

WINTER 2024 | ISSUE 17

BU Anthropology News

The official newsletter of the Boston University Department of Anthropology



WINTER 2024

Welcome back! Spring semester is just beginning and we are looking forward to several exciting events! Be on the lookout for several Department Talks and Emerging Scholars lectures in February and March, and join us in celebrating the retirement of four beloved professors at a send off bash on March 6th. We are also looking forward to our second annual Barth lecture in the spring, made possible with Giving Day donations and an especially generous gift from Prof. Tom Barfield—we are thrilled to announce that this year's speaker will be Dr. Anna Tsing from UC Santa Cruz. Be sure to check the Department website and our Facebook page, Anthropology in the Works, and follow us on Instagram for updates @buanthropology.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2.28 Department Talk - Dr. Amy Moran-Thomas
- 3.6 Emerging Scholars Event: *"Interrogating our Origins: Decolonizing the Narrative of Human Evolution"*
- 3.19/20 Emerging Scholars Event: *"Ethnographic Insights: New Perspectives on Gender, Marriage, & Family"*
- 3.27 Fredrik Barth Lecture with Dr. Anna Tsing

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ADMINISTRATORS!

REBECCA WRIGHT

Graduate Program Coordinator

Rebecca Wright is a new arrival to BU from just up the street at 8 Fenway, where she was previously the Circulation Supervisor at The Boston Conservatory's Alphin Library. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Portland State University and The Boston Conservatory, and is an avid reader, writer, poet, and lyricist, with a particular interest in musical theater. She is deeply invested in student success, incurably curious about people and the world, and is looking forward to getting to know the graduate students and faculty of the Anthropology Department and their areas of research.



MACKENZIE ARNOLDS

Undergraduate Program Coordinator

Mackenzie is a familiar face around the department, having been a work study office assistant throughout her time as an undergrad. She graduated from BU in 2023 with a degree in Film & Television, and eventually found her way back to the department. She is passionate about writing, reading, and film, and takes full advantage of her AMC Stubs membership. You can speak to her if you have any undergraduate programming or departmental questions, or if you just want to chat TV!



BU ANTHROPOLOGY SAYS GOODBYE TO FOUR BELOVED PROFESSORS

Shahla Haeri has been with the department since 1993. A former director of the Women's Studies Program at Boston University, she is one of the pioneers of Iranian Anthropology, and has produced cutting-edge ethnographies of Iran, Pakistan and the Muslim world.



Merry "Corky" White joined the department in 1987 and has left a strong impression with her vibrant personality and passion for food, Japanese studies and travel--all of which dominate her research and class offerings. She has published an abundance of work, including two cookbooks and many essays, chapters, articles and more.



Frank Korom has been with the department since 1998 as Professor of Religion and of Anthropology. His research has focused on South Asia, Tibet, and the Caribbean, with a theoretical emphasis on the interaction of religious traditions and their transformations over time and space.



Matt Cartmill joined the department in 2008 and has published more than a hundred scholarly and popular works on the evolution of people and other animals and on the history and philosophy of evolutionary biology. While known among faculty for his wide-ranging knowledge, he is perhaps best known to his students for his vibrant sense of humor.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Anthropology Department Winter 2024

2/28

Department Talk with Dr. Amy Moran-Thomas, Associate Professor of Anthropology, MIT & author of *Traveling with Sugar: Chronicles of a Global Epidemic*

Emerging Scholars Program

We have two upcoming Emerging Scholars programs, which involve inviting young scholars from under-represented minority groups to present their work and interact with graduate students and faculty in workshops, classroom visits, and symposia.

3/6

Emerging Scholars - “Interrogating our Origins: Decolonizing the Narrative of Human Evolution”

3/19-20

Emerging Scholars - “Ethnographic Insights: New Perspectives on Gender, Marriage, & Family”

Annual Fredrik Barth Distinguished Lecture Series



SAVE THE DATE!
27
MARCH 2024
DR. ANNA TSING
COMES TO BU!
3PM
CDS 1750

FREDRIK BARTH

LECTURE SERIES

@buanthropology

ANTHROPOLOGY BU

The Fredrik Barth Distinguished Lecture Series intends to foster discussion and debate on the relationship between individual knowledge and action in the world in the context of contemporary complex societies.

This year's speaker is **Dr. Anna Tsing**, Professor of Anthropology, UC Santa Cruz.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Awards, Grants, Publications, Research

Rongrong Xu has successfully defended her dissertation: *Miracle of Backwardness: A Lay Daoism for Young People in Contemporary China*.

Christian Gagnon has successfully defended his dissertation: *The Evolutionary History and Adaptive Significance of UCP1-Mediated Thermogenesis in Primates*. He will be taking the next step in his career this January when he moves to Leipzig, Germany to begin a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Dr. Genevieve Housman's lab at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.

Tong Xin, along with a colleague, won first place in the 3rd Young Curators Competition organized by the Chinese National Museum of Ethnology. The competition encourages young scholars to use curation to engage the public with museum anthropology and ethnographic work. Their exhibition plan is "Materiality and Entanglement in Teoswa: Clues of Im/mobility."

Hazal Aydın received an award from the AAA for her master's research. She has been awarded the Middle East Section Student Paper Prize for her inspiring paper, "Open Body, Theatrical Intimacy, and Sexual Harassment: Understanding Gendered Embodiments Through Turkey's Theatre Industry."

Leyla Jafarova received an award from the AAA Society for Visual Anthropology for her masterful and harrowing ethnographic film "We live with maybes: Searching for missing relatives in post-war Azerbaijan."

Sarah Lewinger has a new publication:

"Educating Ideal Neoliberal Citizens: Discourses of Agency and Responsibility in Comprehensive Sexuality Education." *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters* 31, no. 1 (2023):

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/26410397.2023.226720>

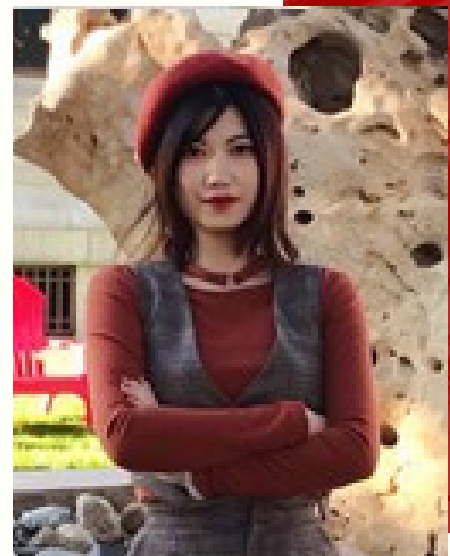
STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS

Annika Schmeding (GRS '20) has published a book on Afghan Sufi communities, *Sufi Civilities*. Early reviews for the book have been highly positive. Professor Alatas from New York University describes it as “engaging, compelling, and beautifully written,” while Professor Nile Green from the University of California hails it as a “major contribution to the study of modern Afghanistan.”



Erica Larson (GRS '19) has a new book out with the University of Hawaii Press, *Ethics of Belonging: Education, Religion, and Politics in Manado, Indonesia*.

Rongrong Xu (GRS '24) is now an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Xiamen University.



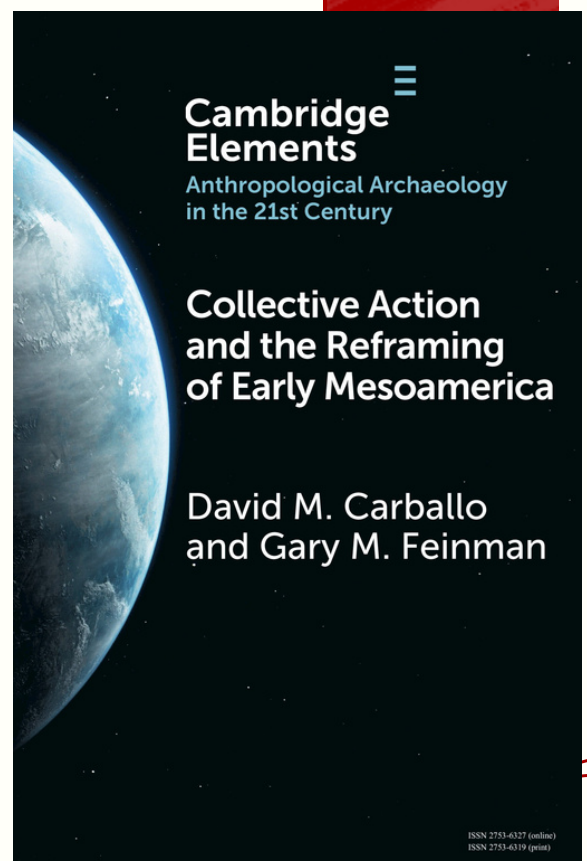
FACULTY GRANTS, AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

Merav Shohet published a new article in *American Anthropologist*:
Shohet, Merav. 2023. "Silenced Resentments and Regrets: Aging in a
Changing Kibbutz." *American Anthropologist* 125(4): 896-899.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/aman.13921>

Fallou Ngom and **Dr. Daivi Rodima-Taylor** co-edited a special issue
in *Islamic Africa* (vols. 14.2 and 15.1), titled "Ajami Literacies of Africa:
The Wolof, Mandinka, Hausa, and Fula Traditions" (with David
Robinson and Rebecca Shereikis). The double special issue situates
African Ajami studies within participatory multimedia and digital
archiving approaches, and centers around the knowledge generated
through the African Ajami [n]research project funded by the National
Endowment for the Humanities. You can read more about the special
issue here: <https://sites.bu.edu/nehajami/blog/>

Chris Schmitt has been awarded a Leaky Foundation Grant for his
project, "Fission-Fusion Dynamics in a High-Altitude Atelin Primate
(*Lagothrix flavicauda*)."

David Carballo's has new book, *Collective Action and
the Reframing of Early Mesoamerica*, with Gary
Feinman. It can be found in *Cambridge Elements:
Elements in Anthropological Archaeology in the 21st
Century*. You can view the book here:
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/elements/collective-action-and-the-reframing-of-early-mesoamerica/7977197F5C70EE1EAB24COEBE647C813>



In Memoriam



*We remember fondly Jane Guyer, former
Professor of Anthropology and the African
Studies Center at Boston University.
She passed away in January 2024.*

Jane Guyer (1943-2024)

DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

Follow us on Instagram!
@buanthropology

Want to stay up to date on important Spring 2024 dates? Want to stay in connect with department going-ons during the summer? Follow us on Instagram to stay up to date on all the latest Anthro news!



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 Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) for 2023-24 is Prof. Merav Shoheit.

The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) for 2023-24 is Prof. Kimberly Arkin.

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

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If you want to help support the Anthropology Department:

DONATE

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