

# THE ANTHROPOLOGIST

## Winter 2020 Newsletter



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### Greetings from Janet McGrath, Chair of Anthropology

Happy New Year!

I am excited to write to you as new Chair of the Department of Anthropology at CWRU! I am extremely grateful to Larry Greksa for his leadership of the Department over the last 15 years. On behalf of all the faculty, staff and students who have benefited from his steady hand on the helm, I express my sincere gratitude and appreciation.

I want to take a few moments to share with you my excitement about Anthropology at CWRU, which has been my professional home for over 30 years.

As department chair, I am immensely proud of our faculty and students and the work they do, a small list of which is presented in this newsletter. Every day I am witness to how anthropology impacts our world. In the last year, CWRU anthropology faculty and students have conducted research in Cleveland and around the world to better understand the most critical problems facing the world today. As chair, it is my job to trumpet the work and accomplishments of the faculty and students, and I am happy to do so!

*We live in challenging times.* Regardless of your personal position on the issues of the day, I hope you agree that as anthropologists and students of anthropology we have a unique perspective on human biology, behavior and culture. I am personally convinced that despite the stresses of the world – perhaps because of these stresses -- our work as anthropologists is more important than ever. Much has been written about the value of studying anthropology. But allow me to quote from my colleague, Prof. Lee Hoffer, who answers the question “why social science?” in this way: Because it requires confronting the assumptions we have about others. I can think of no better reason to study anthropology in 2020!

We do not know what the next year will bring, but it is my sincere hope that we will work together to promote an anthropological perspective in our research, teaching and work. Please join me in the adventure of anthropology for 2020!

I look forward to hearing about your successes in the coming months. Please keep us posted!

I can always be reached by email at [janet.mcgrath@case.edu](mailto:janet.mcgrath@case.edu) or by phone at 216-368-2287. You can follow me on twitter at [@CWRUAnthChair](https://twitter.com/CWRUAnthChair).

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## Faculty News

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### Dr. Lawrence Greksa Retires as Department Chair

**Dr. Lawrence Greksa** stepped down as chair of the Anthropology department as of July 1, 2019, returning to teaching and research full time. He will be on sabbatical in Spring 2020, but will return again to teaching in Fall 2020.

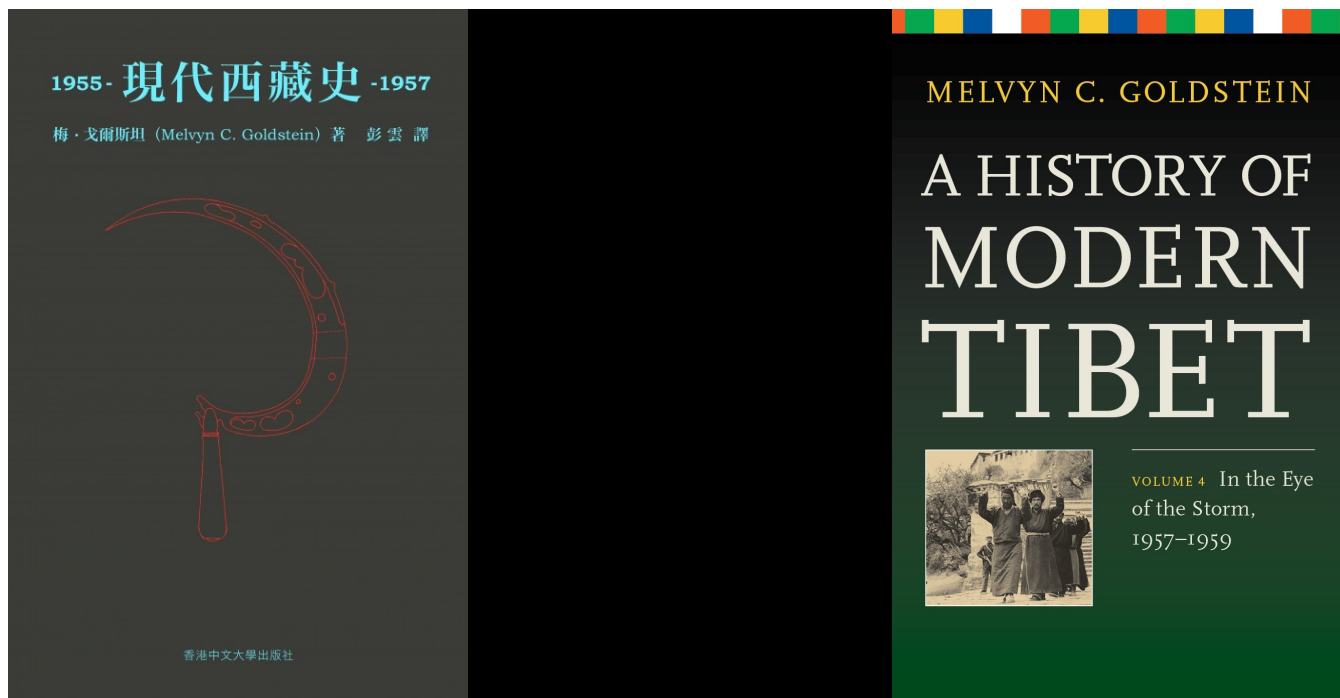
### Dr. Jill Korbin Stepping Down as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

**Dr. Jill Korbin**, Leffingwell Professor of Anthropology stepped down as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, after serving for 18 years. She will be on sabbatical in Spring 2020 but will return as a full time faculty member in the Anthropology department in Fall 2020. During her time as Associate Dean, Dr. Korbin continued her research and scholarship, including serving on doctoral committees and supervising undergraduate capstone projects. She also served as Director of the Schubert Center for Child Studies, until December 2019, and continues as Senior Advisor. She co-directs the Childhood Studies Program. She served as President of the Psychological Anthropology from 2017 to 2019. We look forward to welcoming her back and thank her for her service to the university, the college, and the profession.



### Dr. Lee Hoffer Participated in Research-to-Policy Program

**Dr. Lee Hoffer** traveled to Washington, DC in December 2019 as part of the Research-to-Policy Collaboration (RPC) to meet with lawmakers interested in crafting legislation on substance use / abuse policy. Arranged by RPC, Dr. Hoffer met with staffers of Rep Trahan (D-MA) and Rep Schrier (D-WA) to discuss a number of topics, including: wrap-around services for substance abuse treatment; issues for women and mothers in drug treatment; drug trend monitoring and data integration; and rural issues associated with addiction and recovery. The RPC is a multi-year research program (Penn State U.) seeking to facilitate connections between lawmakers and researchers to inform policy.



## Professor Melvyn Goldstein Published New Volumes on Tibetan History

**Dr. Melvyn Goldstein** published a Chinese edition of volume 3 of his seminal history of the modern Tibet. He also published volume 4, covering the critical years of 1957-1959. Goldstein, an international authority on Tibetan history and culture, is co-director of the Center for Research on Tibet.

**Melvyn C. Goldstein. 2019. *Xiandai xizang shi 1955- 1957* ["Modern Tibetan History, 1955-57"], Hong Kong: Chinese University of Hong Kong Press (ISBN 978-988-237-104-0).**

This is the Chinese Edition of Melvyn C. Goldstein, *A History of Modern Tibet, Volume Three, 1955-1957: The Storm Clouds Descend*. The Chinese edition of the 4th volume is expected to be published in late 2020. Also, the Tibetan edition of the 2nd and 3rd Volumes of the history series have been translated and are now in the production stage in India. By late 2021, all 4 volumes will be available in Chinese and Tibetan.

### **A History of Modern Tibet, Volume 4: In the eye of the storm. U. of California Press. 571 pp**

It is not possible to understand contemporary politics between China and the Dalai Lama without understanding what happened in the 1950s, especially the events that occurred in 1957-59. The fourth and final volume of Melvyn C. Goldstein's History of Modern Tibet series, *In the Eyes of the Storm*, provides new perspectives on Sino-Tibetan history during the period leading to the Tibetan uprising in 1959. The volume also reassesses issues that have been widely misunderstood as well as stereotypes and misrepresentations in the popular realm and in academic literature, for example, the role of the CIA. Volume 4 draws on important new Chinese government documents, published and unpublished memoirs, new biographies, and a large corpus of in-depth, specially collected political interviews to reexamine the events that produced the March 10<sup>th</sup> uprising and the demise of Tibet's famous Buddhist civilization. The result is a heavily documented analysis that presents a nuanced and balanced account of the principal players and their policies during the critical final two years of Sino-Tibetan relations under the Seventeen-Point Agreement of 1951.

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## Staff News

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### Barbara ReebeL Retires

After 20 years, **Barbara ReebeL** retired in September 2019. Barb was the “face and voice” of the department, greeting visitors and helping with everything from photocopying to graduate applications. The Department honored her with a reception on September 14<sup>th</sup> and presented her with a small gift to remember us by! We wish her the very best in retirement!

### Erin Shelton Joins the Anthropology Department

The Anthropology department is delighted to welcome **Erin Shelton** as our newest staff member! Erin began as our new Department Assistant in December. She joins us with a BA in Psychology and Social Justice from Miami University, where she graduated cum laude in 2019 with honors in psychology. As an undergraduate she traveled abroad to Sri Lanka and also conducted research on smoking behavior in persons with autism spectrum disorder traits. Prior to joining us she worked as a classroom behavioral therapist for the Cleveland Clinic Center for Autism.



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## Graduate Student News

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Our graduate students continued to win grants, conduct research and present at national conferences. Learn more about their accomplishments [here!](#)

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## Alumni News

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Where are they now? Check out the accomplishments of our alumni [here!](#)



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## *CWRU Anthropology in the Field: Part 1*

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**Dr. David Kaawa-Mafigiri (PhD 2007)** and **Megan Schmidt-Sane (ABD)** have been collaborating to lead anthropological research on the context of Ebola prevention and transmission in high-risk border districts in Uganda. The Ebola epidemic has been ongoing in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since August 1, 2018. Several cases have crossed over into Uganda, sparking concern about the porous border region. Their work started in January 2019, when they undertook a baseline research project overseen by UNICEF Uganda on behalf of the Uganda Ministry of Health National Task Force on Ebola Preparedness and Response. The research team described the context of livelihood strategies in the border region, and how these strategies limited uptake of Ebola prevention measures. They also noted ongoing burial practices and the transportation of suspect cases and/or the deceased across borders, which poses a risk for Ebola transmission. Additionally, gender norms for caretaking create differential risk for women and men. Their findings were incorporated into UNICEF's Communication for Development (C4D) strategy, part of the National Task Force on Ebola Preparedness and Response.

Currently, they are working with researchers from UNICEF, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Translators without Borders to conduct focused research on dimensions of (mis)trust in the border regions, in both the DRC and Uganda. They will lead additional fieldwork in March 2020 in Uganda's border region, with the goal of informing current Ebola response programs to bolster community uptake and trust in the response and inform future epidemic responses. Their work demonstrates the unique position of anthropologists in epidemic response, by documenting community dynamics and community engagement, and feeding research results directly into ongoing programming and policies both in Uganda and globally.



Research team meeting a traditional healer in Bunagana (border town) in Kisoro District, Southwestern Uganda.



Market in Bunagana (border town) in Kisoro District, Southwestern Uganda.



Dr. Kaawa-Mafigiri at local restaurant selling roasted game meat.



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## *CWRU Anthropology in the Field: Part 2*

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**Dr. Lihong Shi** is on sabbatical for this academic year. She received a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and is conducting fieldwork in China for her project on the grief experience among Chinese parents who lost their only child born under the previous one-child policy. Unlike her previous research for which she lived in a village in China, this project has taken her to China's most crowded cities as well as small towns and villages where she met with bereaved parents to hear their stories.

While in China, she gave three invited talks on her book and her current research project, including the Fei Hsiao-Tung Lecture in the Center for Anthropology and Ethnology at Tsinghua University, the Yiwulv Lecture in the College of Sociology at Shenyang Normal University, and a talk in the Institute for Population and Development Studies at Xi'an Jiaotong University.



Dr. Shi visiting a local park with her research informants.



Dr. Shi giving the Fei Hsiao-Tung Lecture in the Center for Anthropology and Ethnology at Tsinghua University. Fei Hsiao-Tung was a pioneering researcher of sociology and anthropology and a leading intellectual in China.

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## Graduating Students

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### ***Congratulations to our new 2019 PhDs!***

Julia Knopes: *The Social Construction of Sufficient Knowledge at an American Medical School.*

Francis Manzella: *What Medical Tourism Tells Us About Global Health Diplomacy and Governance: An Organizational Analysis of Civil Society in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.*

Sarah Miller-Fellows: *Making Medicine Amish.*

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### ***Congratulations to our January 2020 undergraduates! Keep in touch!***

Asia Cito

Benjamin Goldberg

Jacob Guthrie

Jacob Kordeleski

Alisa Quemado

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