

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 2018

FALL LECTURERS

“Does Volunteer Community Health Work Empower Women? – Evidence from Ethiopia’s Women’s Development Army” – Svea Closser, Ph.D.

“Invisible and in the Spotlight: Situating Sickle Cell Disease in our Teaching and Research” – Crystal L. Patil, Ph.D.

“Big Pharma, Big Food, and the Management of the Global Obesity Epidemic” – Susan Greenhalgh, Ph.D.



Svea Closser, Ph.D



Crystal Patil, Ph.D



Susan Greenhalgh, Ph D



COLLEGE OF
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UNIVERSITY

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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Uganda – CWRU Research Collaboration observes 30th Anniversary

This year marks the 30th year of the research collaboration between researchers at Case Western Reserve University and Uganda. The collaboration began at the invitation of the Ugandan government who invited the late Dr. Frederick Robbins, Nobel Laureate and Dean Emeritus of the CWRU School of Medicine, to visit to establish a research program focusing on the newly emerging epidemic of HIV/AIDS. Dr. Robbins envisioned a multidisciplinary program from the start and reached out to include the Anthropology Department faculty, including then-faculty member, Debra Schumann, and **Prof. Janet McGrath** as part of the research team. The result was the beginning of 30 years of collaborative research involving the Department of Anthropology faculty and students and faculty and students at Makerere University and the CWRU School of Medicine.



Since then, Prof McGrath has continued to participate in the UCRC research program and is now the longest standing active CWRU faculty member in the collaboration. Among the important studies undertaken by the social science research team has been research early in the epidemic into HIV risk for women, impact of AIDS on families, and studies of gaps in HIV treatment and service provision. Since 2014, the collaboration has been extended to include engineering faculty at CWRU and Makerere University. Prof. McGrath collaborates with Prof. Andrew Rollins from the Department of Biomedical Engineering at CWRU and Dr. Robert Ssekitoleko in the BME program at Makerere University to bring engineering and social students together in the classroom and on field trips to Uganda to study and design technologies for health to address locally defined health issues in Luwero District, Uganda.

In addition to the faculty-led research, the collaboration has trained dozens of Ugandans across a variety of disciplines, including Anthropology. Two Ugandan anthropologists have completed their dissertation research with support from the Fogarty International Center through training grants to the CWRU School of Medicine. Dr. Charles Rwabukwali, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Makerere University, received his PhD in Anthropology from CWRU in 1997. In 2017, he was elected to the Ugandan Academy of Sciences. Dr. David Kaawa-Mafigiri is currently Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration at Makerere University. He received his PhD in Anthropology from CWRU in 2007, where he is now an adjunct assistant professor.

Uganda – CWRU Research Collaboration (continued)

Other CWRU alumni who have completed dissertations in Uganda include: Dr. Sarah Chard, who is now Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Health Administration and Policy, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She received her PhD in 2001. Dr. Margaret Winchester received her PhD in 2011. She is now in the Health Studies Department at Dickinson College. Both Dr. Chard and Dr. Winchester were supported by grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Megan Schmidt-Sane is currently conducting her NSF funded doctoral research in Kampala.

In 2007, in collaboration with Prof Charles Rwabukwali and Dr. David Kaawa-Mafigiri, Prof. McGrath established the Center for Social Science Research on AIDS (CeSSRA) (NIH Grant HD056917). CeSSRA is located at Makerere University in the School of Social Sciences. CeSSRA currently houses the first IRB dedicated to social and behavioral sciences at Makerere University, that was organized in part by Dr. Kaawa-Mafigiri. Other Anthropology faculty and alumni who have participated in CeSSRA training workshops are Prof Jill Korbin and Prof Lawrence Greksa and Ph.D. alumni, Dr. James Spilsbury (CWRU School of Medicine) and Dr. Kathryn Oths (University of Alabama).

The anniversary was celebrated at CWRU in October, featuring a presentation by Dr. Peter Mugenyi, founding director of the Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) in Kampala, Uganda, and a panel of American and Ugandan researchers. The anniversary celebration will continue in Uganda in March 2019.



Above: Members of the Global Health Design Collaboration at CWRU

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Cynthia Beall

Dr. Beall, a member of the Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), participated in three international meetings on hypoxia during November. She gave talks, organized and chaired scientific sessions, and judged presentations in Beijing, China; Gangtok, Sikkim, India; and Kathmandu, Nepal. Discoveries of the distinctive “Tibetan pattern” of adaptation to high-altitude hypoxia began in earnest at Case Western Reserve University Anthropology Department in the 1980s and re-directed the study of human adaptability to address population differences in adaptation to the same stress. Presenters at all three meetings addressed the Tibetan – Andean – East African contrasts in adaptation to high-altitude hypoxia.

Prof. Beall received funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) Biological Anthropology Program for a project “Genes, physiology, and fertility of Tibetan women at high altitude in Nepal.” The new research builds on a previous project “Genes and fertility of Tibetan women at high altitude in Nepal” (<http://caslabs.case.edu/genes-and-fertility/>). That research was designed to test the hypothesis that certain variants in genes regulating the response to hypoxia associated with adaptation to high-altitude hypoxia and reproductive success of ethnic Tibetan women living above 3000m (~10,000') in Nepal. It discovered that genetic variants at an oxygen homeostasis locus called EPAS1 associated with hemoglobin concentration and that hemoglobin concentration associated with reproductive success in a sample of more than 1,000 women. However, EPAS1 did not associate with reproductive success, implying the involvement of another factor or factors. Because EPAS1 influences many traits, we hypothesized that hemoglobin concentration correlates with one of the other traits which link genetic, biological, and reproductive variation. Therefore, this new research project is designed to determine the biological pathways from the EPAS1 locus to other genes and other biological traits and reproductive success in a sample of 400 of the women who participated in the previous study. We will revisit the women to collect new hematological, cardiopulmonary, and respiratory traits and integrate them into the rich body of genomic, physiological, and reproductive data they have already provided. The relationship between genetic, phenotypic and reproductive variation is central to important goals in biological anthropology including understanding the sources of human biological variation and ongoing human evolution.

Dr. Lihong Shi

Dr. 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.

Dr. Jill Korbin

Dr. Korbin’s 1981 classic volume, *Child Abuse and Neglect: Cross-Cultural Perspectives* (1981) is being reprinted by the University of California Press as part of their Voices Revived Initiative (expected publication date 2018).

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Melvyn Goldstein

Dr. 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. He has launched a new ethnological project on Tibetan "Mass Monasticism" tentatively titled *Drepung Monastery: An Ethnography of Life in Tibet's Greatest Monastic City at the Twilight of Traditional Tibetan Society*.



MONKS AT DREPUNG MONASTARY , c1937



DREPUNG MONASTERY 1922

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Lee Hoffer

This summer, Dr. Hoffer gave an invited lecture to the School of Public Health at Taipei Medical University, (Taipei, Taiwan), entitled: Understanding the Illegal Drug Market for Opioids and the Consequences of Modern Drug Distribution. He is hoping to establish collaborations with TMU, School of Public Health in the future.

Dr. Hoffer is currently conducting two studies. The first is an NIH/NIDA sub-contract to assess trends in heroin, fentanyl, and naloxone use in Cuyahoga County. The second is a project funded by a CWRU, Vice President of Research Catalyst Award. This is a study comparing illegal drug acquisition activities between drug users in Cleveland and Portsmouth Ohio. The data from this study will be used to populate a simulation of illegal drug demand. He is excited to be working with graduate students from Anthropology, Public Health, and Applied Mathematics on this effort.

Dr. Hoffer gave an overview of his research at the Keynote address at the CWRU, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, Public Health Innovations conference. And presented at the 2018 Ohio Harm Reduction Conference (Columbus, Ohio) on collecting data on syringe exchange activities.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

WELCOME

The department welcomes this year's new class of graduate students. Three students entered the PhD program: Alisha Giri, Norma Ojehomon, and Han Xiao. Four students entered the one-year MA program: Kristine Camper, Waluma Fofung, Caprielle Hane, and Joshua Silberfein.

Aura Newlin

Aura spoke on a plenary panel titled "The Dangers of Immigration Detention Centers" last June in Minneapolis at the annual conference of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts.

Sarah Miller-Fellows

Sarah, who'll be defending her dissertation ("Making Medicine Amish) early spring semester, has been hired as an independent contractor for Children's Defense Fund Texas. She'll be conducting a study of children's healthcare enrollment in central Texas communities, funded by St. David's Foundation. She was also accepted to the 2019 New Leaders Council Institute, Austin Chapter. She'll be completing a 6-month training program for progressive millennial political leadership. Sarah presented "We Take Them as They Are: Is Rejection Always Resistance?" at the 2018 American Anthropological Association in San Jose, California.

Yunzhu (June) Chen

Yunzhu presented "The Erosion of Visiting Marriage? —Family Change among Matrilineal Tibetans in Southwestern China" at the 2018 American Anthropological Association in San Jose, California.

Yan Zhang

Yan presented "Biopolitics and Professional Power: Historical Changes in the Conceptualization of Dementia in China" at the 2018 American Anthropological Association in San Jose, California.

Megan Schmidt-Sane

Megan recently presented on a panel on science and innovations at the Uganda AIDS Commission's National HIV Prevention Symposium in Kampala, held from 21-22 November 2018. The symposium, the first of its kind in Uganda, was held to inform the Presidential Fast-Track Initiative on HIV/AIDS, specifically priorities on HIV prevention. The presentation reported preliminary data on HIV testing and men's social groups from an ongoing mixed-method study of high-risk men in Kampala, Uganda, the core of Megan's dissertation. It linked these preliminary data to policy priorities and suggested programming.

Brooke Jespersion

Brooke presented her paper, "There's No Safety: Stratified Reproduction and the Neighborhood Context of Safe Child-Rearing" at the 2018 American Anthropological Association in San Jose, California.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Kelley Kampman

Kelley presented "MAT and Motherhood: Identity Work and the Construction of "Good" Mothering Among Opioid Addicted Women in Treatment" at the 2018 American Anthropological Association in San Jose, California.

Publications by Graduate Students, Post-Docs, and Graduates

Spilsbury, J.C., Nadan, Y., Kaye-Tzadok, A., Korbin, J.E., **Jespersion, B.V.,** and **Allen, B.J.** Caregivers Perceptions and Attitudes towards Child Maltreatment. A Pilot Case Study in Tel Aviv, Israel and Cleveland, Ohio. *International Journal on Child Maltreatment. Research, Policy, and Practice* 1:19-40.

Nadan, Y., Gemara, N., Keesing, R., Bamberger, E., Roer-Strier, D., and Korbin, J. "Spiritual Risk": A Parental Perception of Risk for Children in the Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Community. *British Journal of Social Work* 1-18.

Haas, B.M., Berg, K.A., **Schmidt-Sane, M.M,** Korbin, J.E., **Spilsbury, J.C.** Does Neighborhood Built Environment Influence Child Maltreatment? Pathways According to Caregivers. *Social Science and Medicine* 214:171-178.

Coulton, C.J., Richter, F., Korbin, J.E., Crampton, D., and **Spilsbury, J.C.** Understanding Trends in Neighborhood Child Maltreatment Rates: A Three-Wave Panel Study 1990-2010. *Child Abuse and Neglect* 84:170-181.

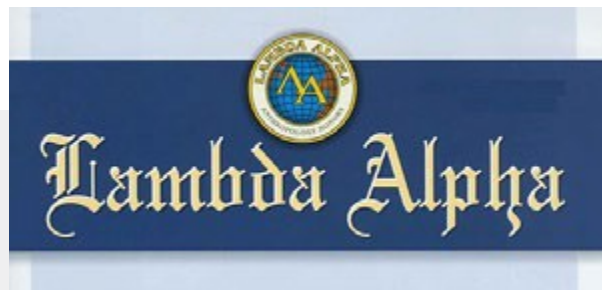
Gross-Manos, D., Haas, B.M., Richter, F., Crampton, D.S., Korbin, J.E., Coulton, C.J., and **Spilsbury, J.C.** Two sides of the same neighborhood? Multilevel analysis of residents' and child welfare workers' perspectives on neighborhood social disorder and collective efficacy. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*

Miller-Fellows, S., Adams, J., Korbin, J.E., and L.P. Greksa. Creating Culturally Competent and Responsive Mental Health Services: A Case Study among the Amish Population of Geauga County, Ohio. *Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research*:1-12.

Undergraduate Student News

Joint Anthropology Student Association and PERIOD @ CWRU Presentation

Jacob Kordeleski, President of the Anthropological Student Association, reported that “This October, the Anthropology Student Association held a speaker event, co-hosted with PERIOD @ CWRU, featuring the department’s own Dr. Vanessa Hildebrand. The event was very successful, so we are looking to co-host another event this Spring. If you have a suggestion for an undergraduate club whose interests align with the field of anthropology and who may be interested in collaborating, email Jacob Kordeleski at jmk282@case.edu. Event topics could include public health, human biology, childhood studies, archaeology, cultural studies, and more!



Congratulations NEW Lambda Alpha Members

The **Ohio Theta Chapter of Lambda Alpha**, the international honors society for students of anthropology, welcomes the following new members: **Anna Anders, James Darnell, Lucille Hu, Carlos Lewis-Miller, Jordin Sirody, Aubri Swank, and Gabrielle Watson.**

John Garrity

John Garrity (CWRU Ph.D, 1998) was named Executive Director of the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Portage County, Ohio.

M. Norman Oliver

M. Norman Oliver (CWRU M.A., 1992), a Professor and former chair of the Department of Family Medicine at University of Virginia School of Medicine has been named Virginia's state health commissioner.

Jing Wang

Jing (PhD 2018) is currently in a research-based, two-year postdoctoral position at the School of Ethnology and Sociology at the Yunnan University of China. The ethnology position at the School of Ethnology and Sociology at Yunnan University of China. The ethnology department runs one of the best anthropology programs in China, with a focus on research on the minority groups in Southwest China as well as in Southeast Asia. During her postdoc, she plans to work on turning her dissertation into a book, while taking on a new research project on the Tibetans in the Shangri-la area in Yunnan province.

Allison Schlosser

Allison Schlosser graduated from the doctoral program in August 2018. Her dissertation, *Subjectivity and Moral Personhood: An Ethnography of Addiction Treatment in the U.S.*, examines client experiences of residential addiction treatment and post-treatment life in the context of the moral politics of opioid addiction and intervention in the U.S. She is currently a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award T32 Postdoctoral Fellow in Transdisciplinary Primary Care Research at the CWRU School of Medicine, where she is researching adolescent experiences of medication and mind-body interventions for substance use disorders.

In November, Allison presented her paper, "Overdose and its afterlife: New forms of living and dying in the U.S. opioid crisis," as part of the Executive Session, "Anthropological Interventions in the U.S. Opioid Crisis," at the American Anthropological Association Meeting in San Jose, CA.

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