



Welcome New Graduate Students

2018 Graduate Students

Ipsita Dey received her BS in Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 2017. While an undergraduate, Dey also minored in Anthropology and conducted extensive ethnographic work for her Departmental Honors thesis. She studied the post-traumatic process of psychological recovery and identity reconstruction among South Asian domestic violence survivors in Manchester, UK. Dey hopes to continue her studies on South Asian diasporic communities in her future work in Uganda, where she will research generational narratives of political trauma and transnational expressions of identity within Ugandan-Indian communities. Broadly, Dey is interested in psychoanalysis and anthropology, cultural phenomenology, and intersubjectivity. She is looking forward to incorporating visual and audio media in her anthropological research and outreach.



Luke Forrester Johnson graduated summa cum laude from Yale University in 2016 with a degree in cultural anthropology. His work focuses on the gastrological dimensions of racial fetishism in France. Specifically, Johnson considers the gustatory and digestive systems as privileged sites for understanding the nexuses of disgust and desire that have long played a central role in (post) colonial bodily encounters. He hopes to explore the cannibalistic underpinnings of racial melancholia, thinking through incorporation and identification not merely as “discursive” or “psychic” mechanisms, but rather as enfolded, somatic processes rooted in the mouth and the gut. Before coming to Princeton, Johnson worked at the anthropological



consulting firm ReD Associates. He also completed a yearlong applied ethnographic research project on a non-profit that supports LGBT asylum seekers in Paris.

Navjit Kaur received her BA in geography from University of Delhi and MA in sociology from Delhi School of Economics. Kaur is interested in the many lives of money post the event of demonetization in India. How does a form of money lend itself to be semanticized weaving a complex web of social, moral economies around itself is the focus of her research. These shifting semantics coupled with an affective vocabulary lend to emergent fiscal subjectivities in India. Kaur has also worked with phulkari embroiderers in Punjab, to understand the work ethic of people labelled as craftsmen.

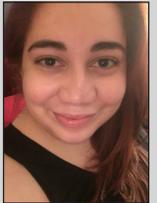


Nikhil Pandhi is interested in longitudinally examining cultures of drugs, addiction and substance use in Punjab and North India while engaging questions of masculinity, gender, caste, class, agrarian decline and narcopolitics. He is also interested in how processes like pharmaceuticalization and addiction-pharmacotherapy produce and are co-produced by state and non-state subjects and subjectivities. With interests in how the addicted body comes to be configured within local moral worlds of families, kin groups, and intergenerational collectivities alongside an everyday ethics of hope, hopelessness, illness, healing, and precarity. Previously, Nikhil was a television journalist and correspondent for NDTV (New Delhi Television Ltd.) in Punjab, and travelled and reported extensively in the state. He holds an MPhil from the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar (2014-16), and an undergraduate degree in



History from St Stephen’s College, Delhi University, India. Alongside anthropology, Nikhil is interested in writing, and exploring how literature, fiction and ethnographic reportage can be used to inform and enhance each other.

Amanda Marie Rivera received her BA in Cultural Anthropology from Rutgers University. Her research interests converge at the intersection of postcolonialism, neoliberal economics, age, and political participation, and how this intersectionality informs personal identity in the Caribbean (Puerto Rico specifically, as the island rebuilds from Hurricane Maria). Rivera is also a Lassen Fellow and will be collaborating with PLAS to generate anthropological scholarship in and about Latin America.



Junbin Tan received his BA and MA and worked at the Sociology Department at the National University of Singapore before coming to Princeton. His MA thesis, on the ethics and politics of dementia care work in Singapore, provided an analysis of “care” and “labor” that seeks to disrupt homogenizing narratives on medicalization. Junbin’s current research concerns Jinmen, two Taiwanese islands located along the southern Chinese coastline, which was part of Cold War politics and continues to be shaped by China-Taiwan tensions and broader political events. Through fieldwork at these water-scarce islands that also suffer from post-war economic decline, he seeks to understand how water-related processes that relate to locals’ livelihood are remade alongside shifting political economic terrains in the region and beyond. In attending to livelihood and material encounters, he hopes to think about politics, economics, borders, and social change in ways that keep geopolitics and other grand perspectives at critical distance.

