

SPRING 2024 | ISSUE 18

BU Anthropology News

The official newsletter of the Boston University Department of Anthropology



SPRING 2024

Happy End of the Semester! Welcome Spring! In our final newsletter for the AY 2023-2024 we want to celebrate the achievements of our undergraduates, graduates, alumni, and faculty. This semester the Department sponsored two exciting Emerging Scholars' events and the Annual Barth Lecture in Sociocultural Anthropology, and hosted a celebration in honor of four retiring faculty members. We held a successful search for a Latin Americanist and hired Steven Schwartz who will be joining us in the Fall. Four faculty members won prestigious college or university awards. For more details, keep reading and be sure to check the Department website and our Facebook page, Anthropology in the Works, and follow us on Instagram for updates @buanthropology.

SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

- A celebration of four retiring faculty members
- Two successful Emerging Scholars' events & our 2nd Annual Barth Lecture with Dr. Anna Tsing
- The hiring of a new faculty member, Assistant Professor Steven Schwartz
- Four prestigious faculty awards

RETIREMENT PARTY

The Department of Anthropology hosted a widely attended Retirement Party for our cherished colleagues: Matt Cartmill, Shahla Haeri, Frank Korom, and Merry (Corky) White.



RETIREMENT PARTY CONT.

Events held in Spring 2024



THE 2ND ANNUAL BARTH LECTURE

Events held in Spring 2024



In March we conducted our second annual Barth Lecture and were privileged to have renowned anthropologist Dr. Anna Tsing as our speaker.

Dr. Anna Tsing is a Professor in the Anthropology Department at UCSC. Her publications include: *In the Realm of the Diamond Queen: Marginality in an Out-of-the-Way Place*, *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection* and *The Mushroom at the End of the World*. Her lecture, *Stretching the Swamp*, took listeners to the west coast of Papua to consider more-than-human livelihoods nurtured in mud—and the ways that Indigenous Papuans work to extend, rather than drain, the swamps.

The Fredrik Barth Lecture Series intends to continue Fredrik Barth's legacy one of the greatest anthropologist's of the 20th century and a beloved BU professor by fostering discussion and debate on the relationship between individual knowledge and action in the world in the context of contemporary complex societies.

If you'd like to support the ongoing legacy of Fredrik Barth and help the continuation of the Annual Lecture series, **you may make a gift here.**



Please write:
"Fredrik Barth
Memorial
Fund" in the
field box

EMERGING SCHOLARS EVENTS

Spring 2024

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



Emerging Scholars
Interrogating Our Origins: Decolonizing the Narrative of Human Evolution
 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024
 HOWARD THURMAN CENTER
 ROOM 104, 808 COMM AVE



9:00-9:55 am  **DR. MICHELLE CAMERON**
Dismantling the House: Engaging with the Legacy of Biological Anthropology
 Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Toronto

10:00-10:45am  **ALISHA ANAYA**
Morphological Differentiation of the Hands and Feet: Understanding the Origins of Limb Diversification
 Doctoral Candidate in Evolutionary Anthropology, Duke University

10:50-11:35am  **DR. MAYOWA ADEGBOYEGA**
Improving Hip Surgery Outcomes With Hominin Fossil Insights
 Postdoctoral Associate Researcher in Evolutionary Anthropology, Duke University

11:40-12:25pm  **TEWABE NEGASH**
Colonizing the Uncolonized: Paleoanthropology as a Colonial Legacy in Ethiopia
 Doctoral Student in Biological Anthropology, Colorado State University

2:00-2:30pm  **DR. SHEELA ATHREYA**
 Panel Moderator
 Professor of Anthropology, Presidential Impact Fellow



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



EMERGING SCHOLARS
Ethnographic Insights: New Perspectives on Gender, Marriage, & Family

WITH
IZEM ARAL UCLA
FERDA DEMIRCI U TORONTO
DANIELLE LUCERO DARTMOUTH

Join us for brief presentations of cutting edge scholarship in Anthropology and WGS, which pushes our thinking about gender, marriage, intimate relationships, and family formation.

WED 20 MARCH
 HOWARD THURMAN CENTER
 12-2PM FLR 205
 LUNCH PROVIDED

BRIEF RESPONSES BY BU GRADUATE STUDENTS: FATHIMATH ANU AHMED ANTHROPOLOGY, HAFSA ABAIN ANTHROPOLOGY, LIV JACOBS AMERICAN STUDIES



GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Awards, Grants, Publications, Research

- **Begüm Egun** received the Wenner-Gren Dissertation Research Grant for dissertation field research in Turkey
- **Anu Ahmed** successfully defended her dissertation: *Situating Selves: 'Self-Illness' and Living Ethical 'Modern' Lives in Contemporary Māle, Maldives*
 - Anu will also begin her tenure track faculty position at the University of Rochester Department of Anthropology this summer
- **Jessica Hlay** successfully defended her dissertation: *The Evolutionary, Ontogenetic, and Environmental Origins of Pathogen Disgust Sensitivity*
 - Jessica will continue research in Utila, Honduras this fall after conducting lab work at Washington State University over the summer.
- **Christian Gagnon** successfully defended his dissertation, *The Evolutionary History and Adaptive Significance of UCP1-Mediated Thermogenesis in Primates* in December of 2023. He is working as a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Dr. Genevieve Housman's lab at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany.
- **Rongrong Xu** defended her thesis, "Miracle of Backwardness: A Lay Daoism for Young People in Contemporary China" in November of 2023 and is now an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Xiamen University.
- **Gabriel Vicencio** was awarded the Archaeology Program's Outstanding Teaching Fellow for the 2023-2024 academic year
- **Samantha Nadel** was awarded the dissertation fellowship at the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry at the Science History Institute for the 2024-2025 year
- **Leyla Jafarova** received a BUCH Award. "The award recognizes excellence in the humanistic tradition, which holds an important place in the history and future of Boston University.
- **Xuyi Zhao** has been awarded a Bloom Dissertation Fellowship.

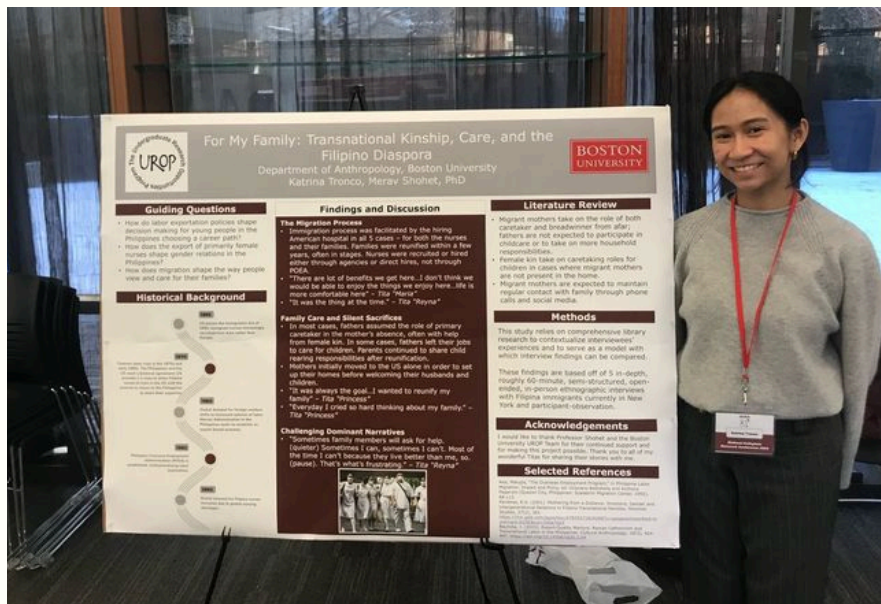
GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Awards, Grants, Publications, Research

- **Hafsa Arain** is the recipient of the 2nd annual CAS Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access, and Leadership (IDEAL) Awards. “The CAS IDEAL award honors CAS community members annually for leadership that advances the College’s strategic diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities and best exemplifies CAS’s aspiration to create a welcoming and inclusive community for all.”
- **WarrenKevin Henderson, Ana Barun & Hazal Aydın** have received GRAF funding for research.
- **Hannah Howard** was the recipient of this year’s Department of Anthropology Outstanding Teaching Fellow award. She has also been awarded a Lake Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, a P.E.O Scholar Award, the Orthodox Studies NEH Dissertation Completion Fellowship, and a Bloom Fellowship.
- **Peter Kovacik** has been awarded a Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (NSF-DDRIG) entitled “Effects of Colonial Policy on Land Use.”
- **Mel Zarate** has been awarded Graduate Internship Funding from the BU Graduate School of Arts & Science to extend her NSF-funded internship with Zoo New England’s Conservation Genomics Lab at The Broad Institute. Her project, Investigating the genetics of cardiomyopathy in captive gorillas, involves whole genome sequencing to assess potential genetic susceptibility to heart failure, a common cause of death in captive gorillas.
- **Rumana Mehdi** has received the 2024 Boston University Women's Council Award from the Boston University Women’s Guild. The award letter states that Rumana was “one of 217 applicants, remarkable women embarking on or extending a wide range of careers in scholarship, teaching, the arts, finance or fundamental research that seeks to make our world a better place.”
- **Haylee Backs** has been awarded a Short Term GRUF for summer research

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

- **Katrina Tronco** (junior undergrad in sociocultural) presented her UROP project "For my Family: Transnational Kinship, Care and the Filipino Diaspora" at Harvard's National Collegiate Research Conference



- **Birdie Gile** (sociocultural junior), **Naomi Alexander** (sociocultural junior), **Poppy Livingstone** (sociocultural sophomore), and **Katrina Tronco** (sociocultural junior) were each selected by the BU Center for the Humanities Executive Committee as one of the recipients of endowed funds given by Alice M. Brennan for excellence in the humanistic tradition.
- **Gee Won (Robin) Kim** successfully defended her honors thesis "Urban Seoul and the Remaking of Korean Culture in Public Spaces"
- **Emily Schwartz** successfully defended her honors thesis "Who Sees Whom? Visibility Across Socioeconomic Classes in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil"

ALUMNI NEWS

- **Laura Heath-Stout** recently completed a multi-year project on Inequities in Anthropological Research Funding
- **Gana Ndiaye**, a PhD Alum, accepted a job offer from Yale University, and will join their Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Program as Assistant Professor starting July 1, 2024.
- **Andrea DiGiorgio** published the following: Effects of Captions on Viewers' Perceptions of Images Depicting Human-Primate Interaction (Freund, Cronin, Huang, Robinson, Yoo, DiGiorgio, 2023) Conservation Biology; Wildlife selfies harm animals: Even when scientists share images with warnings with captions The Conversation, Feb 14 2024
- **Feyza Burak Adli** will be a 2024 Visiting Research Fellow at ZMO (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient) in Berlin, Germany for the research unit “Contested Religion and Intellectual Culture.” Feyza also won the 2024 Best Paper Prize at the annual Conference of the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics held in Chicago in January. Her paper was titled “The Sufi Ethics of Neoliberal Aesthetics: Female Religious Authority, Gender, and Class in Turkey.”
- **Dat Nguyen’s** position as researcher at the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences), became permanent on April 1. One of his main roles at the institute is to develop a new research line on the topic of violence and the environment, examining the impact of warfare and mass violence on the environment, and vice versa. Together with a colleague, Dat is investigating the multi-generational impact of Agent Orange on the people and ecologies in Vietnam. The other line of research that he is pursuing is on the issue of veteran welfare and care in Vietnam, including how veterans engage with religion to cope with psychological and physical wounds.

ALUMNI NEWS

- **Chun-Yi Sum**, CGS lecturer of social sciences at BU, is working with the Mosuo, a matrilineal group of about 40,000 people living in southwest China, to explore gender and ethnicity in contemporary China
- **Martha Lagace** writes that 2023 was a difficult year for her health-wise. The good news is that she is doing much better and has started a new job as the Math department administrator at Brandeis, where she looks out for 20 faculty and several dozen students from all around the world. She writes, "I especially enjoy learning new skills such as budget management and event planning. Who knew that an introvert could harbor a peculiar talent for party planning?"
- **Rachel Clifford-Hall** has a new book out entitled *Underbelly: Childhood Diarrhea and the Hidden Local Realities of Global Health*. Cambridge: MIT Press. Check her book out here: <https://mitpress.mit.edu/author/rachel-hall-clifford-39931/>
- **Andrea L. DiGiorgio**, 2024. "Wildlife selfies harm animals: Even when scientists share images with warnings with captions." *The Conversation*.
- **Freund, C.A., Cronin, K.A., Huang, M., Robinson, N.J., Yoo, B. and DiGiorgio, A.L.**, 2023. "Effects of captions on viewers' perceptions of images depicting human-primate interaction." *Conservation Biology*, p.e14199, <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14199>
- **Laura Heath-Stout** has launched a website www.anthroknowledge.com with Jess Beck. The website is a showcase of a Wenner-Gren Foundation workshop on the "Socio-Politics of Knowledge Production in Anthropology and Archaeology" organized in the fall of 2023.
- **Dat M. Nguyen**, 2024. "Professionalizing Engaged Buddhism in Contemporary Vietnam: Accountability, Sustainability, and Middle-Class Sensibilities." *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*, 19(1), pp.109-136
- **Huwy-min Lucia Liu** was awarded tenure at George Mason University.

FACULTY NEWS

Faculty Search Update

Dr. Steven Schwartz has accepted our offer of a TT Assistant professorship and will join us this coming fall. Steven works in Latin America (specifically Colombia/Venezuela) on issues related to energy, the environment, politics, public policy & indigeneity.



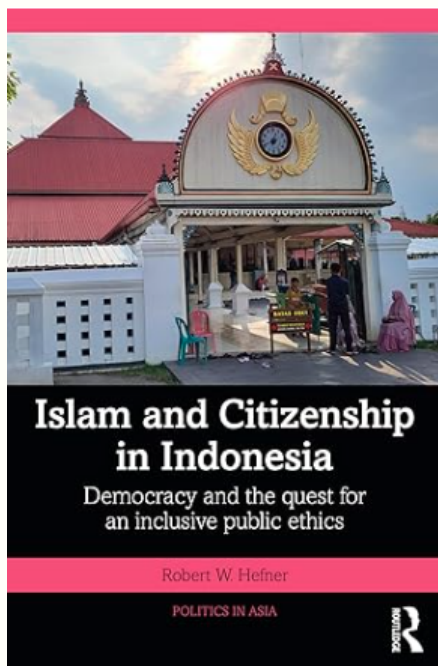
Publications & Talks

- **Robert (Bob) Hefner** presented an invited keynote address in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, at the annual national congress of Nahdlatul Ulama (NU).
- **Joanna Davidson** orchestrated a successful Emerging Scholars' Event "Ethnographic Insights: New Perspectives on Gender, Marriage & Family."
- **Cheryl Knott & Chris Schmitt** organized a successful Emerging Scholars' Event "Interrogating our Origins: Decolonizing the Narrative of Human Evolution"
- **Maud Mougnot**, BU Post-doc working with **Luke Glowacki**, is featured in the New York Times and National Geographic for her research on aggression on bonobos.
- **Andreana Cunningham** wrote the recently published research article "Postmortem Racialization: Reconceptualizing Frantz Fanon's Black Subject." It was published in The University of Chicago Press Journals

FACULTY NEWS

Publications & Talks

- **Chris Schmitt's** SMAGL Lab will be welcoming several Boston Public Schools seniors from the New Mission High School to participate as part of their Career and Technical Education (CTE) program this May. As part of the program students will be guided by Ph.D. students Jess Martin and Jimmy Erkens through several lab procedures including the extraction of DNA from wild non-human primate feces, gel electrophoresis, PCR, and sequencing to study their diet. Past participants in the SMAGL CTE program have gone on to college to study pre-medicine and neurobiology.
- **Wade Campbell** was awarded a Research Grant from the Arizona Archaeological & Historical Society to support the tree ring dating of 17th/18th century Navajo fortresses in northwest New Mexico. Wade was also selected as an Indigenous Scholar in Residence (ISIR) at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center during June 23rd– 29th, 2024. He will be joining the research center and staying at CAC campus in Cortez, Colorado during the final week of their NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)-funded College Field School program.
- **Robert Hefner** has a new book out entitled *Islam and Citizenship in Indonesia: Democracy and the Quest for an Inclusive Public Ethics*. Check his book out here: <https://www.amazon.com/Islam-Citizenship-Indonesia-Politics-Asia/dp/1032629134>



FACULTY AWARDS

Awards



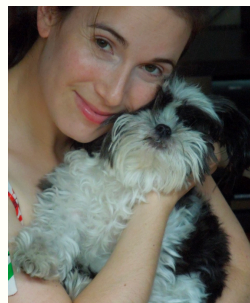
Cheryl Knott has been chosen as Arts & Sciences Distinguished Professor In recognition of her outstanding scholarship, teaching, and service to the College of Arts & Sciences.



Fallou Ngom was awarded the 2024 Boston University Provost's Scholar-Teacher of the Year Award.



Merav Shohet received the 2024 Boston University Undergraduate Academic Advising Award in the Faculty Academic Advisor Category.



Kimberly Arkin has been chosen to receive the Dean's Award for Excellence in Graduate Education!



DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

Follow us on Instagram!
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Want to stay up to date on important Fall 2025 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 2024-25 is *Prof. Merav Shohet*.

The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) for 2024-25 is *Prof. Kimberly Arkin*.

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Alumni Resources

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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.

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