

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST

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

FALL 2016

2016 Kassen lecture features

Dr. Claire Wendland

Each year the Department of Anthropology presents the Kassen Lecture Series, generously supported by an annuity from the late Drs. Aileen and Julian Kassen. This year featured Claire Wendland, Professor in the Departments of Anthropology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Medical History and Bioethics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The lecture was held on October 13th and entitled "Dangerous Care: Reproductive Violence, Fast and Slow."



In Malawi, public attention to high maternal death rates has often prompted people to bolster their own authority by blaming others for dangerous care. It has also prompted considerable blame directed at pregnant women themselves. More recently there has been similar patterns of blame in the United States. In this lecture, Dr. Wendland discussed how she uses Berlant's "slow death" and Nixon's "slow violence" to reconsider maternal death by drawing on ethnographic research in Malawi both within and outside the formal health sectors. Reproductive violence can be fast or slow, or fast and slow at the same time. To represent it as an acute crisis can be politically useful. That representation also risks drawing our attention away from the slow injuries that happen within health systems, between them, or outside them entirely. A reception was held after the lecture, encouraging further discussion among faculty, students, and guests.

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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS continued

Dr. Janet McGrath Received the AARG 2016 Moher Downing Distinguished Service Award

At this year's Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, **Dr. Janet McGrath** received the **AIDS and Anthropology Research Group (AARG) 2016 Moher Downing Distinguished Service Award**. It was awarded to Dr. McGrath for her more than 25 years of outstanding interdisciplinary anthropological scholarship in the service of the prevention of HIV/AIDS and exceptionally meritorious contributions to the improvement of the health of people infected with or at risk of infection with HIV. The AARG is a special interest group of the Society for Medical Anthropology, which is a section within the American Anthropological Association whose mission is to support anthropological research in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

New Book Series available January 2017

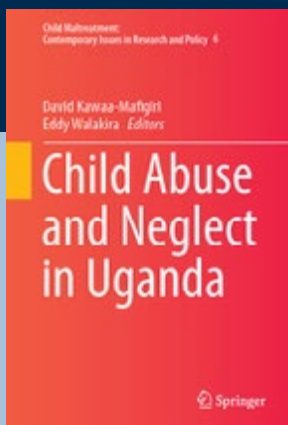
Dr. Jill Korbin and Dr. Richard Krugman are series editors of a book entitled *Child Maltreatment: Contemporary Issues in Research and Policy* by Springer Publishing. The series provides a high-quality, comprehensive source offering of the current best knowledge on child maltreatment from multidisciplinary and multicultural perspectives. It consists of a core handbook that is followed by two or three edited volumes of original contributions per year. The handbook will be updated every five years. The edited volumes will focus on critical issues in the field from basic biology and neuroscience to practice and policy.



Volume 6 is the first volume on child maltreatment in Africa written by scholars within their own country.

Available January 2017

A new volume (volume 6) in this book series is coming out in January 2017. Volume 6 of this series, *Child Abuse and Neglect in Uganda*, is the first volume on child maltreatment in Africa that is written by scholars within their own country. Editors of this volume are Dr. David Kaawa-Mafigiri and Dr. Eddy Walakira. The book provides a unique perspective on addressing issues of various forms of violence against children from scholars within their own country and brings together cross-disciplinary expertise on a vast range of topics related to child abuse and neglect in Uganda.



This new volume will present a comprehensive view of child maltreatment in Uganda. Each chapter will summarize current knowledge and suggest future directions in a specific area. It will also highlight controversial and contested issues in that area, thus moving the field forward.

Dr. Katia Almeida

Dr. Almeida was in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) during the weeks preceding the 2016 Summer Olympics gathering qualitative data on how the local population and media were experiencing the challenges of hosting this major sport event. This trip was part of Dr. Almeida's Active Learning Fellowship in connection to the SAGES First Seminar titled "Brazil Inside & Out: a First Year Experience."

In September, Dr. Almeida presented some of her findings during the 2nd International Conference in Anthropology organized by the International Network of Iberian Anthropologists (AIBR) in Barcelona (Spain). Her presentation was called "Brazil 'is good for thinking': A Cross-Cultural Approach to Active Learning." This fall, Dr. Almeida taught this SAGES First Seminar for the third and last time and she will be presenting her findings during the upcoming conference of the Society for Applied Anthropology. Dr. Almeida is specially thankful to the Department of Anthropology for supporting her Active Learning Fellowship.



Dr. Melvyn Goldstein

Dr. Melvyn Goldstein, in cooperation with the Asian Division of the Library of Congress, published the **Fourth Installment** of his Tibet Oral History Archive Project (TOHAP) online at the Library of Congress (LOC) Website. TOHAP is a digital archive of oral history interviews with accompanying written transcripts (translated into English) documenting the social and political history of modern Tibet. It includes a large collection of interviews from common folk, monks, and Tibetan and Chinese officials speaking about their lives and modern Tibetan society and history.

The first three installments were conducted mainly with Tibetan political leaders, but some traders, spouses, monks and servants/managers who were active during the period from 1913-1959 were also interviewed. The addition of the new installment adds interviews with "common folk" in rural areas as well as monks from Drepung, Tibet's largest monastery in the traditional society (approx. 10,000 monks).

This brings the current size of TOHAP to 95 subjects, 269 cassette tapes and just over 335 hours of interviews in Tibetan. Each interview has an English transcript and a linked glossary of special Tibetan terms. There are now approximately 6,700 pages of English transcripts. A Fifth Installment will be submitted to the Library of Congress next spring. The online archive can be accessed at: www.loc.gov/search?new=true&q=Tibet+oral+history.

Fourth Installment of
TOHAP now online
at the Library of
Congress Website

Dr. Lee Hoffer

Dr. Lee Hoffer published “The Space Between Community and Self-Interest: Conflict and the Experience of Exchange in Heroin Markets,” in Donald C. Wood (ed.) *The Economics of Ecology, Exchange, and Adaptation: Anthropological Explorations (Research in Economic Anthropology, Volume 36)* by Emerald Group Publishing Limited.

He is currently serving on a study committee for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine entitled Committee on Pain Management and Regulatory Strategies to Address Prescription Opioid Abuse. The charge of the committee is to develop a report to inform the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as to the state of the science regarding prescription opioid abuse and misuse, including prevention, management, and intervention, and to provide an update from the 2011 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report “Relieving Pain in America: A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care, Education, and Research,” including a further characterization of the evolving role that opioid analgesics play in pain management. The report additionally will make recommendations on the options available to FDA to address the prescription opioid overdose epidemic, from both the individual and public health perspectives, and to otherwise further advance the field.

Dr. Hoffer is also currently working with anthropology graduate students; Allison Schlosser, Kelley Kampman, and Hannah Toneff on a project to help the Free Clinic’s syringe exchange program implement a new data collection system using web-based data collection and storage to monitor the services they provide to their clients. A proposal is pending to supply these same services to the syringe access program in Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Richard Smith

Adjunct Assistant Professor, **Dr. Richard Currie Smith**, was recently elected to the Executive Board of the Semiotic Society of America (SSA). The SSA is the leading semiotic organization in North America serving a diverse community of scholars with common interests in the study of signs and sign systems. He was also selected to serve on the program committee for the 42nd annual SSA meeting to be held in October of 2017. In addition, he is the guest editor and featured contributor for an upcoming special issue of the *American Journal of Semiotics*, the official peer-reviewed journal of the SSA due out in early 2017. His article, “Virtual Nature and the Sustainability of Life on Earth as We Know It,” has been published in *Semiotics 2015: Virtual Identities*, ed. Jamin Pelkey and Stéphanie Walsh Matthews (Yearbook of the Semiotic Society of America, Charlottesville: Philosophy Documentation Center).

Yunzhu Chen

Yunzhu Chen completed a major portion of her dissertation fieldwork on aging and family relations in the matrilineal Zhaba Tibetan region in China. She was recently awarded the **Baker-Nord Fellowship** and will be presenting a paper related to her fieldwork at the 9th Annual Postgraduate Student Forum at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in January 2017.

Julia Knopes

Julia Knopes was appointed Adjunct Instructor of Bioethics on the Case Western Reserve University Faculty of Medicine. Earlier in the year, she began a new position as the administrative coordinator of the Medicine, Society & Culture program in the CWRU Department of Bioethics.

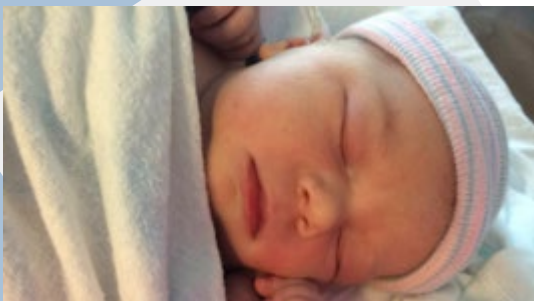
Julia received the Phi Beta Kappa Student Research Grant and a Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities Graduate Research Grant in support of her dissertation fieldwork entitled "The Performance of Certainty in American Medical Education." She continues to serve as the co-organizer of the Anthropology Student Lecture Series, which is a collaborative effort between graduate students in anthropology and students in the CWRU School of Medicine.

Frank Manzella

Frank Manzella was awarded a **Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Award (DDRA)**. There are only about 100 of these highly competitive grants awarded annually. The title of his project is "Dis-Embodied Experiences of Cosmetic Surgery Tourism in Urban Brazil." He will be conducting research in Rio de Janeiro for 12 months.

Sarah Miller-Fellows

Congratulations to **Sarah Miller-Fellows** and husband, Spenser, on the arrival of their newest family member, Charlotte Marie Miller-Fellows, born September 9, 2016.



Charlotte Marie Miller-Fellows

Graduate Discourse News

This year, **Graduate Discourse** is continuing to create new professional development resources for graduate students in anthropology. The first of these resources, created last semester, is a job repository. The repository lists past positions held across the university and local academic institutions by our graduate students. It is intended to help new and current students locate potential employment by demonstrating the range of positions filled by graduate students in research, teaching, administrative, and other positions within and around CWRU.

Graduate Discourse is next planning on generating a list of conferences where students have presented in the past, in order to help new and current students find the best venues for the presentation of their work and research beyond the annual American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meeting.

Megan Schmidt-Sane

Megan Schmidt-Sane received support from the **Social Justice Institute's Fellowship** for pre-dissertation research. A portion of the grant was used to complete pilot work in Kampala, Uganda. This pilot study seeks to generate a description of men in low-income communities in Kampala where sex work and other leisure activities take place, with the goal of information for future dissertation research on topics such as masculinity, identity, social capital, and HIV/AIDS vulnerability. The project will examine men's identities, individual beliefs, role(s) in the community and other demographic and community features.

Yan Zhang

Yan Zhang has been awarded a **Dissertation Fieldwork Grant** from the **Wenner-Gren Foundation** to support her research titled "Biopolitics of Aging and Caregiving: The Experience of Family Caregiving for Elders with Dementia in Shanghai, China." Her research aims to understand how the recent sociocultural construction of dementia as a mental disorder and the national legislation requiring family support for elders are affecting the experience of family caregiving for elders with dementia in Shanghai, China.

In November, Yan published two articles online in *Ageing International* (2016). The first entitled "Context-Specific Eldercare Patterns, Cultural Categories of Elder Mistreatment, and Potential Social Causes in Post-Socialist China." The second article was co-authored with Jeanne Shea and entitled "Ethnography of Eldercare by Elders in Shanghai, China."

Lambda Alpha Membership Applications Being Accepted Now!

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. **New members can only be nominated to the national office once a year so this is the opportunity for this year.**

Undergraduate students who have completed 12 credits in anthropology, have a major GPA of 3.25 and an overall GPA of 3.0 are eligible to join. Graduate students in good departmental standing and have a GPA of 3.25 are eligible to join, as well as all graduates of anthropology within the past five years. There is a one time initiation fee of \$25 for this lifetime membership. Bring your initiation fee and file an application in the main office of the Anthropology Department located in Mather Memorial 238.

Two students receive Experiential Fellowships in Anthropology

Undergraduate majors **Nisha Malhotra** and **Anupama Cembali** received an **Experiential Learning Fellowship in Anthropology** this past summer. Experiential Learning Fellowships in Anthropology provides Anthropology undergraduate majors with the opportunity to have a meaningful experience in another culture, with the specific goal of enhancing their understanding of cultural, economic, political and social diversity.

“I went to Athens, Greece for a month to explore how small jewelry businesses have been affected by the Greek financial crisis. I interviewed business owners, observed employee-client interactions, and immersed myself in the Greek culture to obtain data for my study. I met with a variety of people who all had different outlooks on how the Greek financial crisis has impacted the development of small business in Athens. I used rapid-ethnographic approaches to conduct my study and gather information in a time efficient manner.” -Nisha Malhotra



“It was one of the most eye-opening experiences of my undergraduate career.”

-Nisha Malhotra

Anupama Cembali spent her summer abroad in south India doing research on the rapid growth of the infertility services industry in Chennai at Prashanth Fertility Research Centre. She researched assisted reproductive technologies and infertility in India and prepared for her two month summer travel with the help of advisors Vanessa Hildebrand and Lawrence Greksa.



Cembali observed the various departments of the fertility center including the in vitro fertilization lab and the operating room. She interviewed physicians, staff, embryologists, and patients to understand how the infertility service industry has grown so fast considering how expensive the procedures are in a region where the majority of the population cannot afford the treatments. Cembali anticipated that foreign patients coming through medical tourism helped spur the growth, however she discovered that most patients were local. People save for years and are willing to sell their gold, land, and any other property to be able to afford the treatments with the goal of having a child.

Ariel Cascio

Ariel Cascio (CWRU PhD 2015) accepted a new position in May as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Neuroethics Research Unit of the Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal (IRCM). She recently co-authored a publication in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* entitled “Systematic Review of Factors Influencing Farmers’ Market Use Overall and Among Low-Income Populations.”

Joseph Galanek

Joseph D. Galanek (CWRU PhD, MPH 2012) is a senior qualitative methodologist for ICF, an international management consulting firm. Dr. Galanek’s current work at ICF includes providing qualitative methodology consultation to SAMHSA’s evaluation of mental health courts and supported employment for mental health consumers. He also provides consultation and leads qualitative research and evaluation for health communication projects for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

His most current publication, “Fugitive Safe Surrender: A Qualitative Analysis of Participants’ Reasons for Surrender and Anticipated Outcomes to Inform Program Evaluation” was co-authored with colleagues at Case Western Reserve University’s Begun Center for Violence Prevention, Research, and Education. It will appear in the fall issue of the *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology*.

Kate Mieth

This February **Kate Mieth** (CWRU BA 2016) will be working for the Peace Corps as a Health Specialist Facilitator for the Maternal and Child Health Program in Guatemala for two years.

Hillary Melchiors

Hillary Melchiors (CWRU PhD 2014) is currently an Adjunct Instructor in the Liberal Arts Department at the University of Southern Indiana. She will finish teaching this fall semester to focus full-time on her work as a DONA International Certified Doula and her business The Doula Group of Evansville. To read more, an article was recently published in the *Evansville Courier & Press* featuring Hillary entitled “Doulas Help Mothers Through Challenges of Birth.”

Carmit McMullen

Carmit McMullen (CWRU PhD 2003) was recently promoted to Senior Investigator at The Center for Health Research, Kaiser Permanente Northwest.

Elizabeth Olson

Elizabeth Olson (CWRU PhD 2009), Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Southern Utah University, has started a new book series with colleague and co-editor Dr. Cissy Fowler (Wofford College). The series is entitled *Global Change/Global Health: Revealing Critical Interactions between Social and Environmental Processes* published by the University of Arizona Press. The book series publishes scholarly monographs that treat global change and human health as interconnected phenomena.

Researchers who are studying the intersections of global change and global health are invited and encouraged to submit proposals. Visit <https://networks.h-net.org/node/8001/discussions/136506/cfps-global-change-global-health-monographs> for contact information.

Jennifer Shaw

Jennifer Shaw (CWRU PhD 2013) was recently awarded an R21 grant by the National Institute of Health (NIH) in the amount of \$390,000 for a two-year study entitled “Exploring Palliative Care Communication with Alaska Native and American Indian People at two Primary Care Sites.”

Jennifer is also a site Principal Investigator (PI) on two R01, five-year, NIH-funded studies. The first of these studies, “Caring Texts: A Strength-Based, Suicide Prevention Trial in 4 Native Communities,” aims to culturally adapt the Caring Contacts intervention and evaluate the effectiveness of caring text messages to prevent suicide in a randomized, controlled trial with 1,200 Alaska Native and American Indian youths aged 18-34 in four tribal communities in Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota.

The second of these studies, “Contingency Management Treatment of Alcohol Abuse American Indian People,” aims to culturally adapt and test an evidence-based behavioral intervention called contingency management for reducing alcohol dependence among 400 Alaska Native and American Indian people in an urban Alaska setting and 2 reservation-based communities in the continental U.S.

Danrui Song

Danrui Song (CWRU MA 2016) is working as a research analyst at an International Non-Governmental Organization called HelpMeSee. HepMeSee is the global campaign to end cataract blindness. It has partnered with hundreds of surgeons in nearly a dozen countries in an effort to build a sustainable solution to this health crisis.

Danielle Turner

Danielle Turner (CWRU BA 2016) accepted a position to work as Donations Manager for Niños de Guatemala (NDG) in Antigua, Guatemala from June to December 2016. NDG is a Dutch-Guatemalan nonprofit working to break the cycle of poverty in Guatemala by providing quality education to those who need it most.

Maggie Zraly

In June, **Maggie Zraly** (CWRU PhD 2008) presented on the UNICEF-funded ChildFund Ethiopia project “Strengthening Community-based Child Protection in Severely Drought-Affected Regions of Oromia District.” Her presentation “Emergency Response to Protect Children in Severely Drought-Affected Regions of Ethiopia” addressed the implementation of ChildFund International’s child protection in emergencies work in Fentale and Siraro drought hotspots and its approach to the prevention of and response to increased gendered risks of sexual violence, separation from caregivers, child labor and exploitation, and child marriage among girls and boys.



Dr. Jill Korbin and Dr. Maggie Zraly