

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST

Fall 2023 Newsletter



As we start another academic year, I am pleased to share a few updates about the department with you. As always, we enjoy hearing from you so please let us know what you are up to.

Our students continue to excel, and we are proud of all their accomplishments! Special congratulations to our graduating students (see article below).

In faculty news, as noted elsewhere in this newsletter, Cynthia Beall has retired as of July 1st. It is not possible to do justice to her many important contributions to the department, the university, and the discipline. Best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement!

Congratulations to Lihong Shi, who was awarded a Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship for Fall semester 2023. During her fellowship, Dr. Shi will work on her latest project, *A Grief Endured: Surviving Child Loss in China*, a project also supported by the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.

Congratulations also to Bridget Haas on the publication of her book, *Suspended Lives Navigating Everyday Violence in the US Asylum System* published by University of California Press (see article below).

Lee Hoffer continues his important work on syringe exchanges in the state of Ohio, funded by the Ohio Department of Health. He is also researching use of psilocybin (aka “magic mushrooms”), funded by the Expanding Horizons Initiative in the College of Arts and Sciences. He will be on sabbatical during Fall 2023 semester to continue and expand these projects.

This semester we are pleased to welcome Dr. Ishani Dasgupta, who is a Humanities in Leadership Learning Series (HILLS) Postdoctoral Fellow for 2023-2024. Dr. Dasgupta received her Ph.D. in Anthropology and South Asia Studies, with distinction from the University of Pennsylvania, in 2022 for her dissertation: “Emergence of a Deterritorialized Nation: How Tibetan Political Practices Confront the Precarity of Statelessness.” We look forward to learning more about her interesting work.

This past academic year we had an impressive slate of guest speakers come to campus to share their work with the campus community. In October, Prof. Alexandra Brewis (Arizona State University) gave the annual Kassen Lecture on her work on stigma and global health. In February, Dr. Nichole Carelock came to present her work in the tech industry as part of our “Applying Anthropology to the Real World” annual lecture series. Finally, In April, Carolyn Rouse, Ritter Professor of Anthropology at Princeton University, presented her work exploring the experiences of one community in California at the heart of recent trends of declining US white life expectancies. The department is grateful to our donors and the College of Arts and Sciences for their support in bringing these speakers to campus.

As always, I enjoy hearing from you, so please let me know how you are doing. I can be reached by email at janet.mcgrath@case.edu or by phone at 216-368-2287.

Faculty News



Dr. Cynthia Beall

Prof. Cynthia Beall, Distinguished University Professor and S. Idell Pyle Professor of Anthropology retired July 1, 2023. It is not possible to do justice to Dr. Beall's many accomplishments in a short newsletter piece! Her research on adaptation to high altitude environments has been recognized by many awards and accolades. These include election into the National Academy of Sciences. She is also a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science and recipient of the Franz Boas Distinguished Achievement Award from the Human Biology Association.

Throughout her career, Prof. Beall has been an important researcher and teacher and outstanding university citizen. She has taught courses on human evolution and Darwinian Medicine and spearheaded the interdisciplinary program in evolutionary biology. She created and taught the 1-credit *Exploring Anthropology* course that introduces students from across the university to the field. Her service to the university includes a term as Chair of the Faculty Senate.

Cynthia Beall's contribution on the department, the university, and the profession will be greatly missed. From all of us, congratulations and best wishes on retirement!

Dr. Lee Hoffer

Professor Lee Hoffer recently received funding for two new projects. The

first project, "Understanding psilocibin ('magic mushrooms') in the context

of the modern 'psychedelic renaissance'," received funding by the College

of Arts and Sciences' "Expanding Horizons Initiative (EHI)." The interdisciplinary

grant involves faculty from across the College, the School of Medicine,

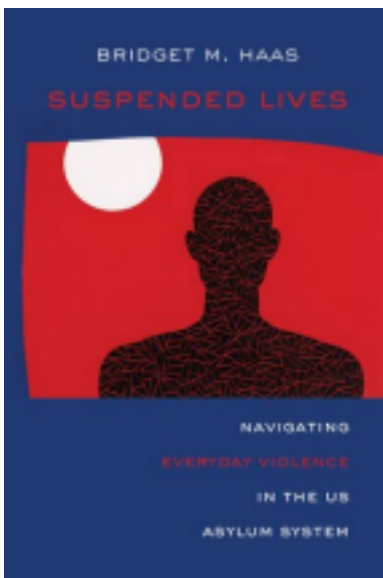
the School of Nursing, and the Weatherhead School of Management.

The project investigates how narratives in the media frame the use of psilocibin ("magic mushrooms") in what has been labeled the modern "psychedelic renaissance." The research team will also interview people in Cleveland about how they use the drug.



The second project, "The Ohio Syringe Services Program Data Collection Consortium (DCC)," establishes a partnership between CWRU and the Ohio Department of Health. This project will allow local Syringe Services

Program (SSP) providers to monitor the numbers and demographics of clients they serve; track services and materials provided; assist with inventory decision-making; and provide a standardized infrastructure for data reporting. Syringe Service Programs constitute a critical component of harm reduction approaches in public health. Consortium participants will receive ongoing consultation with the DCC research team and CWRU. Finally, this project will establish an infrastructure for conducting statewide research projects on harm reduction, SSP services, and other topics related to illegal drug use behavior.



Dr. Bridget Haas

Professor Bridget Haas recently published her book *Suspended Lives: Navigating Everyday Violence in the US Asylum System* (Univ of CA press: <https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520385122/suspended-lives>) this April, 2023. The publisher describes the book this way:

“*Suspended Lives* explores the experiences of asylum seekers in the mid western United States in vivid detail. Drawing on long-term ethnographic fieldwork among Cameroonian and other African asylum seekers, Bridget M. Haas traces the emotional and social effects of being embedded in the US asylum regime. Appealing to the United States for protection, asylum seekers are cast into a complex and protracted bureaucratic system that increasingly treats them as suspect. Haas shows how the US asylum system both serves as a potential refuge from past violence and creates new forms of suffering. She takes readers into the intimate spaces of asylum seekers’ homes and communities, in addition to legal and bureaucratic settings that are often inaccessible to the public. Poignantly foregrounding the lives and voices of asylum seekers, *Suspended Lives* exposes the asylum system as a site of multiple, yet often hidden and normalized, forms of violence. Haas also illuminates how asylum seekers respond to these harms to actively endure the asylum process.”

[here](#)

Graduate Student News

Congratulations to our graduate students on their accomplishments in the 2022-2023 academic year!

Annika Doneghy spent this past academic year as the 2022-2023 Frédéric Bastiat Fellow. The Frédéric Bastiat Fellowship is a “one-year, competitive fellowship program awarded to graduate students attending master’s, juris doctoral programs in a variety of fields including economics, law, political science, and public policy. The aim of this fellowship is to introduce students to the Austrian, Virginia, and Bloomington schools of political economy as academic foundations for contemporary policy analysis, policy-relevant academic research, and other applied topics.” Doneghy spent the past year attending four colloquia, her specific events are focused on health policy.

Regan Gee presented a paper titled “‘Food is an emergency every week’: COVID-19 and food access among

Cleveland food pantry users” at the American Association of Geographers annual meeting in Denver from March 23rd-27th. Gee discussed how while COVID relief programs assisted with food access, many participants continued to be food insecure, creating new and heightened reliance on food pantries. These findings are contextualized by the historical legacy of racist, discriminatory practices such as redlining in Cleveland, which have led to limited food access and community disinvestment. These disparities result in a lack of protective resources to buffer low-income families from the impacts of the pandemic, resulting in exacerbated and prolonged food insecurity.

Daniel Hamilton presented "Biomedicine's languid approach to gender-affirming care advancements" at the Health Humanities Consortium in March in Cleveland. Hamilton used data collected from ethnographic fieldwork conducted with transgender and gender non-conforming individuals engaged in biomedical gender-affirming care and taking an actor-network-theory approach to explore the ways in which human and non-human actors interact within clinical space to create meaning and communicate shared patient/provider goals. Hamilton's paper explores the ways in which the tools meant to standardize care, have led to a proliferation of practices to circumnavigate challenges caused by the disconnect between academic and medical research and the social and political lives of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in the United States.

Brooke Jespersen presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology Conference in Cincinnati, OH from March 28—April 1 with her presentation “Who Does Remote Research Include and Exclude?: Lessons Learned from a Remote Ethnography with Older Puerto Rican Adults”. Jespersen's research looked into how the shift to remote research during the pandemic relied heavily on technology (e.g. zoom; social media-based sample recruitment). Reliance on technology affects who is able to participate in research and who is not. In this presentation, Jespersen shared how she conducted a remote ethnography with older Puerto Rican adults in Cleveland, Ohio during the pandemic. She presented how she adjusted her sampling and data collection methods to include older adults of varying levels of internet access, abilities, and living arrangements. Jespersen reflected on implications for future remote and in-person studies of aging with regard to research participant inclusion and exclusion.

Jillian Schulte presented at the Family & Consumer Sciences 2022 Conference in Columbus, OH on October 20th with her presentation “FM Engage: A Tool to Engage SNAP-Eligible Customers in Healthy Food Shopping”. This presentation explored how farmers' markets are minimally frequented by SNAP recipients, despite being a known location to purchase fresh, healthy foods at a discounted price through use of SNAP-based nutrition incentive programs. In communities experiencing food apartheid where access to full-service grocery stores is limited, farmers' markets may be a key resource for accessing fresh and healthy foods. Additionally, on March 29th, 2023, Schulte presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology, Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, OH with her presentation “Healthcare-seeking and COVID-19 within Cleveland's Bhutanese-Nepali Community”. Schulte's preliminary study aimed to characterize how Cleveland's Bhutanese-Nepali refugees navigated healthcare and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic. In August-November 2021, remote, semi-structured interviews were conducted with Bhutanese-Nepali patients (N=12) affiliated with a medical organization in Cleveland, Ohio. The thematic analysis uncovered a range of strategies for COVID-19 prevention and treatment (biomedical intervention, public health recommendations, alternative care), as well as five distinct vaccine narratives. Findings were translated into recommendations for local medical outreach and patient support services.

Undergraduate Student News

Congratulations to our undergraduate students on their accomplishments!

Intersections Spring 2023:

Gabrielle Arkema presented “Comparing Perceptions and Attitudes About Female and Male Circumcision in the United States”

Zhara Edwards presented “The Comorbidity of Bipolar Disorder and Substance Use Disorder in Youth”

David Henry Greentree presented “Let this Information Sink In: Evaluating Foaming Disinfectant Based Interventions to Prevent Gram-negative Bacteria in Hospital Sink Drains from Contaminating Adjacent Surfaces”

Yuliana Lapina presented “Effect of Practice of Acupuncture on Different Kinds of Headaches (Migraines, Tension Headaches, Chronic Headaches)”

Sophia Lemberg presented “Tik Tok Tales: Online Communities Among Trans Youth”

Isadora Macedo presented “Educational Attainment of Children of Immigrants”

Nicholas Marshall presented “The Split Perspectives on Dissociative Identity Disorder”

Padma Narayanan presented “Automated Processing Methods for In Vitro Expansion of Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (hiPSCs)”

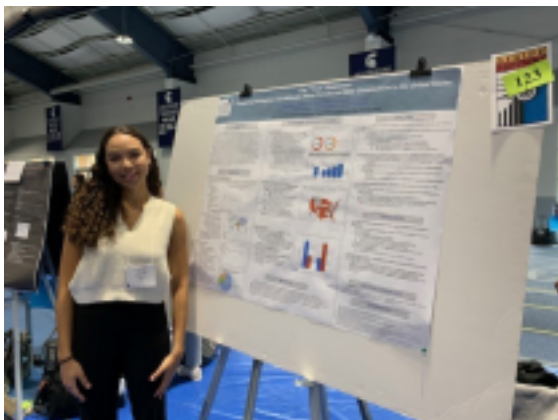
Vivian Pryor presented “The Yanomami Fight for Indigenous Rights: How Negative Stereotypes and Government Policies Contributed to the Current Humanitarian Crisis in the Brazilian Amazon”

Raveena Ravi presented “PCOS and Social Media: The role of Instagram health influencers in disseminating disease management information online”

Danielle Robinson presented “The Impact of Stigma on the Access to Care and Treatment of HIV/AIDS for African American MSM

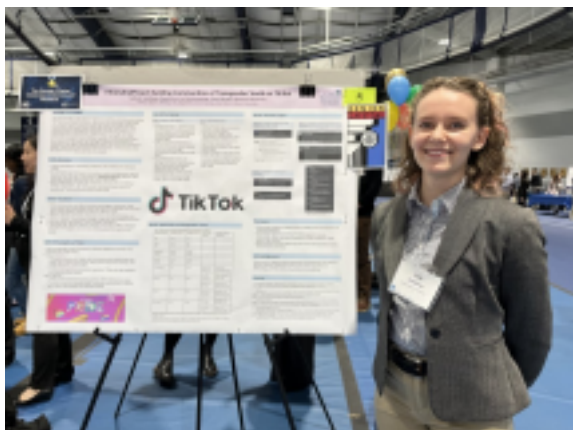
Muskan Sidhu presented “An ethnographic study of traditional health services and medical pluralism in modern India”

Jaiden Taylor presented “Increased Prevalence of Obesity within Rural Areas in The United States”



Shelli Vodovozov presented “Cultural Impacts on Health Care Systems as seen through Maternal Care”

Senior **Gabrielle Arkema** presenting her Capstone “Comparing Perceptions and Attitudes About Female and Male Circumcision in the United States” at Intersections 2023.



Senior **Sofia Lemberg** presenting her Capstone



“#TransAndProud: Building Communities of Transgender

Youth on TikTok" at Intersections 2023.

Yanomami Fight for Indigenous Rights: How Negative Stereotypes and Government Policies Contributed to the Current Humanitarian Crisis in the Brazilian Amazon" at Intersections 2023.

Additional Senior Capstone Presentations

Senior **Vivian Pryor** presenting her Capstone "The

Bernardo Reyes presented "Cultural Cuisine as a Tool for Empowerment: The Role of Egalitarianism in Oaxacan Indigenous Communities"

Andrew Chan presented "Health-seeking Behaviors in Rural China"

Experiential Learning Fellowship in Anthropology

The Experiential Learning Fellowship in Anthropology (ELFA) is made possible through the generous support of Mr. Jonathan Plimpton, a 1970 graduate of the Department of Anthropology of Western Reserve College.

Muskan Sidhu was the recipient of a Jonathan F. Plimpton Experiential Learning Fellowship in Anthropology. Traveling to India to conduct her research, Muskan studied changing trends in ayurveda and conducted patient and staff interviews in an ayurvedic clinic in New Delhi to understand why people are increasingly relying on ayurvedic medicine and what benefits they see within the ethnomedical system. Muskan also had the opportunity to learn more about ayurveda's underlying principles by observing different types of treatments and learning how small clinics are able to operate within a competitive healthcare market.

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 ELFA winners, **Maggie Ginter-Frankovitch** and **Yuliana Lapina**! Working with Dr. Bridget Haas, Maggie will study "Conditions faced by undocumented migrants formerly detained on Ohio detention centers & overview of effects of Covid-19 on administrative immigration hearings". Yuliana will work with Dr. Lihong Shi to research "Acupuncture Use among the Eastern European Community in Cleveland". Good luck to both!

Anthropology Day

Anthropology students celebrated World Anthropology Day (February 16th) this year with an art project hosted by Dr. Katia Almeida. The theme set by the American Anthropological Association this year was "Celebrate. Engage. Inspire". Our campus event was organized by the Anthropology Students Association (ASA) and it was called "Paint with ASA to Celebrate Anthropology Day". Check out the students art projects!



Alumni News

Tim Barone (PhD 1997) is Director of the Medical Humanities Program in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska, Omaha.

David Henry Greentree (BA 2023) will be attending The Ohio State University College of Medicine next year.

Meghan Halley (PhD 2012) is President of the Board of the Undiagnosed Diseases Network Foundation (<http://www.udnf.org/>) Halley is Senior Research Scholar in the Center for Biomedical Ethics at Stanford University.

Daniel Robinson (BA 2023) will be attending the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University to pursue her MPH.

Jennifer Shaw (PhD 2013) has a 5 year grant, “Jumpstarting culturally-informed advance care planning in ANAI people in primary care” from the NIH National Institute of Nursing Research. Shaw is a senior researcher at the Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage, Alaska.

Kelsey Shearer (BA 2021) was recently accepted to the Ph.D. program at The Ohio State University for Anthropology and will be attending this coming fall. Shearer will study type one diabetes in middle and high school students, focusing on the students perspective on managing diabetes, school policies, and fitting in among their peers.

Muskan Sidhu (BA 2023) will be attending the University of Cambridge to pursue a Masters in Health, Medicine, and Society, with a focus in Medical Anthropology.

Dr. Vin Tangpricha (BA 1992) recently visited Chiang Rai, Thailand and connect ed with CWRU alum **Professor Preecha Upayokin (Ph.D. 1991)**. Dr. Tangpricha was a Mann Scholar in the Anthropology Department in 1992 and worked with Dr. Upayokin during his summer abroad in Thailand. Dr. Upayokin received his Ph.D. in Medical Anthropology in 1991, completing his dissertation research on “Treatment Choice, Disease Outcome and Stigma: An Investigation of Leprosy Patients and Illness Behavior in Thailand.”



Spring 2023 Graduates

Congratulations to our new 2023 PhDs!

May:

Brooke Jespersen: “In Search of Tranquility: Migration and Older Puerto Rican Adults’ Quests for a Good Old Age”

Daniel Basil Hamilton: “Patients, Practice, and the Social Construction of Transgender among Adults”

August:

Yi Li “An Ethnographic Study of ‘The Eastern March of Tibetan Buddhism’ in Shenyang, Northeastern China”

Congratulations to these students for receiving their MA in Spring 2023!

Taylor Guerrieri
Noyonikaa Gupta
Court Krystek
Jasmine Rollins

Congratulations to these undergraduates for receiving their BA or minor in Anthropology in Spring & Fall 2023!

Gabriella Arkema	Leigh Hilty	Danielle
Audrey Carson	Kaitlyn Koo	Robinson
Latavya Chintada	Anika Krishna	Elise
Sasha Desberg	Nathanael Lee	Rolston
Molly Easley	Sofia Lemberg	Rafiq Sadki
Zhara Edwards	Isadora Macedo	Muskan Sidhu
Anna Fotinich	Nicholas	Idris Tang
Katelyn Furgason	Marshall Drake	Jaiden Taylor
David Henry	McFaul	Elias Tew
Greentree Noyonikaa	Anusha Mudigonda	Alka Tomar
Gupta	Genna Province	Liah Townsley
Claire Hahn	Vivian Pryor	Shelli Vodovozov
Margaret Herbold	Raveena Ravi	Grace Yopez-Connors
Jessica Hervol	Bernardo Reyes	

Congratulations to these students for receiving their Global Health Certificate in 2022 & 2023!

Undergraduates

David Henry Greentree
Jessica Hervol

Graduates

Taylor Guerrieri
Heather Jandecka
Shaneal Newman
Jasmine Rollins
Jillian Schulte

Noyonikaa Gupta

Congratulations to our Spring 2023 award recipients for their outstanding achievements!

Undergraduate

The Callender Memorial Award

The Newbell Niles and Ruth Neuer Puckett Award

Idris Tang

Muskan Sidhu

Audrey Carson

Jessica Hervol

The James Dysart Magee Award

Elie Stenson

David Henry Greentree

Claire Hahn

Anusha Mudigonda

The Jonathan F. Plimpton Award

Grace Yopez-Connors

Vivian Pryor

Gabrielle Arkema

Donors

Thank you to these donors for their generous contributions to the Anthropology Department! Kelly Anne
Constant Bhatnagar, Ph.D.

Mr. Vimal M. Bhatnagar

Eugene C. Best, Ph.D.

Vin Tangpricha, M.D., Ph.D.

Cherry Wongtrakool, M.D.

Yachun Ku Gregory, Ph.D.

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