

FALL 2024 | ISSUE 19

BU Anthropology News

The official newsletter of the Boston University Department of Anthropology



WELCOME BACK!

Happy Fall Semester!

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Anthropology Department Welcome event last week and to catch up on your summer fieldwork and travel.

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 and students.

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.

-Dr. Cheryl Knott (interim chair, AY24-25)

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/13 -- Anthro Happy Hour (STO 247) 4-6PM

9/23 -- Contemporary Chinese Culture Lecture with Dr. Yunxiang Yan

10/2 -- Department Talk with Rachel Hall-Clifford

11/6 -- Department Talk (biological) with Claudia Valeggia

11/20 -- Department Talk with Lily Parker

12/10 -- Department Holiday Party

UPCOMING EVENTS

Anthropology Department Fall 2024

Sept. 13

Anthropology Department Happy Hour

Friday, September 13th from 4-6pm in STO 247

ANTHRO

HAPPY HOUR

VENMO
@MELISSA-ZARATE
TO CONTRIBUTE TO
THE DRINK FUND!



THIS FRIDAY
9/13
4:00PM - 6:00PM
STO 247



*Contemporary
Chinese Culture
Lecture*

**The Disenchantment
and Re-enchantment
of Family Ideology in
Contemporary China**

Yunxiang Yan

Professor of Anthropology, UCLA

Monday
September

23

2-6PM

CDS 1646
665 Commonwealth
Ave, Boston, MA
02215

Sept. 23

Contemporary Chinese Culture Lecture

Department Talk

12:20-1:10pm with Rachel Hall-Clifford

Oct. 2

Department Talk (Bio)

12:20-1:10pm, (CDS 1646) with Claudia Vallengia (Yale University)

Nov. 16

Department Holiday Party

4-6pm, Open to faculty and graduate students.

Dec. 10

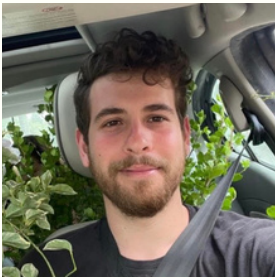
WELCOME!

Introducing the New Graduate Student Cohort

Ph.D. Students:



Anne Johnakin (she/they) (archaeology): Archaeobotany, bioarchaeology, organic residue analysis, Mediterranean and Near Eastern archaeology, prehistoric archaeology, stable isotope analysis, textile processing, feminist archaeology.



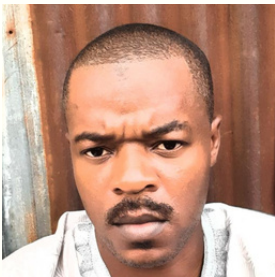
Ofir Tenenbaum (he/him) (sociocultural anthropology): Care, Aging, Health & Well being, Family, Emotions, Morality, Medical and Psychological Anthropology, Political Anthropology, Therapeutic discourse.



Claudia Servin Rosas (she/her) (archaeology): Mesoamerica, organization and utilization of urban spaces, how they relate to social structures and religious practice; archaeological material distribution and the application of spatial and environmental analyses.



Soumalya Ghorui (he/him) (biological anthropology): High-Altitude Central Himalayan Langurs, Primate Environmental Adaptation, Nutritional Homeostasis and Thermoregulation, Gut Microbiome and Plant Phenology, Behavioral and Nutritional Ecology, Conservation and Public Awareness.



Hassan Abubakar (he/him) (sociocultural anthropology): Ajami tradition, Muslim modernity, Islamic reform, Secularism, Sociolinguistics.

MAPA student:



Baiden Wright (she/they) (public anthropology): Forced displacement, gender and sexuality studies, art and expression.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY!

Give a warm welcome to **Dr. Steven Schwartz**, who will begin a TT Assistant professorship with us this fall. Steven works in Latin America (specifically Colombia/Venezuela) on issues related to energy, the environment, politics, public policy & indigeneity.



Welcome back to **Dr. Faye Harwell**, who will join us as a Visiting Assistant Professor for the 2024-2025 academic year. She earned her PhD in anthropology here at BU and studied primatology with Dr. Cheryl Knott.



FACULTY NEWS

Congratulations to
**Professor
Christopher
Schmitt** who has
been granted
tenure promotion
to Associate
Professor!



- **Chris Schmitt** was interviewed by National Geographic about his research and career as an anthropologist for a feature released during Pride month.
- **Cheryl Knott** and alumni Andrea DiGiorgio wrote chapter 7 in the recently published book from The University of Chicago Press: *How Primates Eat: A Synthesis of Nutritional Ecology across a Mammal Order*.
- **Robert Hefner** was interviewed by Dr. Alice Evans for her podcast series "Rocking our Priors."
- **Robert Hefner** presented at AAS in Asia conference in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- **Merav Shohet** was selected as a senior fellow for the Pardee School of Global Studies' Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs Fellowship program.
- **Robert Hefner** delivered a keynote on public ethics in democratic Indonesia at Islamic University.

FACULTY NEWS

- **Laura Thompson** was selected as a senior fellow for the Pardee School of Global Studies' Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs Fellowship program.
- **Andreana Cunningham** was interviewed about her research in BU's online magazine, *The Brink*.
- **Fallou Ngom & Daivi Rodima-Taylor's** Ajami project had some exciting updates:
 - Their presentation on the project at the International Research and Studies Program Project Directors Meeting of the U.S. Department of Education on April 12 in Washington, DC, was just featured in their IFLE June Newsletter.
 - They authored a guest article for the British Library *Endangered Archives* blog about their project, *Digital Preservation of Fuuta Jalon Scholars' Materials in Senegal and Guinea*.
 - They published an article in Brill blog Humanities Matter: "Exploring African Ajami in the Era of Digital Humanities."
 - **Ngom, Fallou.**, Rodima-Taylor, D., & Robinson, D. (2023). "Ajami Literacies of Africa: The Hausa, Fula, Mandinka, and Wolof Traditions." *Islamic Africa*, 14(2), 119-143, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/21540993-20230002>
- **Luke Głowacki** published a paper in the journal *Evolution and Human Behavior* exploring controversies and debates about the role of war and peace in human evolution.
 - Glowacki, Luke. "The controversial origins of war and peace: apes, foragers, and human evolution." *Evolution and Human Behavior* 45.6 (2024): 106618.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Awards, Grants, Publications, Research

- **Hazal Aydin** has received short-term GRAF funding to conduct preliminary dissertation fieldwork in Istanbul, Turkey.
- **Sümeyra Gunes** was awarded a Campagna-Kerven Graduate Fellowship for the next academic year (2024-2025) endowed by a bequest from Madame Susanne Campagna.
- **Karen Stewart** received a Henry S. Newman Fellowship for the academic year 2024-2025.
- **Dylan Renca** has been selected for the Pardee School of Global Studies Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs Fellowship program.
- **Hannah Howard** has been selected for the Pardee School of Global Studies Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs Fellowship program.
- **Syeda Rumana Medhi** has been selected for the Pardee School of Global Studies Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs Fellowship program.
- **Kelley Gourley** has been awarded an MA in Anthropology. Her thesis paper is entitled "The Unspoken Tariff on Refugee Knowledge in the United States."
- **Hazal Aydin** published a short piece, "Unraveling Silences, Reimagining Intimacy," in *Anthropology News* from her paper that got the 2023 AAA MES paper prize.
- **Leyla Jafarova's** article, "For Families of Missing Loved Ones, Forensic Investigations Don't Always Bring Closure," was published in the *SAPIENS-Anthropology Magazine*.
- **Martin Aucoin's** "De-Naturalizing the Poultry Plant" is the winning essay from University of Oxford TABLE's 2024 Essay Challenge. The Challenge asked participants to consider the question, 'Should food systems be more natural?'
- **Samantha Nadel** recently had one of the articles from her dissertation work published in the *Archaeological Review* from Cambridge.
- **Bhavya Vadavalli** presented her research using agent based modeling to study human social structures at the UM6P School for Collective Intelligence in Morocco, which hosted a conference on collective intelligence. She also participated in the Complex Systems Summer School at the Santa Fe Institute.
- **Laura Brubaker-Wittman** was selected to attend the Animal Studies Summer Institute at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she presented and workshopped her multispecies ethnographic paper on orangutan-human interactions in Borneo, "Intra-acting with Orangutans: Agential Realism for Primates."

NORTHEASTERN EVOLUTIONARY PRIMATOLOGISTS CONFERENCE

Students and faculty gathered at the end of August for the 10th annual Northeastern Evolutionary Primatology Conference, hosted by Dartmouth College at their rustic mountain lodge. Graduate students Mel Zarate, Warren Kevin Henderson, Frank Short, Nicole Merullo and Jimmy Erkens all presented papers or fire-side chats with Mel winning the runner-up prize for best fireside chat. Also in attendance were faculty members Cheryl Knott, Eva Garrett and Ben Finkel as well as undergraduates Maddie Hurysz and Kiyomi Genewick.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR GRADUATES!

Kyra Anela Smith and Kelley Gourley graduated with an MA in Anthropology!

Jessica Hlay, Christian Gagnon, Anu Ahmed, Yang Shen, Rongrong Xu and Jacob Tischer all earned their PhD's!



DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

Follow us on Instagram!
@buanthropology

Want to stay up to date on important
Fall 2024 dates? Want to stay
connected with department going-ons?
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.

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

Cheryl Knott, interim Department Chair, knott@bu.edu

Rebecca Wright, Graduate Program Administrator, rewright@bu.edu

Mackenzie Arnolds, Undergraduate Program Coordinator, kenzea@bu.edu

If you want to help support the Anthropology Department:

DONATE

Copyright (C) 2024 BU Anthropology. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

BU Anthropology

232 Bay State Rd

Boston, MA 02215-1403