Meet our new Graduate Students

Ayah Abo-Basha received an MA in anthropology from the American University in Cairo and a BA in anthropology with honors from Washington University in St. Louis. She was awarded a post-MA Mellon fellowship by the Humanities and Social Sciences Lab at the American University in Cairo and spent two months as a visiting fellow at the University of Witwatersrand’s City Institute. Abo-Basha is interested in the emplacements of individuals and collectives within urban landscapes, and the experiments in care-giving and homemaking amidst conditions of precarity produced and co-produced by the carceral state. Her research traces how the presence of prisons in people’s relationships reconfigures sociality in ways that involve neoliberal adjustment programs, moralizing discourses around security, and a structure of feeling defined by political depression following a transnational moment of uprisings. Abo-Basha’s thinking and writing has moved between different “post” cities of the Global South (post-Oslo, post-apartheid, post-colonial), and extends from previous research on the genealogy of individual and collective hunger-strikes in Israel-Palestine.

Monica Joyce received her BA in Anthropology and Latin American Studies from Barnard College and her MA in Latin American Studies and Museum Studies from NYU. She is interested in the intersections of globalization, tourism, urban development, memory, and heritage studies. Her current research focuses on the art world within the port of Rio de Janeiro and how museums are engaging with the colonial histories and racial politics of this region, especially as it relates to narratives of modernization and Brazilian nationhood. In addition to her work in Rio, she has also worked with museums in NYC, specifically in the education and public program sectors.

Caitlin Morley seeks to examine humanitarian forensic efforts to identify disappeared migrants in Mexico. Morley comes to Princeton by way of Oxford and King’s College London, where she pursued MSc degrees in Refugee & Forced Migration Studies, and Global Health & Social Justice, and a Fulbright year in Colombia. Her previous study, which explored how filmmakers and photographers relate to their refugee subjects in the production of humanitarian imagery, revealed to her the intimate materiality of care; her participants demonstrated how ethics and aesthetics coalesce in their work through the technologies they employ. Such revelations bolster her belief that attention to objects and relations can elaborate the circuits of care through which forensic practitioners and families of the disappeared articulate alternative modes of existence, mourning, and politics.

Hazal Hürman received her BA in Political Science and International Relations from Marmara University, Istanbul. She earned her MA in Political Science from Central European University, Budapest and MS in Sociology from Texas A&M University. Hürman’s research interests are situated at the crossroads of legal anthropology, political violence, post-coloniality and anthropology of children and youth. Broadly, she is interested in the ways in which penal and spatial configurations of state power affect the children of subaltern communities in internal colonies. Focusing on the disproportionate penalization of Kurdish children in the context of the re-intensification of state violence towards Kurds in Turkey, Hürman hopes to explore the ways in which state sovereignty is re/produced and challenged by meaning-making practices and counter actions of the children navigating between penal discipline and necro-politics.

Lucas Allegretti Prates received his LL.B. from the Federal University of Paraná, Brazil, and his LL.M. with Distinction in Human Rights from Birkbeck, University of London. Prates main research interests are related to legal and political anthropology, especially regarding the use of law (and its inherent violence) as a weapon to persecute opponents due to political, social and/or economic reasons (‘lawfare’). For the past decade Prates has been working in the Brazilian civil society, researching and advocating for human rights at local, national and international levels. He has experience with issues ranging from urban planning to food policies, having worked alongside indigenous peoples, landless workers and traditional communities. In addition, he has served as a National Counselor for the Brazilian Council of Food Security and Nutrition (CONSEA).

Alexandra Diyana Sastrawati holds a MA in Socio-cultural Anthropology with a graduate certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies from University of Texas at Austin and a BA (Honors) in Sociology with a certificate in Creative Writing from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. While at University of Texas at Austin, she was a fellow of the Urban Ethnography Lab in the Department of Sociology and an affiliate of Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Social Justice in the School of Law. Her MA research focused specifically on depression as a manifestation and a creative force in queer performance poetry, and how performance poets, while living with stigma of mental illness and queerness in Singapore, build political coalitions out of the affective—and opaque—material of their lives. Prior to starting her graduate studies, Sastrawati was a research executive at the Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Social Justice at the University of Texas at Austin.

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Brian Yuan received his BA from Sarah Lawrence College, with concentrations in Cultural Anthropology and Early Modern History. His research interests sit at the point where governing, design, embodiment, aesthetics, and the senses meet in everyday technology and technological practices. He hopes to explore the fractures between designer and vernacular forms of expertise and sensing in informally learned infrastructural technologies, such as databases. Previously, Yuan worked as an analyst for Isles, a non-profit in Trenton, New Jersey.

Christopher Zraunig completed his MSc program at the University of Amsterdam in 2018, for which he conducted research on the long-term trajectory of HIV in New York City. He studied how contemporary public health approaches to HIV care and prevention relate to, and are in tension with prevalent memory narratives about the earlier days of the virus. He is particularly interested in ethnographic moments when his informants – long-term survivors either infected or otherwise affected by HIV – enact subjectivities which escape hegemonic discourses of HIV-pasts characterized by crisis, trauma and activist heroism, and/or a public-health present in which HIV is imagined to be “irrelevant”. Instead, Zraunig focuses on the multiplicity and indeterminateness of human-viral becomings. Since his graduation, he has worked for the Amsterdam University Medical Center on a research project about dementia, which increased his interest in the topic of un/successful aging. The sub-fields Christopher gets most excited about are medical anthropology, queer studies, and science and technology studies.

Health and Health Policy from Harvard University. Her research considers questions of labor, subjectivity, and the body as they are experienced in daily life. She engages these concerns in fieldwork between and across the MetroWest of Massachusetts and Minas Gerais, Brazil. Leocata is excited for the opportunity to engage with the Department of Anthropology and the Brazil LAB this semester.

Leonie Schulte is a final-year PhD Candidate at the University of Oxford with a focus on linguistic anthropology. Schulte’s work explores the relationship between language, integration and belonging in contemporary Germany. She has conducted extensive research following the lived experiences and linguistic strategies of refugees and migrants enrolled in Germany’s state-funded language and integration courses. Schulte holds a BA in English Philology from the Free University Berlin, an MPhil in General Linguistics and Comparative Philology and an MSc in Social Anthropology, both from the University of Oxford. Her previous work has focused on bi- and multilingual communication, particularly among the German-American and German-Turkish diasporas in Berlin, language policy and national identity, language ideologies, and linguistic citizenship.

Tiffany Cherelle Cain is an anthropologist drawing on techniques from across anthropology and history to investigate the ways in which the legacies of the past, particularly colonialism and other forms of political violence, inform present day political consciousness and imaginaries of the future. She is a Cotsen Postdoctoral Fellow in the Princeton Society of Fellows and Lecturer in Anthropology and the Humanities Council. She recently completed her PhD in Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. She was a visiting student with the Department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor from 2016-2018. Her ongoing research project is based in Quintana Roo, Mexico where she helps to facilitate a community heritage initiative called the “Tihosuco Heritage Preservation and Community Development Project.” She is committed to operationalizing public history to meet social justice needs.

Christina T. Collins is a cultural anthropologist whose ethnographic research examines the social, cultural, and economic impact of multinational alcohol companies in Ethiopia. Up until the early 2010s, the alcohol industry in Ethiopia was primarily state-owned, but recent privatizations have opened up the local market to international competition. With a focus on beer and brewing, her fieldwork explores the socio-cultural effects of private investments within labor and service economies (e.g. brewing, malt barley production, draft cleaning services, alcohol distribution, food and beverage services, advertising/marketing, and entertainment/nightlife). Her research shows that market activities (i.e. the production, distribution, sale, and consumption of commercial lagers in Ethiopia) are not merely economic in nature but saturated with symbolic, affective, religious, ethnic, and political meanings.

Mark Drury is a political and legal anthropologist whose research addresses sovereignty and self-determination, human rights and political conflict, and borders and mobility. Through fieldwork conducted in Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, and the disputed territory of Western Sahara, his work examines the legacies of unresolved decolonization across northwest Africa, focusing on three, distinct periods: the 1950s, 70s, and the contemporary moment. He has also provided expert testimony for asylum cases pertaining to the Western Sahara conflict in US immigration court.

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