

Medical Anthropology and Global Health at Case Western Reserve University

Program Description and Information for Prospective Students

The focus of graduate studies within the Department of Anthropology is our program in Medical Anthropology and Global Health. This brochure describes this program, several joint programs which may be of interest to applicants, and the application process.

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND GLOBAL HEALTH

The graduate program in Medical Anthropology and Global Health in the Department of Anthropology at Case Western Reserve University is designed to train a new generation of scholars to meet the challenges of our increasingly globalized world. The world and anthropology have changed since the inception of medical anthropology. Increasingly, the local is interconnected with the global through the movement and exchange of peoples, cultures, ideas and practices, goods and capital, science, technology and ethics. Our program transforms the anthropological study of health into the anthropological study of global health through the experience of outstanding faculty conducting cutting-edge research and through training for exceptional students. Students will acquire skills in both the theoretical foundations of anthropology and their relevant methodologies and in newly emerging theoretical and methodological approaches.

The emphasis on Medical Anthropology and Global Health continues our commitment to excellence in scholarship and research in the area of health and illness by blending a strong commitment to the traditional anthropological strengths of cross-cultural, multi-method, empirical and interpretive research with new approaches for multi-sited ethnography and for research on health and illness from diverse perspectives across a range of settings, including academic, international agencies, communities, and political and public arenas.

The Department of Anthropology's program of scholarship and training in medical anthropology and global health harnesses expertise within the Department and through our strong ties with departments and units across the University, such as the Medical School's Center for Global Health and Disease and its Public Health Program. Other resources available to students include the Center on Aging and Health, the Schubert Center for Child Studies, the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities and the Center for Biomedical Ethics, as well as a variety of interdisciplinary programs, including Asian Studies, Women's Studies, Childhood Studies, and Ethnic Studies.

The curriculum covers the range of medical anthropological interests—ethnomedicine, international health, urban health, psychiatric anthropology, psychological anthropology, cross-cultural aging, human adaptation and disease, nutritional anthropology, and so on. The program prepares students for positions in teaching and research institutions and for positions in clinical and other health-related settings.

ADMISSION TO THE MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY PROGRAM

Interested applicants should refer to <http://www.case.edu/artsci/anth/gradprograms.html> for details of the application process.

Eligibility requirements: An undergraduate degree in Anthropology is preferred but is not required for enrollment. Applicants with no previous training in Anthropology should state clearly in their application their reason for applying to graduate school in anthropology.

Financial Assistance: *Those applicants wishing to be considered for financial support must submit a complete application by March 1st of the calendar year in which they wish to enroll.*

Visiting the department: Interested applicants are welcome to visit the department prior to applying. If you plan on visiting CWRU, please contact Barbara Reebel in our departmental office (216-368-3703; barbara.reebel@case.edu) in as far advance as possible. Let her know when you will be visiting and when you will be available to meet with Anthropology faculty and students. We'll arrange for you to meet with several faculty and current graduate students based on your interests. *Please do not contact individual faculty and try to arrange your own meetings.* You will have a more satisfying visit if your interviews are coordinated by our main office.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.A. DEGREE

All M.A. candidates are required to complete four core courses, one approved statistics elective, and five electives, for a total of 30 hours of graduate credit. Students must also receive at least a “pass” on the qualifying exam (see below).

Full time status is granted to students enrolling in a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester. Part time status or overload enrollment is possible. Consult the Director of Graduate Programs for more information.

The four core courses are::

- ANTH 480: Medical Anthropology and Global Health I
- ANTH 481: Medical Anthropology and Global Health II
- ANTH 439: Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Methods
- ANTH 462: Contemporary Anthropology Theory

All M.A. candidates are required to maintain a minimum cumulative average of 3.0 (“B”) in order to qualify for the M.A. degree.

Students are required to earn a grade of C or better in an approved statistics elective (ANTH 319 or equivalent).

Students take 15 credit hours in electives. Normally, these electives are taken in anthropology but students may take electives outside the Anthropology Department with the approval of the Director of Graduate Programs.

QUALIFYING EXAM

All students, including those entering the program with a graduate degree, must demonstrate mastery of the core material in ANTH 480 and ANTH 481 through their performance in a six hour written Qualifying Examination which is given every spring semester.

Qualifying Examinations can receive one of three grades: “High Pass,” “Pass,” or “Fail.” “High Pass” signifies performance sufficient for both the M.A. degree and advancement to the Ph.D. program, provided other M.A. requirements have been satisfied. “Pass” signifies adequate performance for the M.A. degree, but insufficient to enter the Ph.D. program. “Fail” means a performance inadequate for the M.A. degree.

Students who receive a grade of “Pass” or “Fail” may retake those portions of the exam in which they did not receive a grade of “High Pass” the subsequent Fall semester. Students who receive an overall retake grade of “High Pass” will be admitted to the Ph.D. program.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE Ph.D. DEGREE

Admission to the Ph.D. Program

Students are never admitted directly into the Ph.D. program. Students enter the PhD program in one of two ways:

1. Student enrolled in the M.A. program in anthropology at Case Western Reserve University. MA students are admitted to the Ph.D. program upon completion of 30 approved credits of course work with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and completion of the written Qualifying Examination with a score of “High Pass”.
2. Students entering the program with a graduate degree. Students coming to the Medical Anthropology and Global Health program with any graduate degree are required to complete the written Qualifying Examination with a score of “High Pass”, maintain a 3.0 cumulative average and pass an approved statistics course with a grade of C or above. Specific course requirements may be waived if the student has taken equivalent courses at another institution.

Once admitted into the Ph.D. program, students already holding an M.A. in anthropology may apply all anthropology graduate credits taken at Case Western Reserve University towards the Ph.D. course requirements.

Students entering with a graduate degree in a subject other than anthropology may apply any electives taken at Case Western Reserve University before completing the Qualifying Examination towards the Ph.D. course requirements. The core courses and required statistics elective cannot be counted towards Ph.D. course requirements.

Ph.D. Advisor and Doctoral Committee

Within one semester of being admitted into the Ph.D. program students will begin the process of forming a doctoral committee, beginning with the selection of a Ph.D. advisor who will also serve as the doctoral committee chair. The student, with the guidance of the chair, will next develop a program of Ph.D. class work, select additional committee members, define the areas of the candidacy exams (see below), and prepare and defend a dissertation prospectus.

The doctoral committee consists initially of the chair and two other regular full-time faculty members in the Anthropology Department. The Anthropology doctoral committee members must be in place prior to the prospectus defense. An outside committee member from another department in the university must, by university regulation, be selected prior to the completion of the dissertation.

Course Work

Prior to advancement to candidacy, students must complete 18 credit hours of Ph.D. coursework. These credit hours should be distributed as follows.

1. ANTH 504 Anthropological Research Design (normally taken in the Spring semester of the 2nd year of graduate study).
2. Two graduate level seminars (500 level courses), one of which must be a seminar focusing on global health, such as ANTH 511 Seminar in Anthropology and Global Health.
3. Electives chosen with the approval of the Ph.D. Advisory Committee will constitute the remainder of the 18 credit hour requirement. Students may not take more than six credit hours of either ANTH 599 or ANTH 601.

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative average of 3.0 (“B”) in these courses in order to qualify for the Ph.D. degree.

Language Requirement

Ph.D. students will work with their Ph.D. Advisory Committee to determine, prior to completing their candidacy exams what foreign language(s), if any, is needed to successfully complete his or her Ph.D. research. If language competency is required, the language requirement can be met by either a demonstration of competency in a relevant written language or in an oral field language. The adviser, in consultation with the PhD Advisory Committee, will determine the level of competency needed and by what means language proficiency will be certified. Certification of competency must occur prior to the dissertation defense.

Advancement to Candidacy

A student will be advanced to candidacy after successful completion of two topical examinations and a successful defense of a dissertation prospectus. It is expected, but not required, that the two topical examinations will be completed prior to the defense of the dissertation prospectus. The candidacy process cannot begin until an advisory committee consisting of the chair and two other anthropology faculty has been established. It generally begins after the required coursework has been completed.

The topical examinations cover two fields of concentration which are selected by the student in consultation with the Ph.D. advisory committee. These fields should reflect the student’s primary research interests and thus provide the expertise necessary for the preparation of a dissertation prospectus. Each examination covers one field of concentration and is weighted equally.

Each student must prepare a dissertation prospectus describing their proposed dissertation research. This prospectus must be defended before their Ph.D. advisory committee and other members of the academic community. The defense must be publicly posted at least two weeks in advance of its scheduled time.

Completion of the Ph.D. Dissertation

Ph.D. candidates are required to complete 18 credit hours of dissertation credit (ANTH 701).

The student's dissertation represents original research of a theoretical and empirical nature. It must demonstrate a sound knowledge of problem formulation and research methodology, and the ability to evaluate facts and relate them to the existing body of knowledge. The dissertation must be written in a style and form that meets the standards required for publication in scholarly journals.

When the dissertation has been judged ready by the doctoral committee chair, the student is required to defend it before the dissertation committee (three full-time Anthropology faculty and one outside member) and other members of the academic community.

CERTIFICATE IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND GLOBAL HEALTH

The Certificate in Anthropology and Global Health, which is offered in collaboration with the Center for Global Health and Diseases in the School of Medicine, prepares graduate students for a career in global health. The Certificate is available to all graduate students in good standing who complete the following courses:

1. INTH 401: Fundamental Concepts in Global Health
2. ANTH 459: Introduction to International Health
3. ANTH 511: Seminar in Anthropology and Global Health
4. One 400- or 500- level health-related elective approved by your adviser

For more information on the Certificate, see:

<http://www.case.edu/orgs/cghd/training/certificate.htm>

JOINT PROGRAM IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The Department of Anthropology together with the Master of Public Health Program in the Case School of Medicine have combined resources to better meet the growing demand among students for joint training. The course of study leads to an M.A./M.P.H. or Ph.D./M.P.H., preparing students for both professional and academic careers in anthropology and public health. The joint program also provides opportunities for interaction and collaboration between the two programs to create a unique and stimulating intellectual environment for the study of health and society. Nine credit hours (the equivalent of one full time semester) are shared between the departments to reduce the time to degrees.

When students apply to the joint program they designate a home department (either Anthropology or the M.P.H. program) which will serve as their primary affiliation during graduate study. Although students apply separately to both programs it is only necessary to complete one application, which will be shared between programs.

For more details on the MPH program of study see the M.P.H. website: <http://mph.case.edu/>

M.D./M.A./Ph.D. PROGRAM WITH THE CASE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Qualified students may pursue an M.D. at the School of Medicine coincident with graduate studies in the Department of Anthropology. We recommend that students interested in such a program of study discuss this option with their School of Medicine advisor after admission to medical school.

M.A./M.S.N. DEGREE WITH THE CASE SCHOOL OF NURSING

The Department of Anthropology offers a joint program with the School of Nursing to obtain a combined M.A. and Masters of Science in Nursing degree. The goal of this joint program is to give students a unique opportunity to combine the cross-cultural expertise of medical anthropology and global health with clinical expertise in nursing. Interested students should contact the department.

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY FACULTY

CYNTHIA M. BEALL, Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University) Distinguished University Professor and Sarah Idell Pyle Professor of Anthropology; Undergraduate Advisor of Physical Anthropology; Co-Director of Center for Research on Tibet; Director of Evolutionary Biology Steering Committee; Secondary Appointment in the Department of Anatomy, School of Medicine, Secondary Appointment in the Center on Global Health and Disease. Dr. Beall's research interests are in the broad area of how people adapt to their environments, both physical and sociocultural, and the causes and consequences of worldwide variation in human biology – the biodiversity of humans. Her current research focuses on the different patterns of adaptation to high-altitude hypoxia of the indigenous populations of the Andean, Tibetan, and East African Plateaus.

ATWOOD D. GAINES, MA, Ph.D. (University of California at Berkeley); M.P.H. (University of California at Berkeley, School of Public Health) Professor; Professor of Psychiatry and Professor of Bioethics, School of Medicine, and Professor of Nursing, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing Editor-in-Chief, *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry: An International Journal of Comparative Health Research* Dr. Gaines is a cultural medical anthropologist and bioethicist concerned with the cultural dimensions of professional and popular ethnopsychiatric ideology and praxis. His research efforts include work on ethnicity in England and France, alcohol use and abuse, and US Christian and secular psychiatry. His current research focuses on the Cultural Studies of (International) Science of Alzheimer Disease and other dementias while his work in bioethics engages the ethics of 'racial' social classifications in biomedical research and practice and develops a Cultural Bioethics.

MELVYN C. GOLDSTEIN, Ph.D. (University of Washington) John Reynolds Harkness Professor; Professor of International Health, School of Medicine; Co-Director of Center for Research on Tibet. Dr. Goldstein is a socio-cultural anthropologist who is currently engaged in research on socio-economic change and on aging and modernization in nomadic and farming communities in rural Tibet. His topical interests include: global aging, population and development anthropology, change and modernization in the Third World and anthropology and history. His geographic specialties are Tibet, China, Mongolia and the Himalayas.

LAWRENCE P. GREKSA, Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University) Professor; Chair; Graduate Admissions Advisor. Dr. Greksa is a physical anthropologist specializing in human biology. His research interests include the biological consequences of social change and human adaptation to high altitude. He has conducted research in Polynesia and South America and is currently doing research with the Old Order Amish in Ohio.

VANESSA HILDEBRAND, Ph.D. (Washington University) Assistant Professor. Vanessa Hildebrand is a socio-cultural anthropologist who specializes in the links between biomedicine, indigenous medical knowledge, and global health programs. Her current research examines how people in rural Indonesia configure their identity and social status when confronted with the need to care for pregnancy and childbirth. Using a science and technology studies approach she focuses on how both reproducing women and health care practitioners negotiate various local and global influences in their assessment of the obstetric options and technologies that are available to them.

LEE D. HOFFER, Ph.D. (University of Colorado, Denver) M.P.E. (Washington University School of Medicine) Associate Professor. Dr. Hoffer's research focuses on understanding the political, social, cultural, and clinical contexts related to illicit drug use. His current research examines how illicit drug markets, and the acquisition of drugs, influences users behaviors and negative health outcomes. This research involves synthesizing agent-based computational modeling techniques and ethnographic research to develop new tools for policymakers and researchers. Borrowing from theories of Complexity Systems, these projects seek to connect the rich descriptive detail offered by anthropology with the epidemiology of drug abuse.

JILL E. KORBIN, Ph.D. (University of California at Los Angeles) Lucy Adams Leffingwell Professor; Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Director, Schubert Center for Child Studies; Director, Childhood Studies Minor. Dr. Korbin is a cultural, psychological and medical anthropologist with particular interests in child abuse and neglect, cross-cultural childrearing and human development, and neighborhood and contextual influences on child well-being. She previously conducted research on women imprisoned for fatal child abuse, on sibling caretaking among Hawaiian-Polynesians, on health-related beliefs and behaviors among urban U.S. school children, and on child maltreatment from a cross-cultural perspective. Her current research concerns the impact of neighborhood factors on child maltreatment. She is also engaged in research with the Old Order Amish in Ohio.

JANET W. MCGRATH, Ph.D. (Northwestern University) Professor; Co-Director of the Center for Social Sciences Research on AIDS; Director of Anthropology Graduate Programs. Associate Professor of Global Health. Dr. McGrath is a medical anthropologist with particular interests in infectious disease and disease prevention. She conducts research on AIDS in Uganda.

LIHONG SHI, Ph.D. (Tulane University) Assistant Professor. Dr. Shi studies reproductive politics and family and gender relations, particularly reproductive choice and family change under China's birth-control policy. Her research focus is on sociocultural anthropology; reproduction; gender, marriage, and family relations; population aging and sex-ratio imbalance; China, East Asia.