

FALL 2022 | ISSUE 11

BU Anthropology News

The official newsletter of the Boston University Department of Anthropology



WELCOME BACK!

Happy Fall Semester!

The fall newsletter is a space to introduce new faces and to catch up on the summer and early fall awards and accomplishments of our faculty, students, and alums. As you will see, there are many!

Keep reading for an update of all the latest Department of Anthropology news and events. And don't forget to check out the end of the newsletter for information on how you can submit your own news for upcoming editions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Department Talk Series:

- 10/13 "Racial Formation between the Two Sudans" w/ Zachary Mondesire
- 11/10 "Faunal evidence for paleoenvironmental change coincident with the emergence of Acheulean technology at Gona" w/ Amanda Leiss
- 12/8 Fathers-in-Law and Eloping Athletes: Plebian Cities, Debts of Fidelity, and FIFA's Global Order w/ Can Evren

Contemporary Chinese Culture Lecture

- 11/8: Dr. Julie Chu @ 3pm (CAS 132)
"Constancy and the Supply Chain of Human Feeling (人情)"

WELCOME!

Introducing the New Graduate Student Cohort

Ph.D. Students:

Haylee Backs (archaeology): Native North America, NAGPRA, Community Archaeology, Indigenous Archaeology, Decolonization.

Fatimah Bouderbaben (biological anthropology): Trans-inclusive anthropology; forensic anthropology; modern human variation; geometric morphometrics; identification of human remains; humanitarian forensic anthropology; diversity and inclusion.

Jessica Martin (biological anthropology): Microbiome Diversity, Genetics, Genomics, Primate Ecology and Evolution, South Africa.

Brooke Rothamer (biological anthropology): Human evolution, cooperative behaviors, friendship and social networks, parenting and alloparenting, childhood and adolescence.

Bhavya Vadavalli (biological anthropology): Collective behaviour of humans and/or other primates using robust field data, social network analysis, and statistical methods.

Samantha Vee (biological anthropology): Great apes, behavioral ecology, evolution of social behavior, conservation, endocrinology, genetics/genomics.

MAPA students:

Samantha Igo (public anthropology): climate change, development, museum studies, propaganda and misinformation.



FEATURED: ALIZE ARICAN

Postdoctoral Scholar at the Society of Fellows



Alize Arican is a Postdoctoral Scholar at the Boston University Society of Fellows. As an anthropologist, her work centers on urban life, temporality, migration, racialization, and care. In her current book project, she explores these issues through an engaged ethnography of Istanbul's Tarlabaşı neighborhood.

Q: What are your main responsibilities as a society of fellows postdoctoral scholar?

A: I see my roles in threefold: my first role concerns research, so I'll be working on my book manuscript and articles, as well as public facing pieces. I'm very excited to be part of an interdisciplinary cohort of scholars across

different interests, disciplines, and areas, which is the point of the society of fellows program. And I'm most excited to have the opportunity to be a part of the anthropology community here at BU while doing interdisciplinary work.

The second would be teaching one class per year in the anthropology department. For Spring 2023, I'll be teaching a graduate course on race and racial integration in the global south which I'm really excited about.

I see my third role as contributing to equity and diversity on campus. Between my graduate studies at the University of Illinois-Chicago and my postdoc at Rutgers University, I've been working with Muslim student groups or Middle Eastern student groups, so I'd love to see what I can do with BU student communities, both in terms of social justice and intellectual issues.



FEATURED: ALIZE ARICAN

Postdoctoral Scholar at the Society of Fellows

Q: Can you tell us more about your research?

A: My research is motivated by the question “who gets to belong in the future”. In my first book project, I do an engaged ethnography of an Istanbul neighborhood that's been undergoing state order and transformation for the past ten years. I'm looking at how time can become a political tool and how residents can use time to create everyday practices of care. I really envision the book as something that speaks to the broader audiences and in the border of literature and anthropology.

My second project concerns anti-blackness and blackness in Turkey, so I'll be building on work I've done with West African migrant communities in Istanbul. I will be critically investigating the notion of transit migration, how it enables anti-blackness in Turkey and how West African migrants build futures in Turkey.

Q: What inspired you to go into this field or study?

A: When I was in undergrad, I was actually a political science major working with NGOs and community groups in the neighborhood where I did my dissertation research. On the one hand, this community work led me into anthropology and pushed me to think about research as not just an intellectual pursuit, but a way to work with communities to transform the social problems that we're thinking about. While I was doing this work, I also started to feel uncomfortable about how the neighborhood was being represented. Researchers have mostly represented it as a site of marginalization, which is very important work, but I also wanted to showcase how the residents empower themselves.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

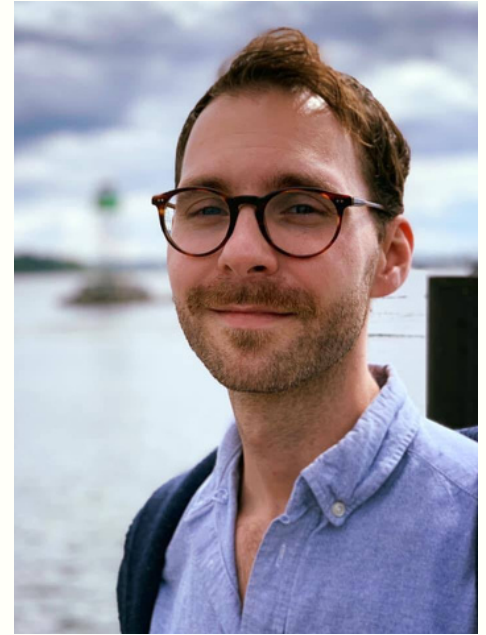
A: Well, a fun fact is I love reality TV. Sometimes it's very useful for me to decompress and just empty out the thoughts so I love the Real Housewives and Selling Sunset franchise. Besides that I really like watching movies especially from the Middle East or Latin America. I love swimming and I'm really interested in exploring more nature around Massachusetts.



FEATURED: DEREK HEALEY

Graduate Program Administrator

Derek Healey joined the Anthropology Department in March 2022 as the Graduate Program Administrator. He started his undergraduate studies at SUNY Albany focusing on Medical Anthropology and Public Health, but eventually found his passion in Sociocultural Anthropology and Religion. He identifies as a barefoot anthropologist and strives to highlight marginalized people from their own perspectives.



Q: What are your responsibilities as the Graduate Program Administrator?

A: I'm the go-to for all anthropology Masters and Ph.D. students, their liaison with GRS, advisors, the chair, etc.. My main responsibilities are the grad students: their life, their goals, how to best support them administratively, and make them feel a sense of belonging and community.

Q: So it sounds like your education/background could really help you with your current work, as religion and activism are both very communal.

A: It really impacted my communal nature. I grew up around two different indigenous reservations since half of my family is indigenous. But [my anthropology background] helps because not only can I work with and help graduate students, but also a lot of people in the community.



Derek entering an archaeological cave in Ireland

Q: How are you involved in other BU communities?

A: I just joined the DIAT: Diversity and Inclusion Action Team for CAS. Each department/college has their own D&I committee, but these action teams are made up of faculty, students and staff. So it's really well-rounded and eliminates power dynamics.

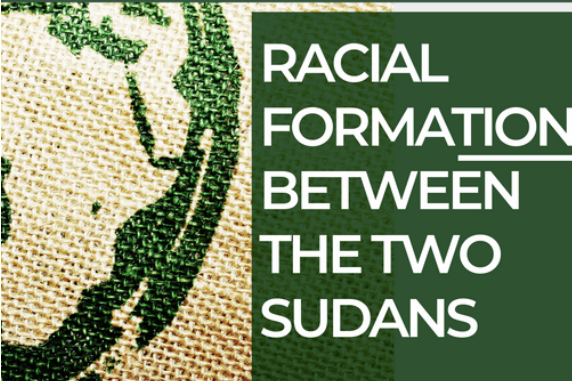
Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: I'm a HUGE foodie, so going to new places, trying to find the best cocktails and food. I have a list of where I go to eat and a masterlist of adventure. I'm really big into the arts so I always go to the ballet and candlelight symphonies. And beaches. My favorite is Walden Pond; it's more inland and it's fresh water. I love going there just to read and relax.


Derek's door is always open for tea and conversation!

LOOK OUT FOR OUR UPCOMING DEPARTMENT TALKS SERIES!

Anthropology Department Talk Series



RACIAL FORMATION BETWEEN THE TWO SUDANS



ZACHARY MONDESIRE
Zachary Mondesire is a new member of BU's Pardee School of Global Studies. Mondesire is a sociocultural anthropologist who studies how transnational geopolitics become elements of everyday life. His current research focuses on the intersection of race, gender and religion in Africa as well as the institutional legacy of Pan-Africanism.

**OCTOBER 13, 2022
THURSDAY
12:00-1:30 PM**

PLS 505 232 BAY STATE RD

Oct 13: “Racial Formation Between the Two Sudans,” Zachary Mondesire

Zachary Mondesire just joined BU's Pardee School of Global Studies as an Assistant Professor of International Relations. Mondesire is a sociocultural anthropologist whose work focuses on how transnational geopolitics become elements of everyday life. His current research focuses on the intersection of race, gender, and religion in Africa as well as the institutional legacy of Pan-Africanism. His regional interests span Africa and the Middle East where he has both lived and conducted extensive fieldwork – in Egypt, South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Nov 10: “Faunal evidence for paleoenvironmental change coincident with the emergence of Acheulean technology at Gona”

12-1:30pm (PLS 505) with Visting Assistant Prof. Amanda Leiss.

Dec 8: “Fathers-in-Law and Eloping Athletes: Plebian Cities, Debts of Fidelity, and FIFA's Global Orde.”

12-1:30p (PLS 505) with Dr. Can Evren.

FACULTY GRANTS, AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

- **Alize Arican** wrote an invited piece for a book forum on Society and Space, the online publication for the journal, *Environment and Planning D*.
- **Wade Campbell** won the Cordell Prize at this year's Pecos Conference for his talk, "Diné land use in the San Juan Basin: Chaco Canyon & Chacra Mesa in regional perspective".
- **David M. Carballo** published two new articles called "Big Gods and Big Science: Further Reflections on Theory, Data, and Analysis" in *Religion, Brain & Behavior* and "Mesoamerican urbanism: Indigenous institutions, infrastructure, and resilience" in *Urban Studies*.
- **Christopher Schmitt** was selected as the 2022 faculty recipient of the Susan K. Jackson Award. This award honors those people who create and nurture community in the College of Arts & Sciences.
- **Christopher Schmitt** was elected Vice President of the American Association of Anthropological Genetics. He will serve one year as Vice President, during which time he will organize a joint symposium for AAAG with the American Association of Biological Anthropologists for their annual meeting in Reno in 2023, after which he will transition to serving as President.
- **Ayşe Parla's** article, "Hamlet after Genocide: Tehlirian's Ghost, Courtroom Politics and Empirical Fabulation," was accepted by *Comparative Studies in Society and History*.
- **Merav Shohet** was selected by the Medical Anthropology Student Association to receive the 2022 Carole H. Browner Undergraduate Student Mentorship Award.
- **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."



Carolyn Hodges-Simeon has been granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor!

GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS

Publications & Presentations

Christian Gagnon and Prof. Chris Schmitt's paper "Evidence of selection in the uncoupling protein 1 gene region suggests local adaptation to solar irradiance in savanna monkeys (*Chlorocebus* spp.)" was published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London, Series B*.

Jacob Tischer's article, "Panmemic inoculation: How Taiwan is nerfing the pandemic with cute humour," on the use of memes by the Taiwanese gov't (and public) during the pandemic was published and it received the Choice Award for Originality and Innovation from the *East Asian Journal of Popular Culture*.

Faye Harwell, alumni Dr. Lara Durgavich, and Professor Cheryl Knott published a paper which documents the sexual behaviors and menstrual cycles of orangutans: "A composite menstrual cycle of captive orangutans, with associated hormonal and behavioral variability," *American Journal of Primatology*

As part of BU CISS 's first anniversary, there was a series of **Lightning Research Talks** featuring three of our graduate students:

Trevor Lamb: Looking for Plants in Kitchen Disasters: Creating a North Pacific Reference Herbarium to Identify Ancient Plant Foods.

Amirah Fadhlina: Queer Activism, Quasi Visibility: Negotiation of Space, Bodies, and Islamist Politics among LGBTQ Youth in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Zoe Albert: What The Health?! Quantifying Health via the Microbiome in Bornean Orangutans (*Pongo Pygmaeus*) Living in Forest Areas with Different Levels of Degradation.



GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS

Grants & Awards

- **Graham Albert** and **Leyla Jafarova** received internship awards from The Office of the Associate Provost for Graduate Affairs, GRS and CISS as part of the Boston University's 2022 Summer Graduate Internships in the Social Sciences program.
- **Martin Aucoin** and **Begum Ergun** received 2022 American Ethnological Society (AES) Graduate Student Research Grants.
- **Faye Harwell** and **Mahtab Sirdani** received Cora Dubois Dissertation completion grants.
- **Amirah Fadhlina** won the GCWS 2022 PhD Writing Prize for her essay "Carpool Dakwah: Queer Mockery, Social Media Preachers, and Discourses of Gendered Expertise in Indonesia."
- **Evan McDuff** was awarded a Fulbright for their project, "Spices, Identity, and Acts of Culinary Resistance in the face of the Roman Empire," at the University of Haifa, Israel.
- **Dylan Renca** received a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (DDRA) to support fieldwork in Indonesia.
- **Jacob Tischer** and **Aizaz Youna** were selected as the fellows for the CURA Colloquium we cosponsor with the School of Theology. This year's theme will be "Religion & Authoritarianism."
- **Mel Zarate** received (along with her advisor AN Prof Christopher Schmitt) an NSF DDRGIG grant for doctoral dissertation research: "Landscape Mitogenomics and High Altitude Adaptation in Primates".

Professor Hodges Simeon and her research team in Honduras this summer



UNDERGRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS

Summer Internship

Kasandra Kue-Rojas (CAS'24), one of two Faculty Pilot Grant Research Assistants funded through the Center for Innovation in Social Science, worked with Makarand Mody, director of research and associate professor of hospitality marketing at the BU School of Hospitality Administration, on a project investigating the strategies workers in precarious service jobs develop to remain safe and flourish.



Emma Quarequio is a senior (CAS'23) majoring in Sociocultural Anthropology. This summer, she completed UROP-funded research examining how sociocultural factors such as gender, socioeconomic status, and neurotypical siblings' understandings of kinship, community, and moral responsibility shape the care they provide to their autistic siblings. She also completed her second AmeriCorps service term serving the Miami Marlins Foundation while also working as an internal Miami Marlins VISTA Intern in their Miami offices with a focus on the areas of sports philanthropy and law. During the course of her internship, she was certified as an Official MLB Ballpark Tour Guide!



Kennedy Williams (CAS'23), a senior majoring in Biological Anthropology was tapped into the Scarlet Key Honors Society this week!



DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

Follow us on instagram! *@buanthropology*

Earlier this year in April, we launched our official Instagram page [@buanthropology](https://www.instagram.com/buanthropology).

So far, we have been updating all of our ongoing and future events as stories and posts.



In addition to the news, we just recently started a campaign to feature more faces of BU Anthropology: undergrad, grad, alumni, faculty, etc. Since the weekend of 9.30-10.2 is BU Alumni Weekend, we created posts highlighting the careers that anthro grads enter and a few undergrad and grad alumni. Follow us on Instagram to stay updated on all department events and all things happening around campus!

News Submission Form

Do you have any news you would like to share with us?

Now you can go to bu.edu/anthrop/send-us-your-news/ to tell us about it!

We will update all news to our website, Facebook, Twitter, and compile them for our newsletters. Check out what everyone is up to at

bu.edu/anthrop/community/department-news/

Student Resources

bu.edu/anthrop/student-resources/

The Co-Directors of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) for the 2022-23 Academic Year are Prof. Merav Shohet and Prof. Carolyn Hodges-Simeon.

The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) for Fall 2022 is Prof. Robert Weller. Prof. Kimberly Arkin will take over as DGS for Spring 2023.

Follow Anthropology in the Works [@anthroworksbu](https://www.instagram.com/anthroworksbu) !

Alumni Resources

bu.edu/anthrop/alumni-resources/

Want to be featured on our page? Fill out the [Alumni Spotlight form](#). We will contact you when your spotlight is posted!

Thank you!

click the icons for more

Follow us on social media!

@buanthropology



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 us at anthro@bu.edu or 617-353-2195

Veronica Little, Department Administrator, vcittle@bu.edu

Derek Healey, Graduate Program Administrator, dhealey2@bu.edu

Nancy J. Smith-Hefner, smhefner@bu.edu

If you want to help support the Anthropology Department:

DONATE

Copyright (C) 2022 BU Anthropology. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

BU Anthropology

232 Bay State Rd

Boston, MA 02215-1403