkins, received the Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, which supports a year of research and writing to help advanced graduate students in the last year of dissertation writing. Title: *The Life of Forms and Forms of Life in Post-Soviet Siberia*

Mai Alkhamissi received the Princeton Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism, and Humanities for summer research.

Quincy Amoah received the Harvard Society of Junior Fellowship. Junior fellows are selected for their resourcefulness, initiative, and intellectual curiosity, and because their work holds exceptional promise.

Grace Carey received the Dean’s Completion Fellowship/PGRA Program. The fellowship allows six months to complete dissertation followed by 6 months of a work appointment in the Anthropology Department.

Vinicius de Aguiar Furuie received the Harvard Center for Environment Fellowship. The program enables recent doctorate recipients to use and expand Harvard’s extraordinary resources to tackle complex environmental problems. Furuie will work for two years with Harvard faculty members in anthropology to create new knowledge while also strengthening connections across the University’s academic disciplines.

Ipsita Dey was awarded the 2019-2020 Yoga Fellow with the Office of Religious Life, affiliated with the Hindu Life Program.

Elizabeth Durham received the Center for Human Values Laurence S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship. The GPF program recognizes and supports post-generals graduate students with distinguished academic records whose dissertation research centrally involves the critical study of human values.

Thalia Gigerenzer was awarded a doctoral dissertation fellowship from the Global Religion Research Initiative of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society (CSRS) at the University of Notre Dame. Thalia also received the Princeton Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism, and Humanities fellowship for summer research.

Max Horder received the Princeton Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism, and Humanities fellowship for summer research.

Luke Johnson was awarded an Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities fellowship.


Alexandra Middleton was awarded the Porter Ogden Jacobus Fellowship, Princeton University’s top honor for graduate students for being recognized by faculty as having the highest scholarly excellence. The fellowships support their final year of study at Princeton. Middleton also won the David Hakken Graduate Student Paper Prize from the Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology, & Computing in recognition of excellent work by a rising scholar.

Sofia M. Pinedo-Padoch was awarded the Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for 2020 by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The Newcombe Fellowship is the nation’s largest and most prestigious award for Ph.D. candidates in the humanities and social sciences addressing questions of ethical and religious values.

EB Saldana received the Graduate School’s Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Jagat Sohail received the Princeton Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism, and Humanities fellowship for summer research.

Serena Stein a finalist for the Rappaport Prize from Society of Environment and Anthropology. She was awarded the Social Science Research Council - Transregional Collaboratory on the Indian Ocean 2020-2021 Planning Grant, as Co-PI of a team of researchers from Mozambique and India, on interlinked ecologies in historical and anthropological perspective: *Mangroves and Tangled Futures: Agrarian Change, Energy Extraction and Coastal Ecologies in Mozambique and Western India*.

Aaron Su received the Princeton Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism, and Humanities fellowship for summer research.

Tamjidi Mazdak received the Dean’s Completion Fellowship/PGRA Program. The fellowship allows six months to complete dissertation followed by 6 months of a work appointment in the department.

Junbin Tan was awarded the Princeton Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism, and Humanities for summer research.
DEPARTMENTAL HONORS IN ANTHROPOLOGY 2020

Phi Beta Kappa
Talia Anisfeld
Alison Chang

Highest Honors: Alison Chang, Ayodele Foster-McCray, E Jeremijenko-Conley, Mikaylah Ladue
High Honors: Talia Anisfeld, Jasmin Capellan, Esther Julis, Elisabeth Slighton, Trina Swanson, Tatum Turetzky, Katya Vera
Honors: Maximo De La Cruz, Maia Hauschild, Curtis Leonard, Gabriela Rivera, Ellen Scott-Young

PRIZES AWARDED TO ANTHROPOLOGY SENIORS:

Ayo Foster-McCray (co-winner) and Elisabeth Slighton (co-winner) were recipients of the Senior Thesis Prize in the Department of Anthropology. The Senior Thesis Prize in Anthropology is selected by the 2019-2020 committee of faculty members in the Anthropology Department comprising of Professor Laurence Ralph and Assistant Professor Ryo Morimoto.

Congratulations to the following:

Talia Anisfeld, a co-winner of the Near Eastern Studies Senior Thesis Prize for the best senior thesis on the Near East. Anisfeld also received first prize for the Carolyn L. Drucker, Class of 1980, Jewish Studies for the best senior thesis related to Judaic Studies. Anisfeld also was awarded the Kenneth Christopher Harris ’65 Memorial Award.

Ellen Scott-Young, winner of the Environmental Studies Senior Thesis Prize, awarded to a senior receiving a Certificate in Environmental Studies who has written the best thesis exploring the scientific, technical, humanistic and/or policy dimensions of environmental issues.

Elisabeth Slighton, a co-winner of the Global Health Program Senior Thesis Prize, awarded in recognition of the most outstanding thesis written by a student earning a Global Health Program certificate. Jasmin Capellan received an honorable mention.

Carolina Cantu, winner of the Kenneth Maxwell Senior Thesis Prize, awarded by the Program in Latin American Studies for the best thesis on a topic specifically related to Brazil.

E Jeremijenko-Conley, winner of the Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts, awarded by the Lewis Center for the Arts for demonstrating excellence in performance, execution, or composition in one of the arts.

Jasmin Capellan, winner of the Ze’eva Cohen Senior Dance Prize, awarded by the Lewis Center for the Arts for beginning dance in college and undergoing an extraordinary transformation as an artist while contributing to the Dance Program.

Marshall Schaffer, winner of the Outstanding Works by a senior in theater and dance, awarded by the Lewis Center for the Arts to honor an outstanding senior for a distinctive achievement in Dance.

Trina Swanson, third place winner for the African Studies Senior Thesis Prize. The Program in African Studies awards an annual Senior Thesis Prize for exemplary research on Africa.

Alison Chang, finalist, Class of 1916 Cup, presented annually to the Princeton varsity letterwinner who continuing in competition in his or her senior year achieved at graduation the highest academic standing.

Ellen Scott-Young, finalist, Art Lane ’34 Award, presented annually to undergraduate student-athletes in recognition of selfless contribution to sport and society.
CLASS OF 2020 SENIOR THESES

Talia Dina Anisfeld
“In the end, we’re neither here nor there. And yet we’re almost there”: Disidentification Among Ethiopian Jewish Israelis

David Bewicke-Copley
“So Near Yet So Far”: Isolationism and the Cultural Future of a Globalising World

Abaigeal Kaye Blake
Fatter, Sicker and Uneducated? An Investigation of How Physicians and the Public Receive and Use Nutritional Information

Carolina Denise Cantu
The Politics of Indigeneity in Brazil: From Colonial Representations to Indigenous Activism Today

Jasmin Capellan
Living on Wheels: An Ethnographic Account of Disability, Sanctuary, and Kinship in the Dominican Republic

Alison Chang
Privileging Personhood Over Politics: Experiences of African Diaspora Communities in China

Caitlin H. Cheng
How the Magic Happens: An Exploration of Spiritual and Cultural Transformation at Burning Man

Maximo Javier De La Cruz
The Neglected: Black Workers in Modern-Day Brazil

Ayodele Foster-McCray
Racializing Midwifery: An Ethnography of Blackness, Gender, and Birth Care in Atlanta, Georgia

Joaquín Emiliano García
Ecological Haunting and Overdetermination in an ‘End Time’: An (Auto) Ethnography

Maia Hope Hauschild
From Clinic to Chapel: A Genealogy of the Therapeutic Efficacy of Hallucinogens

E Harper Nora Jeremijenko-Conley
An Ethnography of Pet Psychics

Esther Michal Julis
Waiting for Grid-Oh!: An Anthropological Investigation of Electrical Dysfunction During a Time of Fire and Darkness

Jennifer ‘Jaein’ Jung
An Armful of Groceries: An ethnography on H Mart, traditional medicine, and the power of food in Korean communities

Mikaylah Jane Ladue
Wounds of Surrendering: Constructing Life Beyond Addiction

Curtis Colby Leonard
A Breath of Fresh Air: Institutional Barriers and Accessibility in American National Parks

Alexandra Charlotte Har Levinger
Exceptional Resistance: Anti-Colonial Narratives and Constructions of Autonomy Among the Accompong Maroons of Jamaica

Megan Angela Ormsbee
Identity Resonance and the Resonant Encounter: Deaf Identity Development in Rochester, NY

Gabriela Elizabeth Bergan Rivera
Community Comes First: Recognizing the Past and Reimagining the Future After Hurricane Maria in Barrio Mariana

Kent Marshall Schaffer
The World of Horror Movies: An Anthropological Exploration of the Fictional Horror Genre

Ellen Normandy Walter Scott-Young
The Efficacy of a Princeton University Education in a Deteriorating World

Elisabeth T. Slighton
Organic Local Theorists: A Patient and Provider Ethnography of Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Linda Song
The Millenial Caregiver as the “Canary in the Coal Mine”: The Politics of Injury, Slow Violence and Field ‘Care’

Trina BJorge Swanson
becoming mothers: journeys of young motherhood in a Tanzanian health centre

Tatum Rae Turetzky
Feminists versus Femtech: Female Bodily “Empowerment” in the Age of Femtech

Katya Anais Vera
Implicit Bias Training and Servicio Social: A Comparative Analysis of Medical School Curricula in the United States and Mexico
CLASS OF 2020 CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY

African Studies
Maia Hauschild
Trina Swanson

American Studies
Linda Song

Asian American Studies
Linda Song

Entrepreneurship
Caitlin Cheng
Maximo De La Cruz
Esther Julis

Environmental Studies
Alie Fordyce

Gender and Sexuality Studies
Joaquín García
Mikaylah Ladue
Linda Song

German Language and Culture
Ellen Scott-Young

Global Health and Health Policy
Jasmin Capellan
Alison Chang
Ayodele Foster-McCray
Maia Hauschild
Jaein Jung
Gabriela Rivera
Elisabeth Slighton
Trina Swanson
Katya Vera

Journalism
E Jeremijenko-Conley

Latin American Studies
Carolina Cantu
Maximo De La Cruz
Mikaylah Ladue
Curtis Leonard
Gabriela Rivera
Katya Vera

Lewis Center for the Arts
E Jeremijenko-Conley, Creative Writing
E Jeremijenko-Conley, Theater
Marshall Schaffer, Dance
Marshall Schaffer, Theater

Linguistics
Alexandra Levinger

Music Performance
Megan Ormsbee

Certificate!
VizE LAB

The VizE Lab is where scholars can critically incorporate interactive data visualization, mapping and documentary film into ethnographic contexts. A widening range of projects led by Director Jeffrey Himpele has vitalized the Lab during the past year.

Our collaboration with the Dignity and Debt Network, directed by sociologist Frederick Wherry, continues to expand widely on-line and on campus. Our current initiative on the student loan crisis began with the Lab’s series of data visualizations on the contexts and structures of racial disparities in student loan debt. Jeffrey Himpele created “The Problem of Colored Lines.,” a gallery in the purposively evocative style created by W.E.B. DuBois around the turn of the early 20th century. While DuBois’s charts reflected inequalities in wealth across color lines in America at the time, Himpele employed data from and collaborated with current leading scholars of student debt. The expanding gallery of charts showed the striking disparities in debt burdens, household wealth, family contributions, and the meanings of debt in the context of higher education. One of the interactive online charts allows users to compare their own student debt with national averages of several social groups, and in another they can explore the cumulative effects of making small increases to their own loan payments.

In October 2019, the VizE Lab joined forces with the Dignity and Debt Network in holding the international conference held at Princeton, “Digging Out With Dignity: Solving the Student Debt Crisis and Honoring Meaning at the Margins.” The day-long event was also sponsored by the SSRC and featured scholars, journalists, student activists, and practitioners from the financial industry. At the conference, Jeffrey Himpele launched a data visualization contest, “Visualizing Student Debt with Dignity.” The contest offered a $1,000 award! Our next collaboration with the Dignity and Debt network is around a new online Debt Collections Lab, and an interactive “Dignity Detector,” which will launch in a late-October conference.

The VizE Lab is collaborating with the NJ Families Study, led by sociologist Thomas Espenshade. With funding from Princeton’s Data-Driven Social Sciences Initiative, Espenshade and Himpele seek to create a platform to curate, tag, and analyze a massive collection of ethnographic video recordings. The massive data set contains video from within a number of Mercer County homes and is intended to help researchers understand the ways families build skills in their young children that prepare them for schooling. The grant will support the creation of an online platform which affiliated researchers from around the world can use to analyze the video data.

Working with film (i.e. video), the Lab collaborated with Laurence Ralph who produced a set of short films for the New York Times Op-Docs series. The Torture Letters is based on Ralph’s new book of the same title and comprises a series of animated works that evocatively visualize four of the letters written and read aloud by Ralph. As editor of the series, Himpele put special attention on sound by layering sound effects, music, and Laurence Ralph’s reading into a sensorial experience. In particular, the sound effects are designed to enact the “heightened sensations” of seemingly small details when young blacks are either detained or tortured by police. As
these heightened details echo throughout the films, they convey an intensified soundscape of police violence and fear.

The Lab’s in-house project Visualizing Philadelphia continues. In the collaboration between Carolyn Rouse, Janet Monge, and Jeffrey Himpele, the project is studying the environmental exposures that can affect growth and development among 7,500 schoolchildren born between 1940 and 1970. Based on the Krogman collection of rich medical data, plus our own growing data sets on the city’s physical environment and demography, we have produced the Lab’s first interactive data visualizations. This summer, we added a new batch of child growth and development data from West Philadelphia. During the past year, Lab Assistant Sukrut Oak collected data and produced a forthcoming set of highly detailed visualizations and maps that will contextualize the households of West Philadelphia schoolchildren. In the fall 2019, students in Himpele’s course, “Forensic Anthropology and Urban Bodies” (ANT 309A) added new data to our collection, along with creating new interactive maps and visualizations. The accumulating data and resources for this project are available for students who are doing independent research on a range of related topics on Philadelphia.

In summer 2020, the Virtual VizE Lab launched, with a small team of alums from ANT 455 who collaborated online. The team is using their course experience to create innovative online solutions that will enable ethnographers to advance their work in online environments this summer and during the next academic year. They are creating online modules to show researchers how to record and edit Zoom interviews and video from their phones into rich documentary forms, as well as how to create maps and data visualizations. These modules will also be incorporated into History 201, taught by Jeremy Adelman. The virtual team will be involved in data visualization work on our faculty projects, helping to explore relationships within new data by experimenting with visual forms of it.

Directed by Jeffrey Himpele, the VizE Lab is on a mission to empower ethnography with data visualization, mapping and documentary media. As we know, there will be new restrictions and limits to face to face ethnography for the foreseeable future. We invite you to constructively use this moment by contacting the Lab to explore how you can critically incorporate new forms of available data and visualizations into your research.
Every spring semester class was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which instituted campus lockdowns around the world and forced instruction to move online or to be halted altogether. But Medical Anthropology (ANT/HUM 240), co-taught by João Biehl and Onur Günay, might be the rare Princeton University course that was actually deepened and enriched by the life-altering circumstances of the pandemic, since it focuses on the interconnectedness of disease, the body politic, and the arts of care, as well as the power of storytelling in the face of the unknown.

The class became a vibrant online forum to critically analyze the multifaceted medical, social, and political-economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Students also learned to carry out online interviews and to place local health problems in historical and broader demographic, epidemiological, and policy perspectives, and were encouraged to develop community-engaged and multimodal research and to experiment with modes of expression. At the end, the sixty students launched an inspiring public platform to disseminate their critical and meaningful works.

After Medical Anthropology went online, the class engaged artifacts from the Princeton University Art Museum’s artworks and historical accounts (from the Bubonic Plague in early modern Europe to HIV/AIDS in the late 20th century) and learned how plagues occasioned new forms of control and political power and socially mobilized constituencies facing mass death. In conversation with Princeton University Art Museum curators Veronica White and Kate Bussard, the class explored how images of plagues throughout history became part and parcel of larger political projects and vectors of collective moral instruction. We also learned to critically interpret emergent representations of the COVID-19 pandemic, as they are mobilized by governments, media, medics, and the general public.

As the course unfolded, we examined how the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the precariousness of our systems of preparedness as well as the forms of structural violence that exacerbate vulnerability, rates of mortality, and disparities in care. Lack of investment in public health and deeply entrenched inequalities within and across countries has amplified the impact of the pandemic.

Along with emergent essays on the pandemic, students read anthropological literatures on structural violence, racialization, technologies of invisibility, body techniques, human plasticity, medical experimentation, the politics of science, pathologies of power, environmental toxicity, pharmaceuticalization, and technologies of caregiving—all themes that acquired a new salience and urgency with COVID-19. These concepts and the ethnographic realities they sprang from became ever more generative as students engaged online with the concrete concerns of community partners and crafted artistic projects interrogating our altered present.

Excitingly, several service organizations in the Princeton area agreed to online collaborations with our students for their final Medical Anthropology projects. Eager to stay engaged and connected to their peers in this time of social distancing, half of the class readily subscribed to these group projects, supported by Princeton’s Program for Community-Engaged Scholarship (ProCES), and the Pace Center’s MEDICAL HUMANITIES FAIR
produced the online platform Medical Anthropology in the Time of COVID-19, drawing from their technological savviness, artistic skills, and critical probing. The Humanities Council, the Princeton University Art Museum, and the VizE Lab have also sponsored this creative initiative.

As you visit the website, we hope you share our excitement in the critical force of Medical Anthropology as it interfaces with the arts and the humanities in seeking to produce people-centered, socially meaningful, and politically relevant knowledge for our times. You can also read our essay “How to teach anthropology in a pandemic?,” reflecting on our experience of teaching Medical Anthropology during the COVID-19 pandemic.


Service Focus program. “Inspired to see the relevance of their studies in an altered ‘real world,’ many of our students came to understand that ‘real world’ assignments don’t come with formulaic guidelines and directions,” said Anthropology Graduate Student Ipsita Dey, one of the course’s wonderful teaching assistants. “They realized that we must use our scholarship, our personal experiences, our initiatives, and our creative capabilities to make the best possible deliverables for those we team up with and to bring the insights gained back to classroom learning.”

A significant number of students also used humanistic lenses and artistic tools to explore how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the politics of public health, viral economies, caregiving, and medical ethics. Critically engaging emergent literatures and media, these groups have produced thoughtful audio-visual and artistic projects.

“The real-time disruptions caused by COVID-19 compelled our students to anchor their thinking and writing within an Anthropology whose possibilities ranged from the prosaic to the planetary and from the singularities of interlocutors to the abiding structures of viral economies and inequalities in which they are bound,” said teaching assistant Nikhil Pandhi, an Anthropology Graduate Student. “The course then became a significant lens to examine a world of mounting unknowns as also a lantern to illuminate and imagine a future beyond them.”

In years past, we showcased the students’ community-engaged and creative projects at a Fair, open to our partners and the larger University community. This year, the students collectively produced the online platform Medical Anthropology in the Time of COVID-19, drawing from their technological savviness, artistic skills, and critical probing. The Humanities Council, the Princeton University Art Museum, and the VizE Lab have also sponsored this creative initiative.


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Organized by João Biehl and Onur Günay
The Program in Ethnographic Studies (ETH) serves undergraduates concentrating in any field (outside of Anthropology) who seek to understand the theory and practice of ethnography, and to gain direct experience of ethnography as a primary research method. Certificates in Ethnographic Studies were awarded in 2020 to graduating seniors Emma Coley (REL), Jonah Hyman (PHY), Brandon Mintzer (EAS), Rebecca Ngu (ENG) and Dayna Valek (SPIA).

These non-majors conducted creative fieldwork and excellent writing on topics related to homelessness, transportation, identity at home and abroad, citizenship and faith, and social infrastructures and interactions.

At the end of the 2019-20 academic year, ten Class of 2022 students in ten different concentrations were on track to plan and conduct fieldwork towards completion of the ETH certificate. The restriction on in-person research imposed by Covid-19 presented challenges for all ethnographers, and the progress of these students towards completion of certificate requirements remains to be worked out during their senior year.

Concurrent with but independent of these research constraints, the Department of Anthropology made the difficult decision that for resource allocation considerations, support for students interested in learning ethnographic methods, who are unable to major in ANT, will be provided in the future through the Department’s methods courses (ANT 300 and ANT 301 as well as ANT topics courses) without the offer of a formal certificate for students in other concentrations. The Department of Anthropology will be transitioning the Ethnographic Studies Certificate Program into informal ethnographic studies advising for non-majors after the 2020-21 academic year. The Department has received approval of the Deans for this action.

The Department is most grateful to ETH advisory board members Mark Beissinger (POL), Amy Borovoy (EAS), Mitchell Duneier (SOC), Judith Hamera (LCA, DAN), Jeffrey Himpele (ANT), Derek Lidow (ELE, Keller Center), Ryo Morimoto and Carolyn Rouse (ANT, ex officio), Yi-Ching Ong (PACE Center), Daniel I. Rubenstein (EEB), Evan M. Schneider (PACE Center), Nicole Shelton (PSY), Susan Sugarman (PSY), Trisha Thorme (ProCES), Stacy Wolf, (LCA and THR), Deborah Yashar (SPIA, POL), and Acting Director John Borne (ANT) for their support of the certificate program through the 2020-21 academic year. Special thanks go to Mark Drury (ANT), Jeffrey Himpele, and Judith Hamera for serving as faculty advisers to ETH certificate students.
Letters from Cuba  
Ruth Behar, Ph.D. *83  
Penguin Ranom House (Children’s Book)  
The situation is getting dire for Jews in Poland on the eve of World War II. Esther’s father has fled to Cuba, and she is the first one to join him. It’s heartbreaking to be separated from her beloved sister, so Esther promises to write down everything that happens until they’re reunited. And she does, recording both the good—the kindness of the Cuban people and her discovery of a valuable hidden talent—and the bad: the fact that Nazism has found a foothold even in Cuba.

Carceral Communities in Latin America: Troubling Prison Worlds in the 21st Century  
(Palgrave Studies in Prisons and Penology)  
Sacha Darke (Editor), Chris Garces, Ph.D. *09 (Editor), Luis Duno-Gottberg (Editor), Andrés Antillano (Editor)  
Palgrave Macmillan Press  
This book gathers the very best academic research to date on prison regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean. Grounded in solid ethnographic work, each chapter explores the informal dynamics of prisons in diverse territories and countries of the region—Venezuela, Brazil, Bolivia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic—while theorizing how day-to-day life for the incarcerated has been forged in tandem between prison facilities and the outside world.

Mario Pani, Architecture in Process  
Pablo Landa, Ph.D. *15  
Penguin Ranom House (Children’s Book)  
The extensive work of Mario Pani, founder of the Academia de Arquitectura Mexicana and one of the most important architects, urban planners in Mexico, is presented in this catalog, which has texts that delve extensively on his family, origin and work, that contributed to the consolidation project of post-revolutionary governments, which spanned from the 1940s to the 1970s. Inside the book there is an extensive archive of images of the architect’s work (which has now disappeared and still exists), as well as family images and documents of historical value.

Traveling with Sugar: Chronicles of a Global Epidemic  
Amy Moran-Thomas, Ph.D. *12  
University of California Press  
Traveling with Sugar reframes the rising diabetes epidemic as part of a five-hundred-year-old global history of sweetness and power. Amid eerie injuries, changing bodies, amputated limbs, and untimely deaths, many people across the Caribbean and Central America simply call the affliction “sugar”—or, as some say in Belize, “traveling with sugar.” A decade in the making, this book unfolds as a series of crónicas—a word meaning both slow-moving story and slow-moving disease.