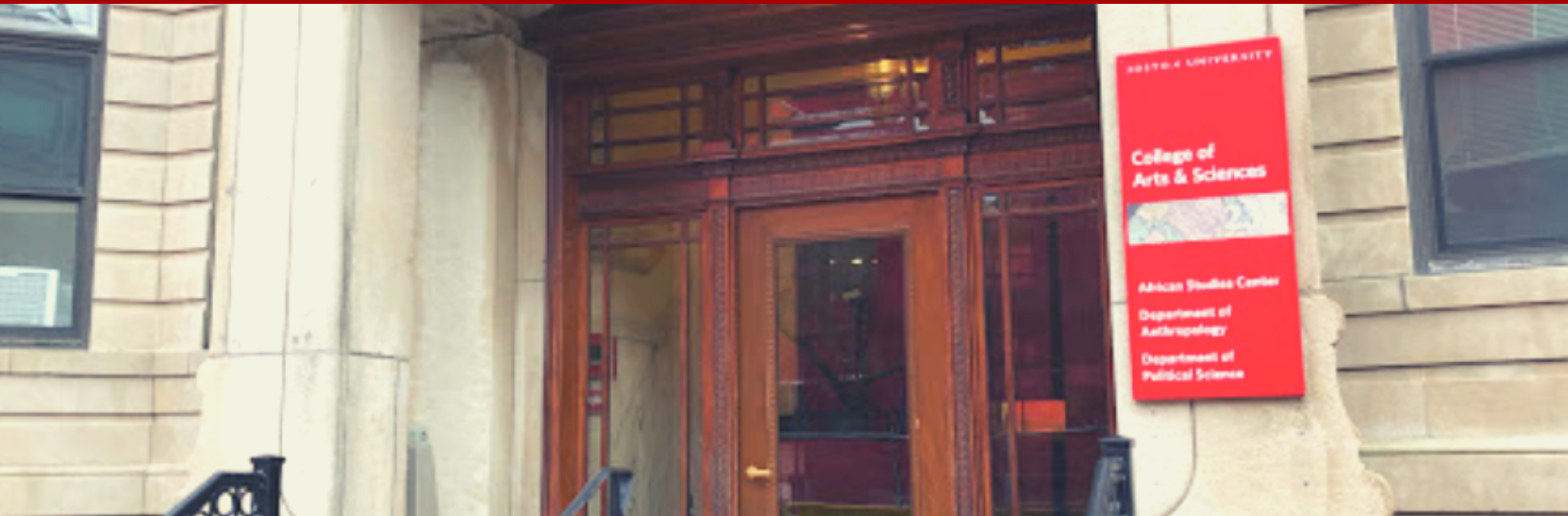


ALUMNI ISSUE | ISSUE 9

BU Anthropology News

The official newsletter of the Boston University Department of Anthropology



WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY'S ALUMNI EDITION

The Department dedicates the March edition of its newsletter to showcasing a sampling of our alums and the exciting things that they have gone on to achieve. We hope our graduates will continue to keep in touch so that we can spread the word about their lives and accomplishments. The feedback we have received on our efforts is encouraging and several alums report reconnecting after years of being out of touch! The Department continues to offer new and exciting programs that support our students' success. Our new undergraduate specialization in Anthropology, Health, and Medicine, and new MA degree in Public Anthropology are both attracting new students. In AY2021-22, the department was awarded funding for two innovative Emerging Scholars Programs. Prof Kimberly Arkin organized the first, "Addressing Systemic Racism in Health and Medicine," workshop in the fall of 2021; Prof Chris Schmitt is coordinating the second, "Race and Racism in Anthropological Genetics and Genomics," panel which will happen in May. In both cases, bright, young scholars from marginalized groups are invited to campus to engage with our undergraduate and graduate students on critical and timely issues surrounding racial diversity, equity, and justice.

GIVING DAY

April 6, 2022

This newsletter also coincides with BU's Giving Day, scheduled for April 6. Giving Day offers a moment when friends, students, staff and faculty, can show their support for Boston University and, more specifically, for the Department of Anthropology. Last year was the first year the Department participated actively in Giving Day and we won the "most improved" award and a \$10,000 gift from the university! Over the past year, we have used that money for a variety of important programs and purchases. We gave money to the undergraduate Anthropology in the Works club to fund their activities; we added to the Graduate Student fund for conferences and travel; we bought new office chairs and lamps for teaching fellow and adjunct offices; we threw an end-of-the-year department picnic on the Charles and a fall welcome back gyros party; and we replaced an outdated computer in the graduate lounge. We also purchased a 3D scanner and a storage box for casts. The scanner is available for use by all of our faculty and students, but is especially welcomed by the biological faculty for use in creating 3D renderings of casts, bones, and fossils.



While we don't anticipate beating last year's donations record, every gift, no matter how small, is appreciated and is used to support department programs and initiatives.

Keep reading to hear about the wonderful things our alumni have been doing!



AMALIA SA'AR

GRS 2000



Amalia Sa'ar is an associate professor and chair of the Anthropology Dept. at the University of Haifa. She is also a feminist peace activist. Her main research topics include the intersections of gender, class and citizenship among the Palestinian citizens of Israel, feminist perspectives on security among Jews and Palestinians, articulations of citizenship

under neoliberalism, and generational relations in the Israeli feminist movement. In the past she also engaged in several participatory action research projects. Her first book, *Economic Citizenship: Neoliberal Paradoxes of Empowerment* (Berghahn Books, 2016) documents economic empowerment projects of low-income Jewish and Palestinian women. Her more recent book, *Diversity: Palestinian career women in Israel* (2021, Open University Press, in Hebrew), was written in collaboration with her former PhD student Hawazin Younis. This book documents the journeys of Palestinian women medical doctors, lawyers, and high tech engineers, and applies a critical lens to the idea of diversity employment. Her forthcoming article in *Current Anthropology* draws on both these projects and offers an intersectional analysis of economic citizenship among Palestinians in Israel. Her two newest projects look at religious women in Israel. One focuses on career women and the newest one – on fashion. They are both comparative and collaborative. Do look out for them!

[Click here to find all of Amalia's publications on her website!](#)

TENZIN JINBA

GRS 2011

Tenzin Jinba is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore. Since his appointment at NUS in 2015, he has been exploring such new research areas as the world-system analysis, postcolonial critiques and academic dependency. He has recently co-edited a [special issue with the Journal of Historical Sociology](#) to problematize the remaining academic dependency (such as dependence on the West for theory or ideas and for its recognition) in East Asia and Singapore. He has also [published an article](#) to



inquire about the broader implications of the rise of China for the existing world-systems and global order. In a way, the roles of China in the ongoing pandemic and Ukraine-Russian conflicts serve as a remarkable footnote to or a vivid illustration about China's phenomenal rise and its far-reaching global repercussions. Having said this, he delves further into his research interests in ethnicity, resistance, cultural survival and state-society relations on which his dissertation and first book focuses ([*In the Land of The Eastern Queendom: The Politics of Gender and Ethnicity on the Sino-Tibetan Border*](#)). He is currently anticipating a contract with a major university press for his new book manuscript, entitled *The Shadow of the Aristocrat: The Portrait of A "Beggar Lama."* This ethnographic memoir focuses on a "lonely campaign" of a lama-turned intellectual to rescue Tibetan culture from its fast disappearing in the Sino-Tibetan borderlands.

Tenzin would like to share with everyone an exciting piece of news. His department at NUS is going to be renamed as the Department of Sociology and Anthropology to formally acknowledge the role and significance of anthropology in the department and at the university (this department was founded by an anthropologist indeed in 1966 and nearly half of the faculty members are now anthropologists). So, starting August 2022, his department will host the first batch of students to major in anthropology. This creates great momentum for his anthropologist and like-minded colleagues at NUS to build a dynamic hub of anthropological training and research in Asia. This can be broadly seen as an inevitable step to "indigenize" or "localize" anthropology and social sciences in Asian contexts and traditions.

SUMANTO AL QURTUBY

GRS 2013



Sumanto Al Qurtuby is a faculty member in the Department of Global & Social Studies and an affiliate of the IRC for Finance and Digital Economy, KFUPM Business School, King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals, Saudi Arabia. Previously, he was a research fellow at the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and a senior research scholar at the Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore. He is

also the founder and director of the Nusantara Institute, a research institution focusing on the study of Indonesian culture and religion. The institute runs academic seminars, supports publications of books which are free to the public in digital form, as well as publishing working papers and essays on relevant topics. Annually, the institute sponsors the Nusantara Academic Award, a national competition to select top doctorate/master's theses, and the Nusantara Writing Grant, a nationwide contest to choose the best doctoral dissertation/master's thesis writing proposals on themes related to the institute's platform. Each year, the institute receives more than 250 applicants for the award and grant competitions.

An active commentator on social media, especially Facebook, with a personal account that has attracted more than 240,000 followers, Sumanto has authored and edited more than 30 books, dozens of scholarly articles, and hundreds of popular essays in both English and Indonesian languages on issues around Islam, public religion, Muslim politics and cultures, interfaith cooperation, as well as ethno-religious conflict and peacebuilding. His books include *Religious Violence and Conciliation in Indonesia* (Routledge, 2016), *Saudi Arabia and Indonesian Networks: Migration, Education and Islam* (I.B. Tauris & Bloomsbury, 2019), and *Terrorism and Counterterrorism in Saudi Arabia and Indonesia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022 forthcoming). He is now drafting a monograph on Muslim-Christian relations in Indonesia.

JACOB NEGREY

GRS 2019

Since graduating in 2019, **Jacob Negrey** has continued his study of the ecology of ill health, biological aging, and age-related diseases in nonhuman primates. From 2019 to 2020, he was a Research Associate in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he used genome sequencing methods to identify and quantify viruses hosted by wild chimpanzees. The first two journal articles resulting from this project were published in

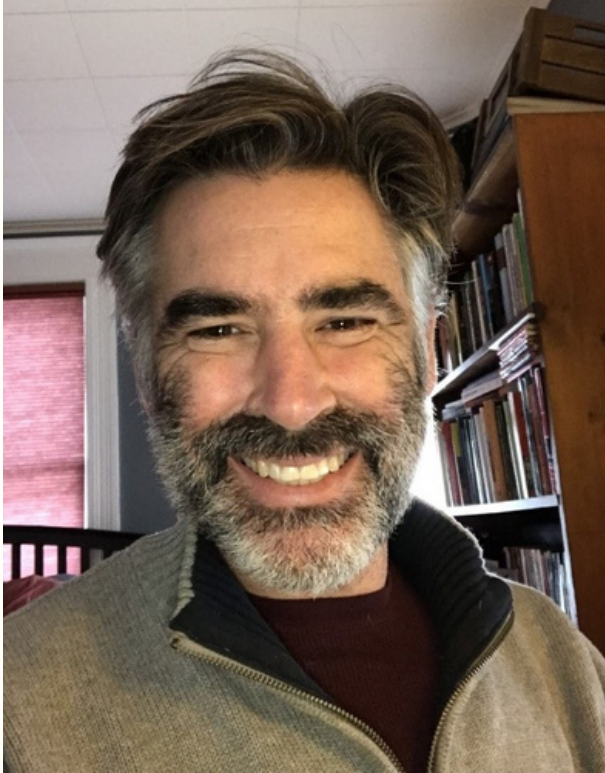


Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B (2020) and the *American Journal of Primatology* (2022). Jacob's ongoing research with chimpanzees addresses trade-offs between viral infection and reproduction as well as links between aging, environment, and physiological function, focusing on the causes and consequences of group-level variation in chimpanzee life expectancy.

Currently, as a Research Fellow in the Department of Pathology at Wake Forest School of Medicine, Jacob has dived into the study of neurobiological aging and disease in vervet monkeys. He is investigating genetic drivers of disease neuropathology (with a focus on Alzheimer's disease), effects of diet on brain structure and function, and age-related links between social behavior and physical function.

CHRISTOPHER ANNEAR

GRS 2010



Chris Annear is currently an Associate Professor of Anthropology and department chair at Hobart and William Smith Colleges (Geneva, NY). His newest research is an exploration into questions of cuisine, nationhood, and citizenship, with ongoing work on narratives of development and sociocultural life in freshwater fisheries. He reports that this new project will be transcontinental, between spaces in Southern Africa and East/Southeast Asia. In two recent publications, he coauthored work on culinary scale and nationalism in Vietnam. Is “Vietnamese cuisine” a national entity or are there a variety of discrete though related regional tastes &

culinary practices that comprise what we may refer to as Vietnamese food? He found that there is tension to this cultural and political question--and that its uncertainty is productive to teaching students in study abroad programs.

His concurrent research focuses on how partisan narratives of development sculpt physical and ideological spaces in closer to home, in Geneva, NY. Along with his coauthors, he is studying how people use stories about the past and future to construct a city in the present.

Chris’ past work, including his PhD research, considers the relationship between an ethnically heterogeneous population and an ecologically dynamic fishery in South-Central Africa. He is particularly interested in how communities adapt to variable environments and the effectiveness of management and legislation of these areas. He examines how people living on this fishery maintain its sustainability as a shared natural resource; how external constraints such as laws governance and historical circumstances affect constituent behaviors and choices; and how this ecologically dynamic fishery constrains some human communities but politically endows others. Chris writes, “I tip my cap (and fieldwork notebook) to my wonderful mentors in BU Anthropology and African Studies for training me to learn so broadly!”

ELEANOR SHOREMAN OUMET

GRS 2009

Elle Ouimet is an environmental anthropologist who studies human-environment interactions, cross-cultural conservation practices, community response to natural hazards and the effects of climate change, and the links between culture, history, economics, environmental ethics and resource management. She is concerned with anthropological approaches to the study of environmental repair, the influence of anthropocentrism



in the social sciences, and facilitating cooperative efforts between anthropologists and conservation groups. Her research interests also include environmental education, anti-environmentalism, and the role of rural elite and cultural ideology in community-based conservation initiatives.

Elle writes, “My husband Will and I welcomed our third child, Mayze Jane, in March 2020 and I started a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor in Environment and Human Interactions in the Department of Anthropology at UConn this past August. My work these days is primarily focused on interdisciplinary disaster research, climate change, green energy transitions, and environmental justice; although I am still working with students on topics related to wildlife and environmental conservation in a range of settings, as well. I’ll be presenting a paper on Interdisciplinary disaster research and the need for ethnographic engagement at the SfAAs this month. I look forward to hearing what everyone has been up to - thanks for reaching out!”

SHAUN KINGSLEY MALARNEY

CLA 1987



Shaun Kingsley Malarney is Professor of Anthropology at International Christian University in western Tokyo. In the decade after completing his PhD at the University of Michigan in 1993, his research focused on revolutionary changes in culture and ritual in northern Vietnam and also the resurgence of previously suppressed ritual practices in the post-1986 period. This research, which combined both fieldwork and historical research, was the focus of his 2002 monograph *Culture, Ritual and Revolution in Vietnam*. In 2001 he began a new research project that explores Vietnamese encounters with French colonial infectious disease control

policies, particularly the practice of confining Vietnamese with suspected or diagnosed infectious diseases in colonial medical facilities. As part of this project, he translated and annotated the Vietnamese writer Vũ Trọng Phụng's classic 1937 reportage, *Lục Xi: Prostitution and Venereal Disease in Colonial Hanoi* (2011), that examined the *Dispensaire Municipale*, a facility used by colonial authorities for the confinement of female sex workers with suspected or confirmed venereal disease infections. He is also completing another monograph, entitled *Medical Confinement and Infectious Disease Control in Colonial Northern Vietnam, 1884-1940*, that looks at Vietnamese experiences of these policies in other facilities, such as *lazarets* and *leprosaria*. He has also been conducting research on sport hunting ethics and in 2020 published "Defining the True Hunter: Big Game Hunting, Moral Distinction, and Virtuosity in French Colonial Indochina," which examined the sport hunting ethic of European big game hunters in colonial Indochina. His work has appeared in *American Ethnologist*, *The Journal of Asian Studies*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *The Journal of Vietnamese Studies*, and other journals and book chapters. He will be concluding his professorship in Tokyo in March 2023 and moving back to Boston. He is greatly looking forward to reconnecting with the BU anthropology community after his return.

JULIA HUANG

GRS 2001

Julia Huang is a cultural anthropologist and artist with Chinese language skills and significant research, publishing, and teaching experience. She has conducted extensive fieldwork and academic leadership in Asia, with a strong focus on designing and developing research projects and curriculum, consulting for Asian societies and qualitative methods, and promoting multiculturalism and anti-racism.



Julia is the author of numerous journal articles and two leading books on non-profit, humanitarianism, charity, philanthropy, Buddhism, and Asia studies: *Charisma and Compassion: Cheng Yen and the Buddhist Tzu Chi Movement* (Harvard University Press, 2009), an award-winning ethnography of the largest Chinese Buddhist non-profit in the world; and *Religion and Charity: The Social Life of Goodness in Chinese Societies* (co-authored, Cambridge University Press, 2018), a groundbreaking ethnography of religious philanthropy in China, Taiwan, and Malaysia.

Julia currently resides in both Park City, Utah, and Chicago, Illinois, where she is Adjunct Faculty at DePaul University's Department of Anthropology. She is also an artist, and her website contains a portfolio of sketches, landscape paintings, sculptures, and more. She says: "I am infatuated by the unlimited possibilities of colors and I love rendering the images in my head and on canvas. I am moving onto my latest phase of mixture: writing/drawing."

ALUMNI SHORTS

MS in Biology, 2021 **Laura Angley**

While a Master's student in Anthropology's Sensory Morphology and Anthropological Genomics Lab, Laura won the Denton Award for Outstanding Master's Thesis in Biology for her thesis, Post-Release Survival Rates and Welfare of Rehabilitated Vervet Monkeys in Malawi. Since then, Laura worked with the Green Restaurant Association for a year, helping to ensure that local restaurants adhere to environmentally conscious practices, and has since moved on to work as a Research Manager for the Lincoln Park Zoo Project Chimpanzee Welfare Assessment Initiative.

Becca de Camp *CAS Biological Anthropology, 2020*

While an undergraduate in the Sensory Morphology and Anthropological Genomics Lab (Advisor: Dr. Eva Garrett), Becca won the Research Excellence Award in Anthropology for her Honors Thesis, Investigating the Genetic Evolution of Olfaction in Strepsirrhine Primates. She has since begun work as a Ph.D. student in the lab of Dr. Christina Bergey at Rutgers University.

CAS Biological Anthropology, 2019 **Stacy-Anne Parke**

While an undergraduate in the Sensory Morphology and Anthropological Genomics Lab (Advisor: Dr. Christopher Schmitt), Stacy won the Research Excellence Award in Anthropology, as well as an IDEAS Fellowship for the American Association of Biological Anthropologists. After graduating, Stacy worked in science education in Miami Public Schools for a year, preparing interactive science engagement activities. She then enrolled in the Master's program in Biological Anthropology at Florida Atlantic University where, in the lab of Dr. Kate Detwiler, she established a de novo genomics assembly pipeline for sequencing the genomes of newly discovered wild primates in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She was recently accepted into the Ph.D. program in Biological Anthropology at New York University and the New York Consortium for Evolutionary Primatology working with Dr. James Higham.

Melissa Hurtado *CAS Biological Anthropology, 2022*

Melissa (BA/MA Archaeology and BA biological anthropology '22) recently received a fellowship through the American Conservation Experience with the Cultural Resources Office of Interpretation and Education at the Department of the Interior. Her job is to oversee and develop educational material for the Telling All American Stories and Discover Our Shared Heritage Program, telling underrepresented stories in National Parks and Historic Sites, as well as the first-ever Latino Subject Site for the National Park Service.

ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

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SUPPORT BU ANTHROPOLOGY!



Professor Carolyn Hodges-Simeon holding the Department's new 3D Scanner purchased with last year's Giving Day donations.

This is only a small sample of the department's terrific alums and the exciting work they have been doing. If you would like to be included in future newsletters, please let us know. We would love to include your news!

Contact: vclittle@bu.edu or smhefner@bu.edu

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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:

Nancy J. Smith-Hefner, Professor and Department Chair, smhefner@bu.edu
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