

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST

A newsletter for faculty, students, alumni, and friends of the Department of Anthropology
Case Western Reserve University College of Arts and Sciences

SPRING 2018

In recognition over the years

A number of alumni (listed below) have made donations to a department fund (Anthropology Discretionary Fund, Aileen and Julian Kassen Endowment Fund, or the Callender Memorial Fund). We'd like to take this opportunity to both acknowledge and thank these donors for their generosity.

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Dr. Kathryn Oths, Department of Anthropology, University of Alabama

Thank you!



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Professor

Atwood Gaines, Ph.D.

Professor

Melvyn Goldstein, Ph.D.

Professor

Lawrence Greksa, Ph.D.

Chair and Professor

Vanessa Hildebrand, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Lee Hoffer, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Jill Korbin, Ph.D.

Professor

Janet McGrath, Ph.D.

Professor

Jim Shaffer, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Lihong Shi, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Sara Thiam, Ph.D.

Visiting Assistant Professor

STAFF

Kimberly Racut

Barbara Reebel

Linda Rinella

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

New Annual Anthropology Lecture Series

The department hosted a new Anthropology Lecture Series this semester. The series invites prominent anthropologists from across the world to speak to the community. This semester was a successful start to this annual series with four lectures.

The first lecture, “Pastoralist Livelihoods and Resilience in Kenya: The Interplay of Research and Practice,” was held on February 15th. This lecture featured **Carolyn Lesorogol**, Professor & Associate Dean, Brown School of Social Work, Washington University, St. Louis. Dr. Lesorogol worked in Kenya in development with multi-lateral aid agencies for 15 years before receiving a MA in African Studies and a PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology.



Above: Carolyn Lesorogol

The second lecture, “Perpetrator-less Child Trafficking in West African Qur’anic Schools: Forced Begging, Aid and Children’s Rights in Senegal and Mali,” was held on March 6.



This lecture featured **Sara Thiam** (*Images left*), Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Thiam’s research is on the promotion of rights for migratory Qur’anic school students in Senegal and Mali. Her interests include global children’s rights promotion and children’s rights in practice; the study of compassion, charity, and religion in relation to suffering; transnational aid, cross-cultural childhoods and discipline; and francophone West Africa.



Above: Sara Thiam [Photographed by: Rina Ding, The Observer]

The third lecture, “Building Complex Collaborative Community Intervention Studies,” was held on March 26. This lecture featured **Jean Schensul**, Senior Scientist and Founder, Institute for Community Research; Co-Director, Qualitative Methods and Ethnography, Interdisciplinary Research Methods Core, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (cira); Investigator, Community Research and Implementation Core, cira.

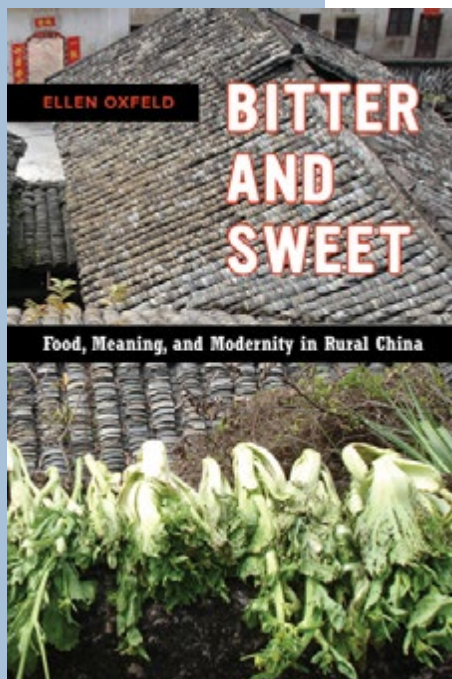
New Annual Anthropology Lecture Series (*continued*)

Dr. Schensul is founder (1987-2004) and currently senior scientist full time, at The Institute for Community Research, an independent research institute conducting prevention research in communities in the United States, India and China, and based in Hartford, CT.

She is a medical anthropologist with three decades of experience in the conduct of HIV prevention and other health-related research in urban areas of the United States and in developing countries. Her areas of expertise include mixed research methods, drug research, sexuality and HIV, and school and community based structural approaches to intervention across the lifespan.



Above: Ellen Oxfeld [Photographed by: Zoe Wang, *The Observer*]



The fourth lecture, "Food as Moral Discourse in Contemporary Rural China," was held on April 16. This lecture featured **Ellen Oxfeld**, Gordon Schuster Professor of Anthropology, Middlebury College. Dr. Oxfeld has researched communities of Chinese immigrants in countries such as India and Canada.

Since the mid-1990s, she has returned several times to do fieldwork in a village in Meixian, Guangdong Province, China, where she has investigated moral discourse, changes and continuities in life-cycle rituals, changing gender roles, transformations in property and class relations, and most recently, changes in the local food system. Author of three books, including the recent publication of *Bitter and Sweet: Food, Meaning, and Modernity in Rural China* by University of California Press.

The next lecture will be co-sponsored with the Cleveland Archaeological Society and will feature archaeologist, David McGahan, in September 2018.

Dr. Cynthia Beall

Dr. Cynthia Beall, a member of the Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), participated in the annual meetings in Austin, TX where she had the pleasure of introducing a topical lecture by anthropologists Jason De León, *The Land of Open Graves: Necroviolence and the Politics of Migrant Death in the Arizona Desert*. She also participated in the inaugural meeting of the board of LabX (<http://labx.org/>), a brand-new program of the National Academy of Sciences that aims to empower individuals, groups and communities to use the sciences in order to make decisions related to their lives.

Dr. Beall was featured on *90.3 WCPN Science Friday* on April 20th discussing high-altitude populations. She also gave recent seminars at Penn State, University of New Mexico, and the University of California San Diego on her research on genes, physiology, and fertility of Tibetan women at high altitudes.

Dr. Melvyn Goldstein

Dr. Melvyn Goldstein presented a paper at the Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference in March titled "Sino-Tibetan relations in the 1950's; the failure of Mao's gradualist policy and the imposition of forced land reforms," in a panel titled: Communist Processes and Mao-Era Policies in the Ethnic Borderlands of Western China.

The fourth and final Volume of Professor Goldstein's *History of Modern Tibet Quartet* titled *A History of Modern Tibet, 1957-59; In the eye of the storm* was accepted for publication by the University of California Press.

Dr. Jill Korbin

The Schubert Center for Child Studies at CWRU, directed by **Dr. Jill Korbin**, convened a day long conference on April 27, 2018, "Cleveland: A Community Committed to Our Children." It was attended by approximately 200 individuals from the university and the wider community, offered six panel discussions on critical issues facing Cleveland's children, and included a keynote lunch session broadcast by the *City Club of Cleveland*, "Finding a Path to Equity: Media's Role in Advocating for Cleveland's Youth." For additional information, and to view the full program and recordings of the sessions, please visit <http://schubert.case.edu/20th-anniversary/>.

Dr. Lihong Shi

Dr. Lihong Shi was interviewed on the impact of sex ratio imbalance on marriage in China by *The Economist* in a special report "In search of women." The interview, "A distorted sex ratio is playing havoc with marriage in China," appeared in the November 23, 2017 print edition. She was also interviewed on the consequences of China's one-child policy by *KBIA NPR Missouri* for the program "Global Journalist." The interview, "China's 'One-Child' Legacy," was hosted by Jason McLure and aired live radio on March 1, 2018.

Brooke Jespersen

Brooke Jespersen presented her paper, "Older Adults and the Neighborhood Context of Child Maltreatment: Pathways to Improving Child Well-Being," at the 2018 Society for Applied Anthropology meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Julia Knopes

Julia Knopes is co-author on a forthcoming article publication entitled "Piloting an Undergraduate Survey Course in Medical Humanities and Social Medicine: the Challenges, Success and the Importance of Context" which will be in the May/June 2018 issue of the *Journal of Humanities in Rehabilitation*.

In March she co-organized the "Beyond Empathy: Critical Perspectives on Medicine, Society & Culture" symposium at the Cleveland Museum of Art with Dr. Jonathan Sadowsky in conjunction with the 2018 Cleveland Humanities Festival. She presented her current research findings at this symposium and her work was featured on the panel: "Engaging with (Bio)medical Systems: Graduate Student Research in the Medical Humanities and Social Sciences." This Fall she will be teaching a course of her own design in the Department of Bioethics, BETH319/419: Medical Science and Technology in Society.

Sarah Miller-Fellows

Sarah Miller-Fellows, along with faculty members Jill Korbin and Lawrence Greksa, and Jim Adams of the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services published the paper "Creating Culturally Competent and Responsive Mental Health Services: A Case Study Among the Amish Population of Geauga County, Ohio" in the *Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research*.

Congratulations Graduate Student Award Recipients

Congratulations to the following Anthropology graduate students on receiving graduate student awards. Heather Baily was the recipient of *The Ruth Barber Moon Award*. Sonya Petrakovitz received *The 2018-2019 Social Justice Institute Graduate Research Fellowship*. Kristi Ninnemann was the recipient of *The Medical Humanities and Social Medicine Research Grant*.

Aura Newlin

Aura Newlin was named "Faculty Member of the Year" by the Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees (WACCT). She was recently featured in Season 9, Episode 13, "Aura Newlin - Japanese Americans in Wyoming" on *Wyoming PBS - Wyoming Chronicle*. Aura was also a plenary speaker at the Spring Program of the Superior Court Judges' Association of Washington state. Her presentation was entitled "Lessons of the Japanese American Incarceration Experience: Historical Contexts and Present-Day Relevance."



Megan Schmidt-Sane

Megan Schmidt-Sane published "Community vulnerability and stratified risk: Hegemonic masculinity, socioeconomic status, and HIV/AIDS in a sex work community in Kampala, Uganda" in *Global Public Health*, published online January 29, 2018.

This article examines the social patterning of health, economic uncertainty, hegemonic masculinity, and vulnerability among men who live and work in a low-income sex work community in Kampala, Uganda. This problematizes the notion that vulnerable communities are homogenous, in demographics, economic status, and risk. This article draws on ethnographic data collected in 2016, including semi-structured interviews and participant observation. This article uses a stratified risk framework to describe the central finding of this study, which is that men's experience in Kataba is characterized by a struggle to fulfil the provider role that constitutes a core aspect of their socially ascribed gender role. In a context of economic scarcity, men's lives are fraught with strain and this intersects with other forms of risk. Finally, by focusing on community vulnerability rather than individual risk, this work contributes to theories of gender and sex work, and informs HIV/AIDS praxis.

Allison Schlosser

Allison Schlosser recently had an article titled, "'They Medicated Me Out': Social Flesh and Embodied Citizenship in Addiction Treatment," accepted for publication in *Contemporary Drug Problems*. In April, Allison organized and chaired a double session entitled "(Re)making Drug Use, Addiction, and Recovery Online" at the Society for Applied Anthropology conference in Philadelphia, PA. She also presented her paper, "Technoference in Recovery: Social Inclusion and Stigma in Online Worlds," during the session. In May, Allison will present her paper, "Embodied (Dis)Connection: Using Ethnography to Examine the Paradoxes of Touch in Addiction Treatment" at the Society for Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology conference in Pittsburgh, PA.

Congratulations
Allison Schlosser
for successfully
defending her
dissertation entitled
"Subjectivity and
Moral Personhood:
An Ethnography of
Addiction Treatment
in the United States."

Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Awards

Congratulations to the following graduating seniors for their outstanding achievements in anthropology. Recipients of *The Ruth and Newbell Niles Puckett Award* were **Grant Hom** and **Neha Gupta**. Recipients of *The Callender Memorial Award* were **Vanessa Chen** and **Imshan Dhrolia**. Recipients of *The Jonathan F. Plimpton Award* were **Acadia Fairchild**, **Hannah Berends**, and **Clarine Long**. Recipient of *The James Dysart Magee Award* is **Rachel Rak**.

Congratulations to second-year student, **Lucille Hu**. Lucille was one of two selected *Beckman Scholars of The Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation*. Each Beckman Scholar is awarded financial support and comprehensive mentoring to further their health-related research. Lucille was selected for her research titled, "Investigating Methods and Mechanisms of Oligodendrocyte Restoration in Hypoxia-Induced White Matter Injury."

Anthropology Majors Appointed to the Academic Integrity Board

Anthropology majors, **Gabriela Arima** and **Julia Gaspare-Pruchnicki**, were appointed to the Academic Integrity Board. The Academic Integrity Board is a group of students, faculty, and administrators who are committed to academic integrity and to raising awareness of integrity issues at Case.

Congratulations 1-YR MA Students

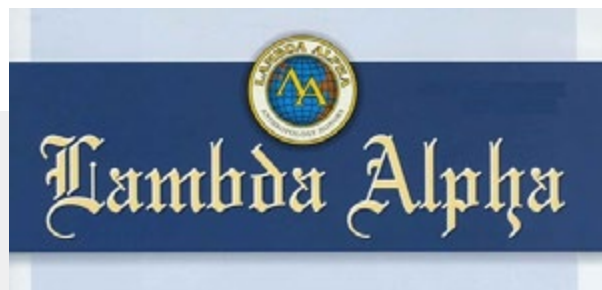
Nicolle Esparo will be attending CWRU School of Medicine to continue her studies in medicine. **Eva Hoffman** will be entering the PhD program at Washington University in St. Louis. **Sydney Stark** will be attending Vanderbilt University of Medicine. **William Wical** will be entering the PhD program at the University of Maryland.

"The one-year MA program in medical anthropology was a perfect fit for me. It was both challenging and gratifying, and provided opportunities for me to develop my personal interests in the field along the way. I think this program is a great choice for someone who has diverse interests in the field of medical anthropology."

-*Nicolle Esparo, MA, 2018; CWRU School of Medicine, class of 2022*

Anthropology Spring Picnic

The tradition continued on Saturday, April 28th, when the Anthropology Department hosted their annual spring picnic. The picnic took place at the Squire Valleevue Farms in Hunting Valley, Ohio.



Congratulations NEW Lambda Alpha Members

The **Ohio Theta Chapter of Lambda Alpha** is the Anthropology National Honors Society and is available to students interested in anthropology who meet the standards of scholastic performance. This year's inductees were **Heather Baily, Saria Bartholomew, Grant Hom, Clarine Long, Inez Moore, Hannah Toneff, and Monica Windholtz.**

Patrick Finnegan

Patrick Finnegan (CWRU BA 2012) will be graduating from Ohio University with a degree in Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO). In July, he will be starting a job as an Emergency Medicine Resident Physician at Grandview Hospital in Dayton, Ohio.

Sharif Sabe

Sharif Sabe (CWRU BA 2014) is finishing his last year at Case Medical School and will begin his surgical residency training at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School in Boston.

Jamie Shah

Jamie Shah (CWRU BA 2015) is a first year medical student at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. Jamie was offered a full tuition scholarship to medical school through the United States Air Force where he will be commissioning in as Second Lieutenant this spring.

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Nina Sreshta

Nina Sreshta (CWRU BA 2010) went on to the University of Cincinnati Medical School, graduating in 2014, and is completing her psychiatry residency at Cambridge Health Alliance, Harvard Medical School this year.

She has been accepted as a Dr. Mario Paganel Global Mental Health Delivery Fellow. Nina will be in Rwanda with Partners in Health (PIH) and in collaboration with the Harvard Medical School (HMS) Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, learning global mental health service delivery.

"I feel like I would not be pursuing this field, this fellowship, if not for my amazing education at CWRU, especially grateful for my studies under Drs. Katia Almeida, Lawrence Greksa and Jill Korbin."

-Nina Sreshta

Raghav Tripathi

Raghav Tripathi (CWRU BA 2017), a dual medical and Master of Public Health student, was recently featured in *The Daily* for being chosen to participate in the annual Telluride Patient Safety Educational Roundtable this summer in Telluride, Colorado. He is one of only 40 medical students from around the country chosen to participate.