

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST

Case Western Reserve University College of Arts and Sciences

A newsletter for faculty, students, alumni, and friends of the Department of Anthropology

FALL 2008

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Department of Anthropology at Case Western Reserve University announces its inaugural lecture series in Medical Anthropology and Global Health. This year's theme is Global Health, Culture, and Change.

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In recent years the rapid pace of globalization has fundamentally changed the nature of human behavior, pathogens, the interaction between humans and pathogens, and the natural and social environment in which such interactions occur; thereby fundamentally affecting both global health and the study of global health and disease. The myriad of global health issues which have emerged in the last part of the 20th century lend urgency to the need to understand the intersection of culture, change, and global health.

The program in Medical Anthropology and Global Health at CWRU seeks to challenge familiar dichotomies that dominate thinking about health issues, such as biological versus sociocultural, psychological versus physical, rural versus urban, and particularly the deep-seated tendency to treat separately the problems of the so-called developing and developed nations. We argue that these dichotomies undermine understanding of health and illness throughout the world and hinders development of unified conceptual models.

The lecture series in Global Health, Culture, and Change will feature scholars at the forefront of new perspectives in global health including Professor James Pfeiffer, University of Washington (November 11, 2008), Professor Stephen McGarvey, Brown University (February 12, 2009), Professor Vinay Kamat, University of British Columbia (March 26, 2009), and Professor Margaret (Peggy) Bentley, University of North Carolina

(April 14, 2009).

The first lecture in the series was held November 11, 2008. James Pfeiffer gave a talk titled: "The Influence of Pentecostalism on Utilization of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Services in Central Mozambique."

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY CO-SPONSORS SECOND PFEIFFER LECTURE

The Department of Anthropology joined forces with the Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and the Center for Social Science Research on AIDS (CeSSRA) to sponsor Dr. James Pfeiffer's second lecture on November 11th. The lecture titled "Integration of HIV Services into Public Sector Primary Health Care in Mozambique" offered another opportunity for the Case community to benefit from this leading expert.



James Pfeiffer
(Ph.D., MPH)
Associate Professor
University of Washington



James Pfeiffer, Ph.D, MPH, Associate Professor in the Department of Health Services and the Department of Global Health, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle; Director of Mozambique Operations for Health Alliance International (HAI); Principal Investigator, Pentecostalism and utilization of HIV/AIDS services in Mozambique (NICHHD). Dr. Pfeiffer received his doctoral degree in anthropology and his public health training at UCLA and is one of the leading experts in anthropology and global health. His interests center on primary health care, social inequality, and the political economy of health in southern Africa.

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KASSEN LECTURE

Each year the Department of Anthropology presents the Kassen Lecture. Supported by Drs. Aileen and Julian Kassen, the lectureship invites a top female scholar in the social sciences to the department to present a lecture to the campus community. In addition to the lecture, anthropology graduate students have the opportunity to meet with the speaker in a small group discussion.



This year's lecture featured Linda C. Garro, Ph.D. UC Irvine and Duke University, and Professor of Anthropology at UCLA. Her lecture "Enacting Ethos, Enacting Health: Parental Commentary and Everyday Life in a California Family" was held October 24, 2008.



NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLICY-RELEVANT RESEARCH ON ADOLESCENCE: PERSPECTIVES FROM PSYCHOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

The purpose of this working conference organized by Professor Eileen Anderson-Fye and Professor Jill Korbin was to facilitate engaged discussion and connections to highlight policy-relevant implications of contemporary research on adolescence, particularly through the work of psychological anthropology and related fields. Anderson-Fye and Korbin received one of the first three national Lemelson/SPA Conference Fund Grants to be awarded which supported the conference along with the Schubert Center for Child Studies. The conference was co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and the Childhood Studies Interdisciplinary Program. Held November 7-8 with 16 invited presenters and attended by faculty, students and community members, the conference brought greater awareness of the contributions of psychological anthropology to the study of human development and public policy. Consistent with Schubert Center for Child Studies' goals to bridge research, education, policy and practice, the conference brought different perspectives on adolescents and their well-being. First, national researchers in psychological anthropology and closely related

fields shared meta-reflections on the relevance of their work to policies regarding adolescent well-being. Second, local, state, and national policy experts reflected on the ways in which they use

research like that presented at the conference to enrich policy and practice related to adolescents. Via these dynamic presentations and discussions investigating (1) the historical and contemporary interaction between psychological anthropology and policy, (2) contemporary research on stress and strengths during adolescent development, and (3) cultural change and mental health among adolescents, this engaged group made progress toward the goal of bridging research and policy. An ethnographic/documentary film, *40 Years of Silence: An Indonesian Tragedy* by Robert Lemelson was screened to a combined group of conference participants and the general public to include political and intergenerational work on the conference themes. A number of CWRU anthropology doctoral students both attended and volunteered at the conference including Nadia El-Shaarawi, Meghan Halley, Sarah Koopman, Ruth Magtonong, Stephanie McClure, Jonathan Metcalfe, Aura Newlin, Kristi Ninneman, Amy Rezac, and Kiersten Snover. Nadia El-Shaarawi and Meghan Halley also provided invaluable preparation and assistance throughout the conference through their work with the Schubert Center for Child Studies. A follow-up workshop is being planned for the upcoming SPA biennial meetings, and an expanded edited volume is also in process. Information on the conference, including presenters, the program, and conference materials can be found at case.edu/arts/sci/schubert.



WELCOME RECEPTION FOR NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

A reception was held for the department's newest graduate students on August 27th. This year the department of Anthropology welcomed the following students:

Timothy Beutler: Timothy has a BS in Biomedical Engineering and a BA in Classics from CWRU. He is interested in neurology, aging and degenerative diseases, comparative

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health systems, and cross cultural health care.

Magdalene Brooke: Magdalene has a BA in German Studies from Scripps College. She is currently a medical student at CWRU. She is interested in cross cultural medicine and health care.

Smaranda Ene: Smaranda has a BA in neuroscience and German from Middlebury College. Her interests include cross cultural mental health and psychological anthropology.

Sarah Koopman: Sarah has a BA in Anthropology from the University of Cincinnati. She has worked in Honduras with a CWRU alumnus, Jeff Jacobson. She is interested in mental illness in children.

Kristi Ninnemann: Kristi has both a BA in psychology and an MA in counseling psychology from Adams State College. She is interested in psychological anthropology. She has been a mental health provider and is interested in the cultural and social influences on mental health outcomes. She is in the joint MPH program.

Quinn Ostrom: Quinn has a BS in Anthropology from MSU. She is interested in political economy of infectious disease in border states, specifically, US/Mexico border.

Anitha Ragothaman: Anitha has a BA in biology from Lehigh University and an MD from the University of Toledo. She is interested in aging and in developing “culturally sensitive” health prevention projects.

Keirsten Snover: Keirsten has a BA in anthropology from Eastern Washington University and an MA in interdisciplinary history and anthropology also from Eastern Washington University. She has worked in Kenya and her masters research was on the Spokane, WA experience of the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Meghan Halley spent the summer conducting pilot research in Tanzania examining factors shaping youth sexuality. Her research focuses on traditional adolescent initiation in the rural Mtwara District in southern Tanzania. These rituals, referred to as *unyago* for girls and *jando* for boys, involve teaching youth about gender roles and family life and include detailed instruction on reproduction and sexual

activity. The impact of these rituals on youth sexuality is currently being contested due to high rates of school-age pregnancy in Mtwara, which many feel is the direct result



of these traditional rituals. Meghan will return to Mtwara next year to continue her dissertation research examining the role of these rituals in shaping youth sexuality. Meghan's research this summer was supported by the Eva L. Pancoast Memorial Fellowship and the

Society for Psychological Anthropology/Lemelson Student Fellowship and was conducted in collaboration with Femina Health Information Project (HIP).

Anthropology students **Aura Newlin** and **John Heintz** recently spent 10 weeks in Papua New Guinea mapping houses, cooking huts, and other landmarks in 10 malaria-endemic villages as part of an ongoing collaboration between the PNG Institute of Medical Research (IMR) and the CWRU Center for Global Health and Diseases. Newlin and Heintz's efforts constitute key elements of two projects comprising this 25-year partnership.

Ecology of Infectious Diseases is investigating ecological influences on the various mosquito species that transmit malaria. International Collaborations in Infectious Disease Research is testing the efficacy of mass drug administration for the elimination of lymphatic filariasis, an often disabling and stigmatizing disease spread by the same mosquitoes that transmit malaria. Both projects are collecting baseline data to evaluate the impact of bed net distribution on disease prevalence and local mosquito populations.

In addition to mapping structures, Heintz helped to identify and map mosquito breeding sites, and the duo produced census lists identifying roughly 1,100 households. The resulting data not only helps to quantify the spatial relationships between local residents and disease-carrying mosquitoes, but also facilitates the work of other IMR projects.



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Epidemiology teams measuring levels of filariasis infection have already made use of the census lists, as will researchers conducting clinical trials of preventive malaria treatment during pregnancy and infancy. Furthermore, Newlin and Heintz's work will directly guide the upcoming distribution of mosquito nets to these communities.

Beyond these proximate outcomes, this field experience has laid the groundwork for Newlin's and Heintz's future involvement with medical research in PNG: Heintz hopes to spend a year working with the PNG IMR before enrolling in medical school, and Newlin is returning to PNG for her doctoral research. Both Heintz and Newlin are now proficient in Melanesian Pidgin, familiar with medical research in PNG, and irrevocably "infected" by the magnetism of Papua New Guinea and its people.

Aura Newlin is a 3rd year Ph.D. student in Case's medical anthropology program. Her research will focus on the control of malaria and lymphatic filariasis in Papua New Guinea. John Heintz is an undergraduate senior in biology and anthropology, and is also pursuing a Master's degree in medical anthropology. He is currently applying to medical schools. Newlin and Heintz were both supported by funding from the CWRU Framework Program for Global Health (NIH Fogarty International Center), and Heintz received an Experiential Learning Fellowship in Anthropology.



Meghan Halley and **Hillary Melchior**s received the Lemelson/Society of Psychological Anthropology pre-disertation fieldwork award.

Denise Lin will present a paper titled "Not Your Girl Next Door: Intercultural/intergenerational Conflict on Body Ideals Among East Asian Immigrant Women" under the session titled "Living in Community: (Re)socialization Throughout the Life Course" at the AAA meeting in San Francisco in November.

Marisa Abbe's most recent publication: *Competance: Expanding the Scope of Cultural Competence*, *Graduate Discourse*, 4(1): 38-54.

Marisa's recent presentations: "Using A Multi-Method Ap-

proach in Social Science Research" at the National Science Foundation Summer "Research Experience for Undergraduates" Program, Denton, Texas, June 2008 and "Medical Competence: Expanding the Scope of Cultural Competence" at AAA meeting in San Francisco in November 2008.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Sarah Byrd attended the Eastern Pequot Archaeological field school at the Eastern Pequot Reservation in Connecticut.

Anna Wieser participated in archaeological fieldwork at the Burrell Orchard Site through the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.



Jonathan M. Geisinger was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha of Ohio at CWRU.

Nina Sreshta won 1st place in the Intersections SOURCE Symposium and Poster Session for 2008 for her Social Sciences Oral Presentation titled: "Sleeping Site Selection of Mantled Howler Monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*)."

Nina gave a lecture on her summer research that was funded with the Experiential Learning Fellowship in Anthropology. Her lecture titled "Working at Target India" is viewable online at case.edu/artsci/anth/documents/Sreshtafinalreport.pdf. Also check out the blog article about Nina's research: blog.case.edu/case-news/2008/10/30/tartgetindia.

GRADUATE DISCOURSE NEWS

Graduate Discourse started off strongly this semester. The monthly Works-in-Progress series resumed with a wonderful presentation by Nadia El-Shaarawi and Sarah Rubin. The first Professional Development meeting of the semester was presented by Dr. Lee Hoffer titled "Important things to know about fieldwork that you don't learn in books!" Dr. Hoffer shared insights from his fieldwork experiences. The release of the latest edition of "Graduate Discourse: The Case Western Reserve University Journal of Medical Anthropology" with featured invited articles by Dr. Atwood Gaines and Stephanie McClure, is expected in early December. A practice session was held for individuals presenting

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at this year's AAA meeting in San Francisco, allowing students to present their papers in front of an audience and receive feedback from faculty and peers.

On a lighter note, Team Anthro will once again represent the department in the annual Ultimate Frisbee intramural tournament. On Friday, December 5, the graduate students are planning a celebration of Claude Levi-Strauss' 100th birthday.

The new Graduate Discourse officers for the 2008-09 year are: Jonathan Metcalfe (Administrative/Advocate Chair), Christine Borden-King-Jones (Professional Development Chair), Nadia El-Shaarawi (Social Chair), Smaranda Ene (GSS Senator), Kristi Ninnemann (GSS Senator).

ALUMNI NEWS

Sabina Hossain who just graduated is working at Metro-Health Medical Center as a Research Associate for the Center for Reducing Health Disparities.

Recent graduate **Mark Savinell** accepted a position as a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Cincinnati in Classics. He was offered the Louise Taft Semple Fellowship and a full scholarship.

Tejasvi Pasupneti is attending the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) for an MPH in international health epidemiology.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. David Kaawa-Mafigiri won a Postdoctoral Research Award at Research Showcase.

Melvyn Goldstein, John Reynolds Harkness Professor of Anthropology and co-director of the Center for Research on Tibet, gave a briefing on Tibet to selected members of the U.S. Congress in March under the auspices of the Aspen Institute's Congressional Program.

Professor Goldstein received an NEH grant for \$150,000 to fund "Tibetan Voices, an oral history of Tibet." This grant will allow him to finish the Tibet Oral History Archive and to prepare a book titled "Tibetan Voices" for which he has a contract from the University of California Press.

Professor Goldstein in collaboration with Dr. Ben Jiao (Ph.D. from our Department, 2001) and Dr. Tanzen Lhundrup (who studied on a tutorial basis in the department for 6 months), have just published a new book titled, *On the Cultural Revolution in Tibet: The Nyemo Incident of 1969* (U. of California Press, 2008). This is the first study of the Cultural Revolution in Tibet and combines extensive anthropological oral history/life history interviews with previously unknown archival data. An early review of the book said: "... This contribution cannot be overstated."



Moreover, for the second year in a row, the Chronicle of Higher Education has highlighted the research of department faculty. Last year it published an article on the work of Dr. Korbin and this year it published an article featuring Dr. Goldstein's Tibetan Oral History and Archive Project which is in its final stage of completion. The complete set of interview recordings and transcripts (about 33,000 single-spaced pages) will become part of the Library of Congress' Asian Digital Projects program and will be made available by the LC in perpetuity to users throughout the world as a searchable, online Web Archive. The first set of interviews will be made public in summer 2009. For more information on this research see: www.cwru.edu/affil/tibet/moreTibetInfo/oral_history.htm

Professor Cynthia Beall is organizing the Plenary Session for the Human Biology Association's annual meeting on April 1, 2009 in Chicago. The session title is "The past 10,000 years: is there a mismatch between our environment and our genes?"

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Scientists frequently assert that current human biology and environment are mismatched because we remain little changed genetically from our hunting and gathering ancestors owing to the slow pace of evolution and the rapid pace of environmental changes that have occurred since the advent of agriculture some 10,000 years ago. Recent developments in many fields make it possible to go beyond the simple assertion and address the question of how fast we can evolve. For example, what is the evidence for loci that were adaptive during our hunting and gathering past that may now influence modern human variation and vulnerability to disease? Another example concerns the timing and pace of important environmental modifications in the past 10,000 years and the resulting changes in selective forces. New diets and infectious diseases illustrate the reciprocal relationship between human biology and the biotic environment in the past 10,000 years or so. Epigenetic phenomena are emerging as processes that rapidly link the environment with genetics during a lifetime in ways that may require updating existing models of adaptation. Demographic history and processes strongly influence both environmental change and the gene pool.

In addition, Professor Beall and Professor Peter Robbins (Oxford University) have been funded by the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent) for a catalysis meeting entitled, "Human Evolution and Adaptation to High-altitude Hypoxia."

Professor Atwood Gaines has been appointed to the NIMH Minority Health Centers review panel and will be presenting at the AAA meeting and chairing a session as well.



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