



# Anthropology News

September 2021

## WELCOME!

Welcome back to those of you who are returning from summer programs, field research, travel, or writing and relaxation. And welcome too to those joining us for the first time. There have been lots of changes in the department over the summer and lots of exciting new projects planned for the coming academic year. This issue of the newsletter will introduce you to some of the new faces you will be seeing in Anthropology.



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**Luke Glowacki** joins us this fall as an Assistant Professor of biological anthropology focusing on the study of the evolution of human social behavior. Luke received his PhD in Human Evolutionary Biology (HEB) from Harvard University in 2015. He comes to us from Penn State where he developed and taught courses on Physiology & the Evolution of Human Behavior, the Evolution of Warfare, and the Scientific Foundations of Altruism and Violence. His research projects employ both quantitative and qualitative methods, involving field as well as on-campus

research. He pursues questions pertaining to the evolutionary origins of human behavior using a variety of methods, including behavioral ecology, but also lab-based experimental paradigms, analysis of data from his field site in the Omo Valley of Ethiopia, and online archival resources. Please stop by his office in Suite 101, 232 Bay State Rd. and introduce yourself.

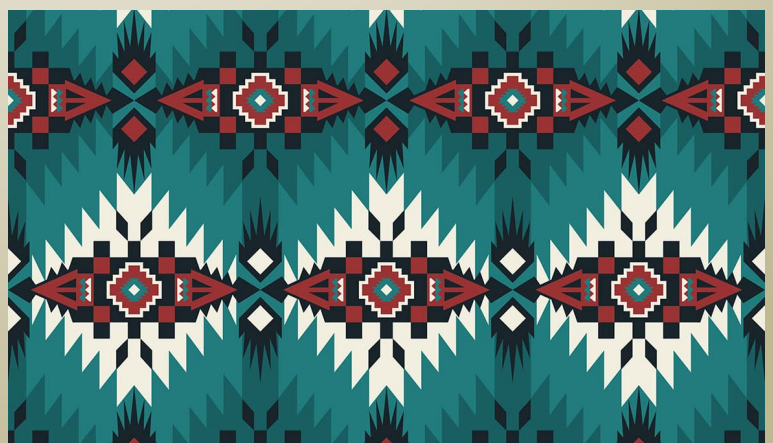


**Wade Campbell** will join us in the spring of 2022 as an Assistant Professor of archaeology. Originally from the Four Corners region of Arizona and New Mexico, Wade is a member of the Navajo Nation. Wade is an historical archaeologist whose research focuses on Indigenous responses to Euro-American colonialism in the American Southwest. His research examines the adoption of sheep herding among early Diné (Navajo) communities circa AD 1700 and the ongoing legacy of this pastoral tradition. He employs a combination of ethnohistoric, geospatial, and archaeological data in his research. He is, in addition, interested in issues of diversity and inclusion. Wade will be BU's first indigenous scholar -- hopefully, the first of many! Look for him on campus in the spring.





The department would like to welcome **Christine Ritzkowski** who will take on the position of Graduate Program Administrator beginning Sept.13th. Christine brings a wealth of experience to the department. She comes to us from the College of Engineering where she has been an Academic Program Manager since 2018. She has also worked in BU's School of Medicine and has experience teaching English to non-native speakers in a public school setting. Christine's office will be in 232 Bay State Rd., #104B. Please do stop by and introduce yourselves and welcome Christine to the department!



## The Department welcomes 7 new graduate students!

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**Tianyi Bai** (sociocultural anthropology): ethnicity in China, especially among the Islamic Hui; gender

**Ergun Begun** (sociocultural anthropology): refugees and trauma in Turkey, psychological anthropology, medical anthropology

**Kendra Gimblet** (sociocultural anthropology): migration, identity, social belonging; Syrian refugees

**Warrenkevin Henderson** (biological anthropology): morphology, genetics, Neanderthal cold adaptations

**Sarah Lewinger** (sociocultural anthropology): youth, sexuality, U.S. Evangelical-promoted abstinence programs; East Africa/Uganda

**Kyra McFarland** (anthropological archaeology): indigenous archaeology and diaspora studies; Pacific Islands and the Pacific Northwest of the U.S.

**Francis Short** (biological anthropology): orangutan ranging behavior, animal movement ecology, male bi-maturism, conservation





Mark your Calendars for two exciting  
upcoming Department Initiatives!



The 7th annual Northeastern Evolutionary Primatologists Meeting will be held **November 5th-6th** at **Boston University!**

NEEP welcomes participants from a wide range of disciplines within evolutionary primatology, such as morphology, genetics, genomics, physiology, and behavioral ecology. We welcome research on any and all primates, including humans.

Our keynote speaker this year will be **Dr. Martin Surbeck** from Harvard University. His work is focused on investigating the behavioral ecology of our closest living relatives, bonobos and chimpanzees, in order to understand the evolution of human behavior.

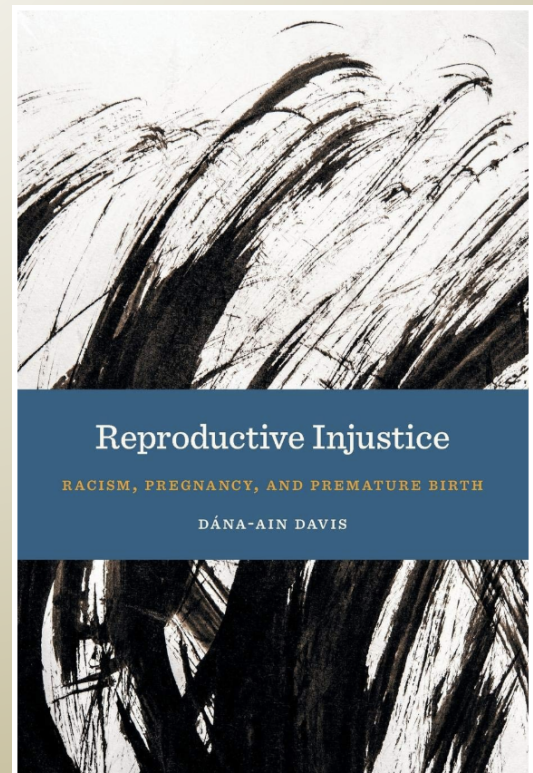
More information regarding registration, abstract submission, and accommodations will be released soon, and will be made available on the NEEP homepage.

## Fall 2021 An Emerging Scholars Program:

# Addressing Systemic Racism in Health & Medicine

The Department of Anthropology is sponsoring an Emerging Scholars Program "Addressing Systemic Racism in Health & Medicine." In addition to scholars presenting their work in two of our medical anthropology courses, the program will include a workshop and a public-facing roundtable in mid-November. Events will be chaired by Professor **Dana-Ain Davis**, renowned feminist and medical anthropologist from Queens College and The Graduate Center CUNY.

As part of the program, Professor Davis will also offer a talk in our Department Talk Series on **Friday, Nov 12** "Reproductive Injustice: Racism, Pregnancy & Premature Birth" which is also the title of her recent book. For more details on the program, contact project organizer Prof Kimberly Arkin.





## DEPARTMENT MILESTONES IN BRIEF

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- AN/AR Grad, **Kathleen Forste** successfully defended her PhD dissertation "An Archaeological Investigation of Early Islamic Agricultural Economy in the Levant" and is now officially Dr. Forste.
- **Laura Tourtellotte** successfully defended her PhD dissertation "Deserving Daughters, Martyred Mothers: Reproductive Politics in the Creation of Gendered State Subjects in Kazakhstan"; you can now call her Dr. Tourtellotte.
- **Laura Brubaker-Wittman & Mahtab Sirdani** successfully completed their comprehensive exams.
- **Anya Bounar, Jessica Hlay, Xuyi Zhao, Salwa Taureen, and Hannah Howard** successfully completed their comprehensive exams and their prospectus defenses and are now ABD.



CATHERINE WEST WAS PROMOTED  
TO RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

***CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!***

# IN MEMORIAM



## **Kendall Casteneda**

The Department of Anthropology is devastated by the news that one of our most accomplished and well-regarded majors, **Kendall Casteneda**, passed away this summer. Kendall received a BA in anthropology with a minor in Computer Science this past May. He was a Filipino immigrant, first generation college student, and Posse program participant who dedicated his years at BU to making it a more inclusive and welcoming place for minority students. He was a founder of the BU Minority Connection Initiative, a student group whose mission is to cultivate relationships between students, faculty, and staff of color; an active participant in the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground; and a recent BU Scarlet Key inductee, testament to his exceptional public service and community outreach. He was also an intellectually curious, academically adventurous anthropology student, well-known and beloved by the anthropology faculty and his classmates. We are all reeling from his loss. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.





More news? Did we fail you include your achievements? Did we get something wrong? Please contact Nancy J. Smith-Hefner [smhefner@bu.edu](mailto:smhefner@bu.edu) or Veronica [vclittle@bu.edu](mailto:vclittle@bu.edu) and we will be happy to publish in a future newsletter!