

BU Anthropology News

The official newsletter of the Boston University Department of Anthropology



NEWS AND EVENTS

Happy Spring Semester!

Big news in the department is that our long-time department program manager, Kathy Kwasnica has retired and was sent off with an ice cream celebration (courtesy of Toscanini's). Unfortunately, our graduate program administrator, Christine Ritzkowski has also left us for greener pastures. We wish them well. We do expect to be hiring replacements soon and will keep you posted. Other really exciting news is that Wade Campbell has joined us as Assistant Professor of Anthropology! You can look for him on the third floor of the Stone Science Building and occasionally in 232 Bay State Rd. Wade is a (Diné) Navajo historical archaeologist whose research examines the relationships between Diné communities and other local groups in the US Southwest from the 17th century to the present day. Welcome to Wade!

Keep reading to learn more about what our students, faculty, and alumni have been up to this semester. Check out the end of the newsletter for contact information and how to stay updated on what BU Anthropology is doing.



Prof. Wade Campbell

LOOK FOR IT!

- *Emerging Scholars' Program coming May 2022, "Race and Racism in Anthropological Genetics and Genomics," Chris Schmitt, organizer.*

FEATURED NEWS

Matt Cartmill & Kaye Brown's Boston University Dialogues in Biological Anthropology are now available online. The Dialogues are a series of public debates and discussions concerning controversial issues in the field. Each Dialogue consists of an hour of presentations and discussions by leading experts with diverse opinions, followed by a 90-minute roundtable involving BU students and faculty. Eight of these Dialogues are now available on YouTube for use by students and instructors.



Eva Garrett spoke at the Coolidge Corner Movie Theater's Science on Screen Series. Her lecture, "The Evolution of Olfaction in Primates" accompanied a film showing of Polyester which was presented in its original *Odorama* (with scratch & sniff cards).

Graham Grail, AN major and honors student (2021), was featured in BU's The Brink (March 2021) for his work with Assist. Prof. Carolyn Hodges-Simeon, on "How Testosterone Changes the Voices of Trans Men."



At the 7th Annual Northeastern Evolutionary Primatologists (NEEP) meeting, held at BU in November 2021, 5 BU graduate students (Laura Brubaker-Wittman, Melissa Zarate, Christian Gagnon, Faye Harwell, Zoe Albert) 2 undergraduates (Victoria Zdanowicz, Sofia Wyszynski) and 3 alumni (Dr. Amy Scott, Dr. Caitlin O'Connell, and former undergraduate Rebecca DeCamp) gave oral or poster presentations. Graduate student Melissa Zarate won an award for the best podium presentation for her work on yellow-tailed wooly monkeys. One hundred and fifty primatologists were in attendance!



FEATURED NEWS CONT.

Robert Hefner's latest documentary film, "Religion in Quarantine: The Covid Pandemic in Indonesia" is out and is available for classroom use.



“This beautifully filmed documentary film traces the response of Indonesia’s diverse religious communities to the Covid Pandemic from early 2020 to late 2021. It is an uplifting story of human drama and courage, and a testimony to the richness and diversity of Indonesian society itself. The film is the fifth documentary film in the series, “Indonesian Pluralities,” created and produced by Robert Hefner and Zainal Abidin Bagir with the financial support of the Henry Luce Foundation.”

Chris Schmitt was featured in a Boston Globe story in December 2021. “Thank you, Scientists.” “Schmitt is making inroads in primatology research and providing support for other LGBTQQIAA+ researchers”



Cheryl Knott has been awarded a five-year grant of \$499,978 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for her conservation research on wild orangutans in Borneo. Entitled “Conserving Bornean Orangutans in Primary, Disturbed and Customary Forests in Gunung Palung National Park, Indonesia, and the Surrounding Landscape” the grant supports the expansion of her project into areas of degraded habitat and forest fragments. Over the next 5 years her research team, including BU graduate students, post-docs and undergraduates will be applying new technological tools to assess orangutan behavioral and physiological adaptations in anthropogenically-altered forests compared to primary rainforest.

LOOK OUT FOR OUR UPCOMING LUNCH TALKS SERIES!

BOSTON UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

LUNCH TALKS

DR. JENNIFER RAFF

ORIGIN: A GENETIC HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS

THURSDAY, MARCH 3RD
1 P.M.

VIRTUAL ON ZOOM
MEETING ID: 910 3610 5333
PASSCODE: 005435

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

DR. JENNIFER RAFF
is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Affiliate Faculty in Indigenous Studies at the University of Kansas, with a dual Ph.D. in anthropology and genetics.

March 3: Dr. Jennifer Raff will lead a talk on her *New York Times* bestseller, "Origin: A Genetic History of America"

Join us virtually:

<https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/91036105333?pwd=aXpjbjDJ5S0gvS3JqMnpjY0VuR3RSdz09>

Meeting ID: 910 3610 5333

Passcode: 005435

March 17: Graduate alumnus, **Dr. Dat Nguyen**, on "The politics of commemoration and practices of care for the war dead in southern Vietnam"

March 31: Roundtable with **Dr. Glenna Cole Allee** and **Dr. Mark Auslander** on "Excavating Environmental Catastrophe, A Book Talk on Dr. Allee's *Hanford Reach: in the Atomic Field*"

April 14: Current PhD student, **Emily Williamson**, on "Folded Speech: An Ethics of Comings-and-Goings in an Accra Zongo"

April 21: Undergraduate alumnae, now Senior Lecturer, King's College, London, **Dr. Anastasia Piliavsky** (CAS '04), on "Historical Justice in an Unequal World"

FACULTY GRANTS & AWARDS

- **Cheryl Knott** has been named the Edward P Bass Distinguished Visiting Environmental Scholar at Yale University where she will be on leave for the Fall semester of 2022. The Bass Visiting Environmental Scholars Program brings premier scholars dealing with the study of the environment, past or present, to present seminars, interact with faculty, students, and research groups, and participate in Yale's academic community.
- **Ayşe Parla** and **Elif Babül** (Mt. Holyoke) received a Wenner-Gren Workshop Grant for a project on “Fact and Fabulation: Knowledge in the Era of Post-Truth,” which will bring together fifteen anthropologists located in Australia, South Africa, Turkey, and the United States.
- **Caterina Scaramelli**'s book, *How to Make a Wetland: Water and Moral Ecology in Turkey* Stanford University Press, has received Honorable Mention for the Albert Hourani Book Award of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA).
- **Merry White** was awarded a research grant from the Northeast Asia Council, AAS for an ethnographic project in Japan. Project title: “Industry Transformation and Global Market Forces: A Case of Japanese Whisky.”

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Schattschneider, Ellen & Auslander, Mark. 2022. "Dwelling on my Falling": *Yukiyo Kawano's Nuclear Vision*, in *Asia Pacific Journal: Japan Focus*. 20(1):1.

Carballo, David. 2021. "Governance Strategies in Precolonial Central Mexico" in *Frontiers in Political Science*.

Carballo, David & Gary Feinman. 2022. "Communication, Computation, and Governance: A Multiscalar Vantage on the Prehispanic Mesoamerican World," *Journal of Social Computing*.

Hodges-Simeon, Carolyn R., Grail, Graham, Albert, Graham, Groll, M.T., Stepp, C. E, Carre, J.M., Arnocky, S.A., 2021. "Testosterone therapy masculinizes speech and gender presentation in transgender men. *Scientific Reports*. 11(1), 1-10.

Hodges-Simeon, Carolyn R., Albert, Graham, Richardson, G. B., McHale, T. S., Weinberg, S. M., Gurven, M., & Gaulin, S. J. 2021. "Was facial width-to-height ratio subject to sexual selection pressures? A life course approach. *PloS one*, 16(3), e0240284.

Arnocky, S., Hodges-Simeon, Carolyn R., Davis, A., Desmarais, R., Greenshields, A., Liwski, R., Quillen, E., Cardenas, R., Breedlove, S.M., & Puts, D.A. 2021. "Heterozygosity of the Major Histocompatibility Complex Predicts Later Self-reported Pubertal Maturation in Males. *Scientific Reports*, 11(1), 1-10.

Knott, Cheryl D., Scott, A. M., O'Connell, C. A., Susanto, T. W., & Kane, E. E. 2021. "Field laboratories for non-invasive wildlife and habitat health assessment and conservation." In S. A. Wich, & A. K. Piel, eds., *Field Methods for Conservation* (pp. 129-156). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Korom, Frank. 2021. "Gurupada Chitrakar: An Appreciation of a Life Short-lived." *Nidan* 6/2 (2021): 69-88.

Korom, Frank. 2022. "Songs of Social Justice: Bengali Patuas Speak Out." *Shuddhasar* 27. Published online at <https://shuddhashar.com/songs-of-social-justice-bengali-patuas-speak-out/>.

Korom, Frank. 2022. "It Ain't Religion, It's Just Culture, Man! Muharram Controversies in the Indo-Caribbean Diaspora." In P. Sohoni & T. Tschacher (eds.). *Non-Shia Practices of Muharram in South Asia and the Diaspora: Beyond Mourning*. London: Routledge, pp. 91-112.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Ngom, Fallou. 2021. “West African Manuscripts in Arabic and African Languages and Digital Preservation.” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of African Historiography: Methods and Sources*, Thomas Spear, Peter Limb, Kathryn M. de Luna, Peter Mitchell, Olufemi Vaughan, Richard Waller (eds.) (awarded the Waldo G. Leland prize by the American Historical Association for the best reference work published over the past five years).

Schmitt, Christopher A. 2021. “Year without end: Primatology through 2020.” *American Anthropologist*, 123(4): 916-930. DOI: 10.1111/aman.13661

Schmitt, Christopher A. and Garrett, Eva C. 2021. “‘De-scent’ with modification: More evidence – and caution – needed to assess whether the loss of a pheromone signaling protein permitted the evolution of same-sex sexual behavior in primates.” *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 50(6): 2301-2307.

Shipton, Parker. 2021. “East Africa, Ethnology, and the LeVine Legacy”, in Dinesh Sharma, ed., *The Cultural Psyche: The Selected Papers of Robert A. LeVine on Psychosocial Science*, pp. 61-82. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

Shohet, Merav & Loyd, Heather. 2022. “Transcription and Analysis in Linguistic Anthropology: Creating, Testing, and Presenting Theory on the Page.” In S.M. Perrino and S.E. Pritzker, eds. *Research Methods in Linguistic Anthropology* (pp. 261–296). London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Weller, Robert P. 2021. “Censorship, Foreclosure, and the Three Deaths of Fengzhen.” *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 11(2): 619-634.

Weller, Robert P. 2021. “Overnight Urbanization and Changing Spirits: Disturbed Ecosystems in Southern Jiangsu.” *Current Anthropology* 62(5): 602-630.

White, Merry. 2022. “Body, Tool and Technique: Elements of Work in the Japanese Kitchen,” In Borghini, Andrea, and Patrik Engisch, eds. A Philosophy of Recipes: Making, Experiencing, and Valuing. *Bloomsbury Publishing*.

Parker Shipton has a new co-edited book (including an authored chapter), *Land and the Mortgage: History, Culture, Belonging*. 2022. Oxford and New York: Berghahn.

GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS

Graduate Student Milestones

Kevin Boueri defended his dissertation, *Trail of Dreams: Journeys of Belonging on the Lebanon Mountain Trail* (Dec 2021)

Attyat Mayans, Handrio Nurhan & Karen Stewart have all successfully completed their comprehensive exams.

Mahtab Sirdani & Laura Brubaker-Witman have completed their comprehensive exams and successfully defended their prospectuses; they are now officially ABD.

Graduate Student Grants & Awards

- **Graham Albert** was awarded a Bloom Dissertation Fellowship. Dissertation title: “Testing the Effects of Facial Sexual Dimorphism on Men’s Selective Attention, Implicit Association and Decision Making”
- **Maria Codlin** was awarded the 2021 Society for American Archaeology student paper award for her paper, “Hunting and Husbandry at the Ancient Mexican City of Teotihuacan.”
- **Leyla Jafarova** was awarded a long-term GRAF for research in Azerbaijan.
- **Evan McDuff** was awarded the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research’s Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Junior Research Fellowship. The fellowship will allow him to reside in Israel for four months this fall while conducting research on archaeobotanical remains tied to spice use and dining practices in communities across ancient Judea.
- **Johnathan Norris** was awarded a long-term GRAF for research in Jordan/Lebanon. Project title: “Politics of Place: Emotion, Religio-political Networks, and Place-Making Among Syrian Refugees”
- **Jacob Tischer** received the Choice Award for Originality and Innovation, jointly sponsored by the European Association of Taiwan Studies and the East Asian Journal of Popular Culture for his paper “Panmemetic Inoculation: How Taiwan is Nerfing the Pandemic with Cute Humour” to be published in the East Asian Journal of Popular Culture 8 (1) in August 2022.
- **Mel Zarate** won an award at BU’s fall NEEP conference for the best podium presentation for her work on yellow-tailed woolly monkeys, “Current Distribution and Predicted Suitable Habitat for the Critically Endangered Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey (*Lagothrix Flavicauda*) in Peru.”
- **Xuyi Zhao** was awarded a long-term GRAF for research in China. Project title: “Relocation for the Future: Placemaking and Temporal Imaginations in a Chinese ‘New Area’”

GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS

Graduate Student Publications

Albert, Graham, Richardson, G., B., Arnocky, S., Fisher, M., Hlay, J. K., McHale, T. M., & Hodges-Simeon, Carolyn R. 2022. "A Psychometric Evaluation of the Intrasexual Competition Scale." *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. 1-18.

Albert, Graham, Wells, E., Arnocky, S., A., Liu, C., H, Hodges-Simeon, Carolyn R. 2021. "Observers use Facial Sexual Dimorphism to make Physical Dominance Assessments Following 100-millisecond Exposure." *Aggressive Behavior*. 47 226-235.

Harwell, Faye, Gagnon, Christian, and Henderson, W. (2022). The seventh annual northeastern evolutionary primatologists (NEEP) meeting: Back in person in Boston, MA! *Evolutionary Anthropology*. 31(1):5-8.

Hlay, Jessica, Albert, Graham, Batres, C., Richardson, G. B., Placek, C., Arnocky, S., Lieberman, D., Hodges-Simeon, Carolyn R. 2021. "The Evolution of Disgust for Pathogen Detection and Avoidance." *Scientific Reports*. 11(1), 1-12.

Zhang, J., Chen, B.B., Hodges-Simeon, Carolyn R., Reid, S.A., Albert, Graham, & Gaulin, S.J.C. 2021. "Elevated Recognition Accuracy for Low-pitched Male Voices in Men with Higher Threat Potential: Further evidence for the retaliation-cost model in humans." *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 42(2), 148-156.

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

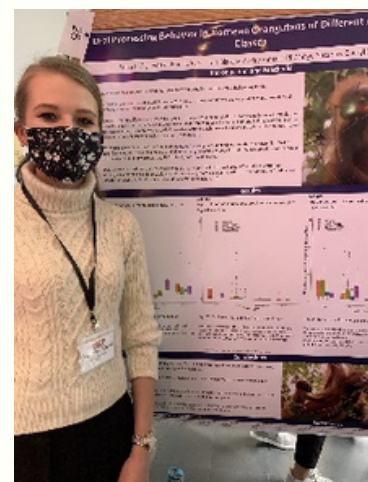
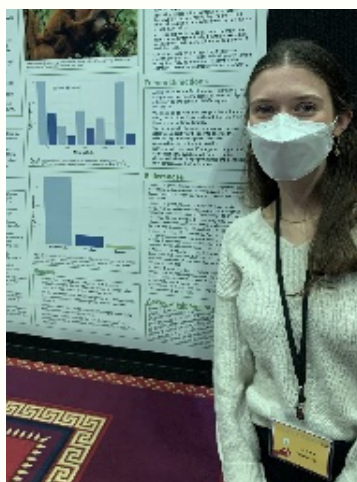
Honors Theses

Abbey Ryan, AN major, successfully defending her senior thesis, "Tanzanian National and Ethnic Identity and the Role of Kiswahili in the Postcolonial Era: comparison between ethnic politicization and language in Tanzania and Kenya" (Dec 2021)

Karolena Salmon, AN/AR major, successfully defended her honor's thesis, "Keeping it Casual: Casualization and Waithood as a Means of Self-optimization among Gen Z College Students" (Dec 2021)

Poster Presentations

- **Charlotte Beatty** presented her UROP Project "Throwing Out Tradition and Creating New Timelines: College Student Attitudes Towards Marriage and Family" at the 24th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, hosted by the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) in BU's George Sherman Union Metcalf Ballroom.
- **Sofia Wyszynski** presented a poster on "Oral Processing Behavior in Bornean Orangutans of Different Age and Sex Classes" at the NEEP Conference at BU this fall. Research co-authors included Erin Kane, Tori Blakely, Andre Rinaldi, Tri Wahyu Susanto, and Cheryl Knott.
- **Victoria Zdanowicz** presented a poster on "Fiber Digestibility in Wild Bornean Orangutans: Age-Sex Class Differences and Implications for Slow Juvenile Growth" at the NEEP Conference at BU this fall. Research co-authors included Erin Kane, Tri Wahyu Susanto, and Cheryl Knott.



ALUMNI UPDATES & PUBLICATIONS

Alumni Publications

Murray, E. G., & DiGiorgio, Andrea L. 2021. "Will Individual Actions do the Trick? Comparing Climate Change Mitigation through Geoengineering versus Reduced Vehicle Emissions." *Earth's Future*, 9, e2020EF001734.

DiGiorgio, Andrea L, Upton, E.M, Susanto, T.W., Knott, Cheryl D. "Wild Bornean Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii*) Feeding Rates and the Marginal Value Theorem." *American Journal of Primatology*. 2020; 82:e23183.

Heath-Stout, Laura. 2022. "The Invisibly Disabled Archaeologist." *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*.



*We remember fondly Emeritus Professor
Anthropology, Tony Barrand,
who passed away in January 2022.*

Thank you!

Follow us on social media!



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:

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