



Anthropology News

December 2020

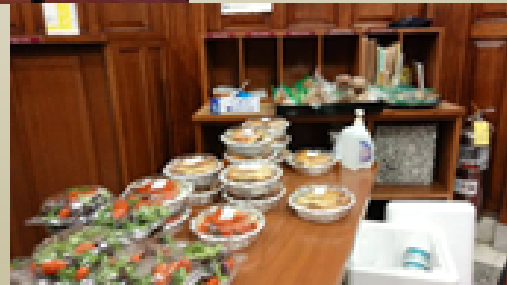
HAPPY HOLIDAY BREAK!

As we end what was -- without a doubt-- one of the most challenging semesters on record, we look forward to a fresh start in the coming spring. Thank you all for making the best of a truly difficult situation. Despite the challenges, our Anthropology majors, grad students, undergraduate majors, faculty & alumni report exciting news & accomplishments.



New bulletin boards in the lobby of 232 Bay State are the work of lab coordinator and photographer Michael Hamilton. They are the first of several planned updates showcasing the work of our AN faculty & students.

- **David Carballo** hosted Mexican American author **David Bowles** in October as part of the **Hostile Terrain Co-curricular**. Bowles, who teaches at the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, presented his critique of the book *American Dirt*, focusing on issues of representation and authorship in migration narratives.
- **Ayse Parla** invited six young minority scholars for her **Emerging Scholars project** on “Migration Matters: Ethnicity, Identity and Politics across Borders” to present their work as part of her AN 593 seminar “Migration, Immobilities and Precarity.” They received detailed feedback from the seminar participants on their works-in-progress, responded to questions on themes of mutual interest, and laid the groundwork for the common themes that will be pursued in a Spring conference/workshop.
- Anthropology welcomed **Prof Andrea Berlin** who officially joined the department as an affiliated faculty member. She presented a paper in the Dept Lunch Talk Series in November, “At Home on Board: The Kyrenia Ship and the Goods of its Crew.”
- **“Holiday Meals for Grads,”** the department provided hot holiday meals for 24 of our hardworking grads as a thank you for their super-human efforts this semester. Ice cream generously provided by Toscanini’s, arranged by **Corky White**.
- **New Department Bulletin** boards in the lobby of 232 Bay State Road celebrate some of the many accomplishments of our faculty and grad students.



GRAD NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Presentations

- **Andrea Blackburn** (10/2020) presented on her dissertation research, "Frugivory, Seed Dispersal, and Dispersal Distances by Bornean Orangutans," in the fall AN Dept Lunch Talk Series.
- **Maria Codlin** (10/2020) presented on her dissertation research, "El consumo de aves en Tlajinga, Teotihuacan: una nueva aplicacion para la identificacion de aves a traves de las masas de peptidos de colageno" (The consumption of birds in Tlajinga, Teotihuacan: A new application for the identification of birds through examination of collagen peptides), for the seminar Dialogues in Latin American Zooarchaeology. She also gave a paper at the Boston University Urban Inequalities Workshop "Feeding a City: Hunting and Husbandry at the Ancient Mexican City of Teotihuacan."
- **Johnathan Norris** (11/2020) presented a paper "'Fear, Politics, and the Holy Spirit: Islamophobic Discourses in Charismatic News Media" at the American Academy of Religion's conference.
- **Noha Roushdy** (10/2020) presented on her dissertation research, "Mimicry and the Production of Elite Masculinities in an International School in Egypt," in the fall AN Dept Lunch Talk Series.
- Members of **Prof Cheryl Knott's** lab: **Erin Kane, Laura Durgavich, Caitlin O'Connell, Andrea DiGiorgio, Amy Scott, Andrea Blackburn, Faye Harwell, Laura Brubaker-Wittman, Natalie Robinson, Madeline Eori, Ishrat Chowdhury, Bryanna Malbouf** and **Victoria Zdanowicz**, gave 17 conference presentations in 2020, including at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, the Frugivores and Seed Dispersal Symposium, the 1st Annual Integrated Conservation Conference, and the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Evolutionary Primatologists.



Maria Codlin

Awards, Grants & Milestones

- **Anya Bounar** successfully completed her comprehensive exams.
- **Gabriel Vicencio** was awarded the Alfonso Caso Award for best MA thesis on archaeology by Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology & History (INAH)
- **Melissa Zarate** was awarded an American Society of Primatologists Conservation Small Grant to fund her Master's research on the "Impact of habitat fragmentation on genetic diversity of the Critically Endangered yellow-tailed woolly monkey"; **Zarate** was also awarded the Denton Award for Outstanding Master's Thesis for her work using GIS to model habitat suitability for yellow-tailed woolly monkeys in Peru.

Publications

- **Mehrdad Babadi** has a new published paper, (2020). "Intellectual Masculinity in Iranian Cinema." In *Zanan-e Emrooz* 40: 84-99. [In Persian]
- **Calynn Dowler** edited a volume of essays for the American Ethnological Society website (2020). *Collected essays within and beyond 'crisis' during the Covid-19 pandemic*. New PhD **Annika Schmeding** and Alumnus **Omar Sharifi** co-authored one of the essays in the collection on covid and the situation in urban Afghanistan. <https://americanethnologist.org/features/pandemic-diaries/introduction-intersecting-crises?fbclid=IwAR18W8ZNI3fb99FcBYQ92OuXyRluVikmZExrLTgziX60ri-vZTJEGUckujY>

FACULTY NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Grants & Awards

- **Cheryl Knott** received grants from the ARCUS Foundation, the Conservation Food and Health Foundation, the Woodland Park Zoom and Orangutan Republik. With post-doctoral fellow **Erin Kane, Knott** received a grant from the Leakey Foundation, "Extended Lactation in an Unpredictable Environment: Bornean Orangutans' Double Burden."
- **Fallou Ngom**, leading a team of scholars, was awarded a three-year grant of \$178,900 by the U.S. Department of Education to develop specialized Ajami readers in Hausa, Wolof, and Mandinka with a multimedia companion website.

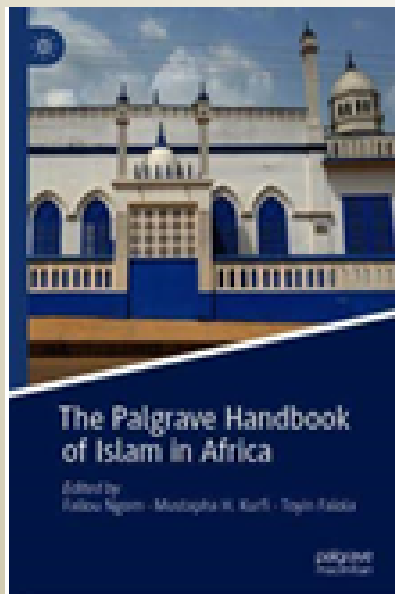
- **Ayse Parla**'s new book *Precarious Hope: Migration and the Limits of Belonging in Turkey*, has been selected as an honorable mention for the 2020 Association for Political and Legal Anthropology (APLA) Book Prize in Critical Anthropology; her piece, "The Complicity of Hope" was selected for inclusion in a curated issue of *Open Anthropology* (June 2020)
<https://www.americananthro.org/StayInformed/OAIssueTOC.aspx?ItemNumber=25782>
- **Merav Shohet** was awarded a Jeffrey Henderson Junior Research Fellowship for Spring 2020 to begin work on a new book project, "Unmaking and Remaking Kinship and Questions of Care for Old/New Jews in Israel's Transforming Kibbutz: An Archival and Ethnographic Project."
- **Robert Weller** was awarded a Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellowship for academic year 2020-21 to work on a book called *Angles of Silence: Toward an Anthropology of the Unknowable*.

Notable Books, Publications & Productions

- **Matthew Cartmill**, Brown, K., Atkinson, C., Cartmill, E.A., Findley, E., Gonzalez-Socoloske, D., Hartstone-Rose, A. and Mueller, J., 2020. "The gaits of marsupials and the evolution of diagonal-sequence walking in primates." *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 171(2), pp. 182-197.
- **Robert Hefner** with Dr. Zainal Abidin Bagir (Center for Religious and Cross-Cultural Studies, Gadjah Mada University), and colleagues at Michigan State University Asian Studies Center co-sponsored the screening of the documentary "In the Name of Belief." This is the first in a series of ethnographic films which are a product of the Indonesian Pluralities Project, a film, print, and multimedia project for educators, journalists, NGOs, and policy analysts on cultural and religious diversity, democracy, and civic do-existence in contemporary Indonesia. The series explores Indonesia's religious and ethnic plurality in both its rich promise and ongoing challenges. The project is supported by the Henry Luce Foundation. 10/2020.

- **Cheryl Knott**, et al. 2020. "The Gunung Palung Orangutan Project: Twenty-five years at the Intersection of Research and Conservation in a Critical Landscape in Indonesia." *Biological Conservation*. [Co-authors include post-doctoral fellow, **Erin Kane**; recent PhDs **Andrea DiGiorgio** and **Caitlin O'Connell**; graduate students **Amy Scott**, **Andrea Blackburn**, **Faye Harwell**, and **Laura Brubaker-Wittman**; former BU post-doctoral fellow **Meredith Bastian**; and former BU undergraduates **Natalie Robinson**, **Jennifer Brousseau** and **Robert Rodriguez Suro**.]; in the same issue, **Cheryl Knott** and post-doctoral fellow **Erin Kane** (2020), "Confronting Ethical Challenges in Long-Term Research Programs in the Tropics" and "Building Collaboration for Orangutan Conservation."
- **Frank Korom**. 2020. "Vernacular Religious Movements." In A. M. Chowdhury (ed) *History of Bangladesh: Sultanate and Mughal Period, Vol 2*. Dhaka: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, pp.287-320.
- **Frank Korom**. 2020. "The World According to Ghanaram: A Partial Translation of his *Gitarambha*." In C. Brandt & H. Harder (eds) *Wegen durchs Labyrinth: Festschrift zu Ehren von Rahul Peter Das*. Heidelberg, Germany: CrossAsia, pp. 255-275.
- **John M. Marston**, Peter Kováčik, and Ulf-Dietrich Schoop. 2020. "Environmental reconstruction and wood use at Late Chalcolithic Çamlıbel Tarlası, Turkey." *Quaternary International*.
- von Bayer, Madelynn, and **John M. Marston**. 2020. "Best practices for digitizing a wood slide collection: the Bailey-Wetmore wood collection of the Harvard University Herbaria." *Quaternary International*.
- **Fallou Ngom**, Mustapha H. Kurfi, and Toyin Falola (eds). 2020. *The Palgrave Handbook of Islam in Africa*. Palgrave Macmillan. 774 pgs.
- Jasinska, A. J., Dong, T. S., Lagishetty, V., Katzka, W., Jacobs, J. P., **Schmitt, Christopher A.**, Cramer, J. D., Ma, D., Coetzer, W. G., Grobler, J.P., and Turner, T. R., 2020. "Shifts in microbial diversity, composition, and functionality in the gut and genital microbiome during a natural SIV infection in vervet monkeys." *Microbiome*.

- **Christopher A. Schmitt**, Bergey, C. M., Jasinska, A. J., Ramensky, V., Burt, F., Svardal, H., Jorgensen, M. J., Freimer, N. B., Grobler, J. P., and Turner, T. R. 2020. "ACE2 and TMPRSS2 Variation in Savanna Monkeys: Potential Risk for Zoonotic/anthropnotic transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and a potential for functional studies." *PLoS ONE* 15(6): e0235106.
- **Merav Shohet**. 2021. *Silence and Sacrifice: Family Stories of Care and the Limits of Love in Vietnam*. Berkeley: University of California Press. <https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520379381/>
- **Catherine West**, Etnier, M., Barbeaux, S., Partlow, M., & Orlov, A. 2020. "Size distribution of Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*) in the North Pacific Ocean over 6 millennia." *Quaternary Research*, 1-21.doi:10.1017/qua.2020.70.



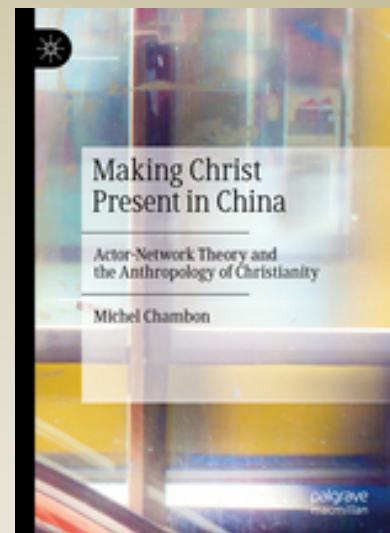
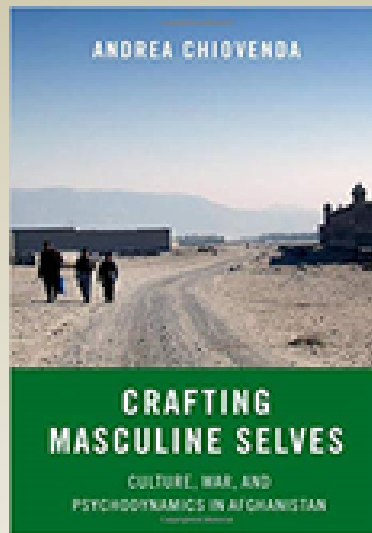
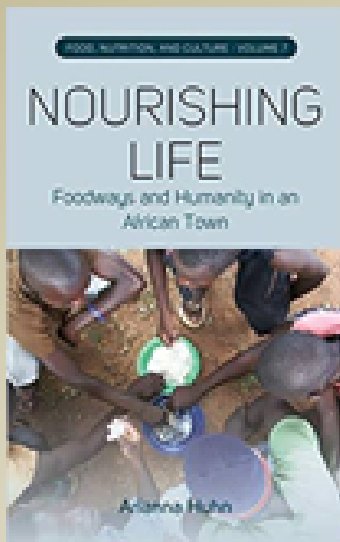
ALUMNI NEWS

Awards:

- **Laura Heath-Stout** (PhD 2019) was awarded a Hunt Post-doctoral Fellowship from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for her project "Career Arcs: Identity, Oppression, and Diversity in Archaeology." While a fellow, she will have an affiliation with UMass-Boston for the 2021-22 academic year and will work on revising her dissertation into a book, which is under contract with Routledge.

Publications:

- **Michel Chambon** (PhD 2018) 2020. *Making Christ Present in China: Actor-Network Theory and the Anthropology of Christianity*. Palgrave MacMillan.
- **Andrea Chiovenda** (PhD 2015) 2019. *Crafting Masculine Selves: Culture, War, and Psychodynamics in Afghanistan*. Oxford University Press.
- **Andrea DiGiorgio** (PhD 2019), Upton, E. M., Susanto, T. W., and Cheryl Knott. 2020. "Wild Bornean Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii*) Feeding Rates and the Marginal Value Theorem." *American Journal of Primatology*. 82(10):e23183. doi:10.1002/ajp.23183.Epub 2020 Aug 5.PMID:32761641.
- **Carol Ferrara** (PhD 2019) Nov. 2020. "Muslim Schools are allies in France's Fight against Radicalization -- not the cause." *The Conversation*.
- **Arianna Huhn** (PhD 2013) 2020. *Nourishing Life: Foodways and Humanity in an African Town*. Berghahn Books.
- **Erin Kane** (BU post-doctoral fellow) 2020. "Oral Processing Behavior of Diana Monkeys (*Cercopithecus diana*) in Tai National Park, Côte d'Ivoire" *Folia Primatologica*.
- **Erica M. Larson** (PhD 2019) 2020. "What are Indonesian Schools Teaching about Religious Tolerance?" NUS online publication ARIscope, Singapore.
- **Huwy-min Lucia Liu** (PhD 2015) 2020. "The Civil Governance of Death: The Making of Chinese Political Subjects at the end of Life." *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 1-23. <https://doi:10.1017/20021911820002260>



- **Dat Nguyen** (PhD 2020). 2020. "Unburdening the Heart: Urban Therapeutic Buddhism and Youth Well-Being in Ho Chi Minh City." *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* 15(4):63-98. <https://doi.org/10.1525/vs.2929.25.4.63> [This article received the 2018 best graduate student paper prize from the Vietnamese Studies Group of the Association for Asian Studies.]

Updates:

- **Elizabeth Thomas Crocker** (PhD 2017) joined the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Washington D.C. in 2017 as part of their Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion program. In 2019, she began a new position within AAAS at the Center for Public Engagement with Science and Technology. She runs workshops training scientists to consider language, culture and worldviews when communicating about their research. She also helps run the AAAS If/Then Ambassadors Program which seeks to encourage women in STEM and manages an award for public engagement with science.
- **Lynsey Farrell** (PhD 2015) is a Senior Lecturer in International Studies at the Lauder Institute Africa Program at the University of Pennsylvania. She has been hosting a series of online webinars on the intersection of African business and society and will host a virtual symposium in March on the Future of Work in 21st Century Africa, featuring practitioners, business leaders, and scholars.

- **Lindsay Gifford** (PhD 2009) has just accepted a Research Faculty position at the University of Chicago; she is moving to the windy city from her former position as an Assistant Professor of International Studies and Coordinator of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of San Francisco.
- **Chelsea Shields** (PhD 2018) is based in Salt Lake City where she works as a consultant focusing on marketing strategies. She writes: "I've also been working occasionally with local Brigham Young University in the anthropology department, teaching them the ropes in the business world. I offer seminars on professional development & applied research methods, helping them understand the job market and develop the skill sets needed to get high-paying jobs in a modern economy." You may have seen one of her many TED talks on topics of social and personal change, religion & gender.
- **Christopher Taylor** (PhD 2015) has worked at the State Department in Washington D.C. since 2015 managing a foreign assistance fund for human rights and new technologies. A new project he is pursuing, titled "Freedom in the Code," is a cross-cultural investigation of internet policy and how governments and global civil society can collaborate to better protect human rights online. Chris is also a Research Scholar at the Ali Vural AK Center for Global Islamic Studies at George Mason University where he helped organize a conference on Islam and Humanitarianism this past November that included a paper by BU's own **Salwa Tareen**. Chris has recently begun serving in the National Association of Practicing Anthropologists (NAPA), helping with their new strategy to promote more avenues for anthropologists to practice anthropology.



In memory of Professor Mary Beaudry: friend, colleague,
teacher, mentor, scholar.

More news? Did we fail to include your achievements? Did we get something wrong? Please let us know and we will be happy to publish in a future newsletter. Contact smhefner@bu.edu or vclittle@bu.edu.