Reports on Completed Research For 2018

“Supporting worldwide research in all branches of Anthropology”
REPORTS ON COMPLETED RESEARCH

The following research projects, supported by Foundation grants, were reported as complete during 2018. The reports are listed by subdiscipline, then geographic area (where applicable) and in alphabetical order. A Bibliography of Publications resulting from Foundation-supported research (reported over the same period) follows, along with an Index of Grantees Reporting Completed Research.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Africa:

DR. BENJAMIN R. COLLINS, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa, was awarded a grant in October 2015 to aid research on “Late MIS 3 Behavioral Diversity: The View from Grassridge Rockshelter, Eastern Cape, South Africa.” The Grassridge Archaeological and Palaeoenvironmental Project (GAPP) contributes to understanding how hunter-gatherers adapted to periods of rapid and unpredictable climate change during the past 50,000 years. Specifically, GAPP focuses on excavation and research at Grassridge Rockshelter, located in the understudied interior grasslands of southern Africa, to explore the changing nature of social landscapes during this period through comparative studies of technological strategies, subsistence strategies, and other cultural behaviors. Recent excavations at Grassridge have produced a rich cultural record of hunter-gatherer life at the site ~40,000 to 35,000 years ago, which provides insight into the production of stone tools for hunting, the use of local plants for bedding and matting, and the use of ochre. This research suggests that the hunter-gatherers at Grassridge were well-adapted to their local environment, and that their particular suite of adaptive strategies may have differed from hunter-gatherer groups in other regions of southern Africa. In this respect, and considering the strong evidence for diverse behavioral strategies in southern Africa from ~50,000 to 25,000 years ago, this research offers tentative support for a socially fragmented landscape during this period.

ALISON F. MELVILLE, then a graduate student at University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, received a grant in October 2016 to aid research on “Structure and Variability in Lithic Technology in the East African Middle Stone Age,” supervised by Dr. Daniel Adler. Hominin populations during the African Middle Stone Age (MSA) exhibit an unprecedented range of technological and behavioral variability. This period also spans the origin of our species and our dispersals within and out of Africa. The MSA of East Africa, however, appears to lack the distinct, temporally constrained techno-cultural patterning present in Southern Africa. Spatial and temporal patterns are instead ambiguous or overly generalized, as are explanations of the mechanisms that underlie the observed variability. This dissertation quantitatively tests for patterning in the East African MSA using multivariate analyses of lithic attribute data. Data were collected from fourteen open-air assemblages in Kenya and Ethiopia representing varied raw materials and paleo-environments. Multivariate statistical analysis grounded in robust middle-range theory can identify clusters of knapping decisions that structure lithic variability in the MSA. The project also explores underlying drivers shaping this variability-cultural transmission and drift, environment, raw material, and reduction intensity. Cultural transmission of lithic behaviors can act as a proxy for the degree of social interaction between Pleistocene groups. By incorporating cultural transmission in systematic tests of lithic variability, this dissertation will result in more comprehensive
understanding of technological flexibility and the evolutionary relationships of MSA hominins.

DR. THOMAS PLUMMER, City University of New York, Queen’s College, New York, New York, received funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Excavation of 2.7-2.5 Million Year Old Oldowan Archaeological Sites at Nyayanga, Kenya.” Research at the ca. 2.6 Ma Oldowan locality of Nyayanga had two primary goals, both of which were met. The first was to expand the excavated sample of stone tools and fauna to elucidate the overall adaptive significance of early Oldowan technology at the locality, by reconstructing the habitats artifacts were deposited in, lithic transport dynamics, and the functions of early stone tools. The second was to work with farmers bordering the gully system to protect the sites from destruction by erosion and human activity. Three excavations (Excavations 3, 5 and 6) recovered well-preserved fossils in direct association with stone tools, including a hippopotamus skeleton in Excavation 3. Bones with stone tool damage have been found on the surface and appear to be present in the unprepared bones in the excavated sample. The repeated association of megafauna and stone tools is striking, and may indicate that hominins were having at least occasional access to large quantities of meat. Nyayanga has provided the only hominin fossils (a surface collected Paranthropus tooth, and a partial hominin tooth found in situ in Excavation 3) from the Homa Peninsula. The latter hominin is the oldest in direct spatial association with stone tools.

DR. ANDREW ZIPKIN, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, received funding in April 2016 to aid research on “The Ethno-Archaeometry of Ochre Source Exploitation Practices in Kenya.” Humans have used ochre mineral pigments for symbolic expression for hundreds of thousands of years. This work bridged archaeology, ethnography, and geochemistry to investigate ochre use in Stone Age and present-day Kenya. In 2015 and 2016, Maasai and Samburu guides identified traditionally used ochre deposits, and rock art sites with images painted using ochre from known sources. Previously unrecorded Maasai language terms for ochre, and information about criteria for pigment selection, techniques of pigment preparation, and symbolism associated with ochre sources, were collected. This project primarily focused on refining multiple minimally destructive chemical techniques for determining the geologic source of ochre artifacts. Sourcing studies of ochre are a young area of research with great potential for investigating the object biography of pigment artifacts and place biography of rock art sites. An ochre source reference collection of elemental “fingerprints” for over 40 Kenyan deposits was constructed and it was determined that all sources can be divided into two major groups on the basis of just two elements. Case studies of Middle and Later Stone Age, and Neolithic, archaeological ochre from the sites of Olorgesailie, Ol Tepesi Rockshelter, and Njoro River Cave demonstrated the feasibility of regional and local scale ochre sourcing.

Asia and the Near East:

KELLY WILCOX BLACK, then a graduate student at University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, received funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Excavating the Deep History of Environmental Degradation: Animal Husbandry and the Environmental Impacts of Livestock Grazing throughout Pre and Early Historic South India,” supervised by Dr. Kathleen Morrison. This research provides a long-term perspective on the environmental impacts of livestock grazing through a study of animal husbandry throughout South India’s pre and early history. This research used faunal analysis to reconstruct human-animal relationships and
modes of animal-based subsistence practices throughout the Neolithic (3000-1200BCE), Iron Age (1200BCE-500BCE), and Early Historic (500BCE-300CE) periods. Specifically, it explored how pastoral production intensified throughout these periods. Next, this research used dental microwear data to establish if livestock fed on overgrazed pastures. Preliminary results suggest dairy production intensified during the Iron Age and contributed to periods of overgrazing. However, by the Early Historic period, it appears herd animals were brought to more distant pastures, a practice that potentially alleviated problems related to overgrazing. The shift to an increasingly mobile herding strategy appears to have been informed by issues related to animal health, environmental conditions, as well as how to manage other forms of intensified land use. The results of this research highlight the complexities of human-land-animal interactions and ultimately provides a deeper context for examining the specific effects of livestock grazing, providing historical insights into present day environmental concerns.

XIMENA LEMOINE, then a graduate student at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, was awarded funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Pigs in the Neolithic North China: Domestication in the Context of Diversity and Regional Expression,” supervised by Dr. Xinyi Liu. This archaeological research project examines developing human-pig relationships during the early Neolithic in one center for the origins of pig domestication: north China. A notable diversity of pig-human domestic partnerships makes this animal a fitting model to begin to understand the contexts of human behavior out of which domestic partnerships developed. Through age and sex demographic reconstruction and stable isotopic analysis of pig populations from northern Chinese sites, this research identifies the strategies early sedentary communities used to acquire pig resources and evaluates the total range of diversity within those strategies through space and time. The project creates an account of the existing variation of early human-pig relationships by identifying and comparing localized pig-acquisition strategies as practiced by early Neolithic communities in one center for the origins of pig domestication. This research addresses both the contextual contingency of domestication processes and the role of human behaviors in shaping this trajectory by examining the pig-hunting, culling, and foddering strategies from archaeological sites belonging to the Xinglongwa culture and subsequent Hongshan culture in the Western have been key to understanding the origins of agriculture in China.

DR. JAMES OSBORNE, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, was awarded funding in October 2014 to aid research on “The Impact of the Neo-Assyrian Conquest: Forced Resettlement and Daily Practice in Tell Tayinat (Turkey).” This grant provided support to the Tayinat Lower Town Project (TL TP), a newly launched long-term archaeological exploration of the lower settlement of the archaeological site of Tell Tayinat. During the early first millennium BCE, Tayinat was a thriving urban capital until it was conquered by the expanding Neo-Assyrian Empire out of Mesopotamia, its citizens deported, and the city repopulated as part of a forced migration phenomenon on a scale comparable to modern examples. TL TP’s research goal is to identify the archaeological signature of this tragic event, and to determine the outcome of forced cultural contact that the forced migration necessarily involved. Wenner-Gren funding permitted completion the first stage of what will be a years-long endeavor: an intensive, high-resolution surface survey of the ancient city’s non-elite quarter, roughly 16 hectares in size. This survey confirmed the city’s size and its dating before and after the Assyrian conquest. The overall homogeneity of the material culture collected suggests that practices of daily life and the technological style used to make objects—as opposed to the aesthetic style of the objects themselves—will be the most powerful way to identify the Neo-Assyrian forced migration through excavation. This proposition is currently being tested by Neutron Activation Analysis on ceramic samples from
both the acropolis of the ancient city as well as the lower town, where deportees would have been settled.

DR. CHANDRA REEDY, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Factors Supporting Experimentation at Highly Innovative Ethnographic Pottery Production Sites.” In Sichuan Province, China, potters use a unique material (a coal-clay composite) and fire with a kiln design not seen anywhere else in the world. This study examined sixteen workshops to investigate how and why positive acceptance of experimentation and innovation becomes established strategy for a community of practice. Understanding how this happens is a key to understanding long-term technological change. Three social networks are involved: resource procurement, production, and consumption. An expectation was that positive acceptance of experimentation and innovation occurs when these three networks engage in problem-solving interactions. In a town that promotes and supports coal-clay pottery production as an intangible cultural heritage resource, fifteen workshops fall into five types based on product specializations and market niches. Interactions between producers and consumers result in many workshops being able to thrive as each focuses on differing product variations and markets. An isolated workshop located away from the area of heritage support has also been able to survive through a special product line and consumer niche. Laboratory analysis of raw materials available in each resource network and of the finished ceramic products has clarified the functional characteristics of the pottery of each workshop, highlighting qualities that consumers likely appreciate.

JESSE L. WOLFHAGEN, then a graduate student at Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York, was awarded a grant in October 2015 to aid research on “Contextualizing Early Cattle Management at Neolithic Çatalhöyük (Turkey) via Bayesian Modeling: Economic and Social Impacts,” supervised by Dr. Katheryn Twiss. To understand what behavioral process was behind the size of cattle bones getting smaller over the roughly 1500-year occupation of the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük (Turkey), the assemblage was fit to a Bayesian multi-level mixture model of bone sizes along with other Anatolian Neolithic assemblages. The mixture model accounted for differences in the demography of the animals recovered at these sites; hunters would be expected to accumulate assemblages that differed demographically from those herders accumulated. The model indicates that fully invested domestic cattle herding did not come to Çatalhöyük until the Final phase (ca. 6300 BC). The proportion of young animals in the assemblages increased in the levels preceding the shift to cattle herding, suggesting that there may have been some experimentation with cattle management. Multiple isotopic analysis (carbon, oxygen, and strontium) of cattle tooth enamel suggested that the inhabitants of Çatalhöyük hunted multiple herds of cattle that lived in the greater landscape. Some of these herds lived in the relatively open environments of the alluvial plain, while other groups lived in more heavily forested areas; in the later levels, some cattle also fed in areas where the best agricultural land would have been, which may reflect supplemental foddering by the community.

Europe:

ANA CORDEIRO DE SOUSA GOMES ABRUNHOSA, then a graduate student at University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal, received a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “Raw Materials Procurement strategies from Pinilla del Valle’s Neanderthals,” supervised by Dr. Nuno Gonçalo Viana Pereira Bicho. The study of lithic raw materials procurement strategies
is one of the main sources of information on past populations mobility and resource economy, particularly in older chronologies. Pinilla del Valle is one of the few known Upper Pleistocene sites located in the centre of the Iberian Peninsula territory in an intramountain valley of the Guadarrama mountain range, connected by natural corridors to the north and south mesetas. The high quantity of lithic tools and variety of raw materials used by Neanderthal populations in Pinilla and the study of their probable sources allows for a better understanding of their mobility strategies along this territory. This grant permitted the development of the first stage of research. Intensive geoarchaeological surveys of different radius from the site were carried out to map primary (i.e. rock outcrop) and secondary rock sources (i.e. fluvial or slope deposits) and collect samples to compare with the Mousterian assemblage. The data collected will now allow for the mapping and interpretation of Neanderthal behavior, ways of mobility and occupation of the landscape, and in particular resource exploitation and technological adaptation in this territory, adding important information to the extent of Neanderthal strategic and abstract planning, to an area until recently lacking in data.

CICEK TASCIOGLU BEEBY, then a graduate student at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, received a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “Spatial Narratives of Mortuary Landscapes in Early Iron Age Greece,” supervised by Dr. Donald C. Haggis. This project reexamines the space and place of death in the early Greek city and city-state (polis). Previous studies on the topic have argued that burials were gradually pushed to the periphery of settlements in the 8th century BC during the formation of urban centers and city-states in Greece. Traditional models of Greek urbanism, therefore, paint a polarized view of urban spaces and maintain that in a typical Greek city, the boundaries between the dead, the living, and the divine were clear. Using a comprehensive GIS database that focuses on the burials of four Greek settlements (Athens, Argos, Corinth, and Eretria), this project reevaluates existing theories on changes to the configuration of cemeteries during the formative decades of Greek city-states. Preliminary results indicate that there is no wholesale shift in burial distribution that is shared by all major central Greek poleis in the 8th century BC. That is, the formation of the mortuary landscapes in the early Greek city does not conform to a monolithic response or a model that can be applied to all Greek communities. Instead, this study charts regional variations in the configuration of cemeteries during urbanization and state-formation in four different settlements.

DR. JAMIE HODGKINS, University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado, received a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “The Timing and Nature of the Middle-to-Upper Paleolithic Transition at Arma Veirana (Liguria, Italy).” A primary objective of paleoanthropology is to understand why modern humans were able to colonize the world while archaic groups (including Neanderthals) disappeared. Recent data indicate that processes underlying “modern human origins” were complex and varied by region. Italy’s Pleistocene record includes remains of pre-Neanderthals and Neanderthals as well as some of the earliest modern human sites in Europe. Arma Veirana cave in northwestern Italy preserves Middle and Upper Paleolithic archaeology, and it resides within a poorly sampled environment (the Ligurian Maritime Alps) in proximity to other critical Mousterian and Protoaurginacian sites located on the Mediterranean coast. This mosaic makes the area an exemplary “laboratory” for examining ecological factors that influenced population dynamics in the late Pleistocene. Continued excavations at Arma Veirana resolved stratigraphic questions bearing on Neanderthal disappearance, and permitted robust sampling for radiocarbon analysis and cryptotephra (volcanic glass) that will refine the chronology of population shifts in Liguria. The excavations also expanded lithic and faunal datasets for analyses designed to test hypotheses concerning behavioral differences among hominins. In the process, human
remains were discovered including an adult incisor and a rare Upper Paleolithic infant burial that will contribute invaluable information on early modern human biology and culture in Europe.

DR. TELMO PEREIRA, University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “EcoPLis–AdP: Human Occupations in the Pleistocene Ecotones of River Lis – Abrigo do Poço.” Wenner-Gren supported the high-resolution excavation of Abrigo do Poço (AdP) in 2016 and 2017. The site is located in Ribeira das Chitas, a canyon in central Portugal that links the inland mountains to the basin of the river Lis and the western Atlantic coast of Iberia Peninsula (at 26 km). The canyon is highly rich in multiple resources and has optimal conditions to have work as a refugium during the harsher climatic events. The 14 layers that were exposed are from two periods: Epipaleolithic (8,200 years ago) and Solutrean (18,000-22,000 years ago), which were extremely cold and had major repercussions with regard to available resources and the necessary subsequent human adaptation. During the Epipaleolithic the site was associated with the exploitation of cockles and clams (using fire that resulted in abundant charcoal and fire-cracked rocks) and stone tools, primarily resources from muddy-sand intertidal areas. Due to the distance to the coast, it is likely that groups from inland territories on their way “back home” performed such activity after resource harvesting at the coast. During the Solutrean the site was associated with the exploitation of a flint outcrop located immediately above and in front of the site to produce exquisite bifacial spear/arrow points for hunting, while they were eating deer.

DR. ANN R. STEINER, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, received funding in October 2015 to aid research on “Traditional Craft Industry and Change: Interrogating Ceramics in Classical Athens.” By 450 B.C.E., most Athenian cooking ware was imported from a nearby island, Aegina. In 425-400, casseroles, braziers, and stew pots continued to look similar, but macroscopic observation suggested their clay paste was quite different. This project tested a hypothesis that the same potters were making the cooking vessels, but they were using Athenian and not Aeginetan clay; thus the migration of potters explains the transmission of technology. Intriguingly, the shift occurs during a period of military hostility between the two states. Thin-section petrography and wavelength dispersive X-ray florescence spectrometry established the geochemistry of the relevant cooking wares. Eighty-four samples came from the dining room of Athenian magistrates in the ancient Agora, the political and commercial center of Athens (Agora deposit H 12:6, 425-400 B.C.E.). Analysis of 25 additional examples from Aegina confirmed that the Attic metamorphic clays were clearly distinct from the volcanic Aeginetan clays. Attic clays used for the Aeginetan-imitative cooking wares were distinct from the clays used for both Attic black gloss and household ware. Transplanted Aeginetan potters used a different clay source for making the Athenian “imitations” so that the resulting cooking wares resembled the color of the Aeginetan originals, perhaps to meet consumer demand.
Latin America and the Caribbean:

DR. ALEKSANDER BOREJSZA, Autonomous University of San Luis Potosi, San Luis Potosi, Mexico, was awarded funding in October 2014 to aid research on “Streamside Settlement and Subsistence in the Archaic of Highland Mexico.” Excavations at two deeply buried archaeological sites in highland Mexico uncovered evidence of streamside encampments preceding the establishment of sedentary villages. At Las Estacas in the state of Morelos, people camped in the vicinity of freshwater springs between ca. 6100 and 5700 BC. They used underground earth ovens to cook their food and left behind a large amount of debris from the chipping of stone. The variety of raw materials suggests that groups arriving from different directions used this spot as a meeting place. At Yuzanú 36 in the state of Oaxaca, people camped for several months each year between ca. 3300 and 3100 BC. They left behind the debris from the working of stone and animal bone, several earth ovens, pits in which they discarded some of their trash, as well as a bell-shaped pit probably used to hide and store things while away from camp. They burned the streamside vegetation to drive animals, encourage the growth of useful wild plants, or to prepare plots for planting crops. Both sites are providing clues to the origins of agriculture and sedentary life in Mexico, one of the few places on Earth where they developed independently of outside influences.

DR. TAMARA L. BRAY, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Copacabana and the Imperial Inca State: Topography and Temporality of a Sacred Place.” The focus of this archaeological project was the extraordinarily important site of Copacabana. Situated on the Bolivian side of a rugged peninsula at the south end of Lake Titicaca, Copacabana—together with the Islands of the Sun and Moon—formerly comprised one of the most sacred ceremonial complexes in the Inca Empire. The 2016 field season centered on the Intinqala sector of Copacabana, which contains a large number of elaborately carved boulders and outcrops sculpted in classic imperial style. Investigations were aimed at determining the nature of Inca engagement with this historically powerful place based on the kinds, configurations, and orientations of artifacts, features, and architecture uncovered here. Using a combination of remote-sensing, excavation, mapping, and photogrammetric techniques, several stone building foundations, a series of stone-lined canals, several burials, and a feasting midden—all associated with the Inca-carved stones—were identified, documented, and are currently undergoing further analysis. No evidence of pre-Inca occupation was discovered in this sector. The data suggest that imperial forces sought to co-opt the power of Copacabana in a manner distinct from that of their predecessors in ways that highlighted opulence, regional participation, and ontological inclusivity.

MAIA DEDRICK, then a graduate student at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, received funding in April 2015 to aid research on “Food Systems at Late Classic through Colonial Period Tahcabo, Yucatán, Mexico,” supervised by Dr. Patricia A. McAnany. This research project shows how daily life changed for farmers in Tahcabo during the Colonial period amidst widespread political and economic change, and as Spaniards forced nuclear households to pay excessive taxes in the form of maize, poultry, honey, beeswax, and cotton cloth and thread. Low areas in the landscape caused by bedrock sinkholes, called rejolladas, had been places for orchards and gardens that continued to serve as resources for farmers as they tried to feed their families and produce the maize and cotton required of them early on in the Colonial period, and then henequen later on in time. These features also continued to serve as touchstones for how people thought about the universe and their place in it in relation to supernatural beings, plants, and animals. Within residential areas, which slowly transitioned from housing extended family households to the nuclear households demanded...
by Spaniards, people created new and innovative ways to produce the cloth, beeswax, and other products required of them, while adopting introduced items spreading through Spanish exchange networks (such as the *comal*, initiating *tortilla* production) and making the best possible use of traditional practices such as gardening and hunting.

CHELSEA FISHER, then a graduate student at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Early Maya Land-Use Practices and the Creation of Community at Tzacauil, Yucatan, Mexico,” supervised by Dr. Joyce Marcus. This project investigated the origins of Maya urban agriculture at the archaeological site of Tzacauil, Yucatán, Mexico. As modern cities seek to become “greener” through urban agriculture, past urban agricultural societies like the Maya have the potential to teach important lessons—but only if anthropological archaeologists are able to understand their long-term social and ecological histories. This project examined how early Maya farming households developed and organized the land-use practices that foreshadow later urban agriculture through investigations of Tzacauil, a small farming village settled during the transition to full-time agriculture in the Maya lowlands. The grantee organized an intensive survey of Tzacauil’s landscape alongside six members of the modern Maya community of Yaxunah to document and understand the site’s ecology. Excavations in the open areas around Tzacauil’s ancient houses were conducted to determine if and how these areas were cultivated. Chemical analyses of soil and ceramic samples were conducted to provide additional clues to early land-use strategies. The ongoing analysis of the data collected will contribute to anthropological understanding of ancient urban agriculture, the social history of agrarian change, and long-term human-environment interactions in the Maya area.

SAMUEL T. HOLLEY-KLINE, then a graduate student at Stanford University, Stanford, California, received a grant in October 2016 to aid research on “Exploring Entangled Landscape Histories in El Tajín, Mexico,” supervised by Dr. Lynn Meskell. This dissertation research explores the social and material means by which a bounded and federally-administered archaeological site – El Tajín, Veracruz – was carved from a landscape of pre-Hispanic mounds, and the histories that that process silenced. Ethnographic research focused on the indigenous Totonac communities around El Tajín to explore 20th-century histories rarely discussed with reference to the archaeological site: infrastructural development (or lack thereof), oil exploration, and vanilla cultivation. In the contemporary archaeological site of El Tajín, ethnographic and archival research focused on the histories of labor, custodianship, management, and administration, with the objective of understanding the political economy of archaeological bureaucracy and labor. Supplementary archival research in Mexico City dealt with rarely consulted site guard reports and personnel files dating from 1889-1964, while an additional three months of archival research in the DeGolyer Library of Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, focused on materials from Isabel T. Kelly’s 1947-1948 in fieldwork in El Tajín. This dissertation contributes to novel research at the intersections of sociocultural anthropology and archaeology with a fine-grained account of how one particular landscape became archaeological, with implications for understanding such landscape in global contexts.

DR. HAAGEN D. KLAUS, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, was awarded a grant in April 2015 to aid research on “The Bioarchaeology of Ventarrón: Economy, Inequality, Ethnogenesis, and the Dawn of Complex Societies in Coastal Peru (2800 BCE-1450 CE).” Some of the most extraordinary civilizations of the human past emerged in ancient Peru, but their economic, social, and human foundations remain largely understudied. This project examined human remains and other archaeological information surrounding the burials and
tombs of 211 people buried at the monumental Ventarrón Archaeological Complex on Peru’s desert north coast from ca. 2000 BCE to 1470 CE. The work aimed to: 1) reconstruct the factors that triggered the origins of social complexity; and 2) explore the legacy of these early societies over the following 4,000 years among their descendants who created Andean states, theocracies, and empires. “Civilization” was based on agriculture in most parts of the world. Here, information from paleopathology, stable isotope chemistry, genetics, burial patterns, and food remains point to the unique desert ecology shaping another pathway to complexity involving the creative exploitation of marine and terrestrial resources by some kind of decentralized, non-hierarchical society. Only later was agriculture intensified. As time progressed, ever-increasing expressions of socioeconomic and political complexity/inequality shaped and sustained new forms of intercommunity interactions, burial rituals, identities, a reshaping of the gene pool, and a 2,000-year decline in human health. This work has provided new and surprising perspectives regarding a unique chapter in the history of Native American civilizations and generates new questions involving connections between human biology, society, and ecology in the Americas and beyond.

DR. SARAH NEWMAN, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2016 to aid research and writing on “Talking Trash: A History of Waste in Mesoamerica.” Talking Trash explores the changing nature of “waste” in Mesoamerica from Pre-Columbian times through the twentieth century. The book’s long-term, cross-cultural perspective challenges contemporary understandings of trash by highlighting alternative ways that people in the past conceptualized, experienced, and managed material and bodily wastes. Drawing together evidence from archaeology, material culture studies, anthropology, history, and environmental studies, Talking Trash details the culturally and historically specific ways that refuse could be a resource, discard was a form of production, and disposal harnessed the latent potential of objects in Mesoamerica. During the colonial encounter, however, differences in perspectives and practices surrounding rubbish transformed waste, not only into a problem, but into an object of control as well. In tracing trash through time, the book highlights the ways in which applying modern notions of waste to the past is not only anachronistic, but actively limits our potential for understanding. As contemporary issues of climate change and waste management loom large in public discourse, this book is a timely intervention. Talking Trash offers an alternative to focusing on behavioral changes: perhaps refuse needs to be rethought altogether.

DAVID A. REID, then a graduate student at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, received a grant in April 2016 to aid research on “Roads, Waystations, and Llama Caravans: The Political-Economy of Wari State Expansion in Southern Peru,” supervised by Dr. Patrick R. Williams. This project investigates the role of road infrastructure (i.e. the built networks of communication, travel, and commerce) in the expansion of one of the earliest empires in the Americas: the Wari of the Andean highlands, whose material culture and customs spread across much of Peru during the Middle Horizon (A.D. 600-1000). Evidence of roads and waystations are often the best indicators of political boundaries and the extents of ancient states and empires, especially in cases where no written histories exist. This project completed archaeological excavations at three waystation sites along a prehistoric route between the Ocoña and Majes valleys of Arequipa in southern Peru. Analyses of recovered archaeological materials, such as ceramics and obsidian, indicate long-distance cultural influence and the movement of goods likely by llama caravans. While often considered a periphery of the Wari empire, excavations in the study area also discovered a Wari enclave associated with a D-shape temple, a hallmark of Wari imperialism. This study revealed how both local societies and foreign states contributed to
the development and maintenance of this road network during times of greater inter-regional
cnectivity and trade.

WHITTAKER SCHRODER, then a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received an award in February 2017 to aid research on “Collapse,
Crisis, and Resilience: Household Resettlement in the Upper Usumacinta Landscape,”
supervised by Dr. Richard Leventhal. This project studies political crisis and the effects of
state collapse at a remote hilltop archaeological site, El Infiernito, in the hinterlands of the
Classic period kingdom of Piedras Negras in Peten, Guatemala. This research addressed the
question of how social actors and communities respond to protracted crises and how certain
cultural systems remain resilient in such scenarios. The grantee conducted survey, mapping,
and excavation of the site to determine the chronology of different households and to collect
data relating to changes and continuities in the material record. Excavations suggested the
majority of construction dated to the Protoclassic period (AD 100-300) and the Late Classic
period (AD 550-850), with evidence of a resilient population into the Early Postclassic period
(850-). This data suggests that El Infiernito’s strategic position in the landscape supported
populations in times of crisis, as the Protoclassic and Terminal Classic periods were
characterized by societal transformations associated with collapse. Initial analysis of artifacts
highlights continuities in household production and status from the Late to Postclassic
periods, though changes in regional trade routes influenced the use and reuse of production
materials.

North America:

ROBERT C. DeMUTH, then a graduate student at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana,
received funding in April 2015 to aid research on “The Archaeology of Race and Class in an
Appalachian Coal Company Town,” supervised by Dr. Stacie King. Renamed “The Coal
Heritage Archaeology Project: Exploring the Social Intricacies of West Virginia’s Industrial
Heritage,” archaeological fieldwork carried out over the course of two summers explored the
residential communities of two prominent former coal company towns in Raleigh and
Wyoming counties in southern West Virginia. Excavations uncovered important material
evidence that will aid in reinterpreting the social history of these company towns. Several
children’s toys were recovered such as doll house furniture, toy soldiers, and marbles
demonstrating the active roles that children played in these communities of labor. Additionally,
these coal company towns were strictly segregated with distinct residential areas
for white, black, and immigrant miners, as well as a specific neighborhood for foremen and
managers. Comparative data from these communities demonstrate the different levels of
access that these groups had to consumer wealth. Additionally, the lack of preservation in the
African American community indicates that, despite historical accounts of equality, many
African American families were treated poorly by coal companies in comparison to white and
immigrant families. These differences have been confirmed by oral histories that were carried
out in conjunction with the archaeological excavations.

DR. CHRISTOPHER N. MATTHEWS, Montclair State University, Montclair, New Jersey,
was awarded a grant in October 2016 to aid research on “From Creole Synthesis to Racial
Modernity: An archaeology of culture change in the Native and African American
Community in Setauket, New York.” Funding provided support for in-depth analyses of
documentary data and excavated material culture from two 19th-century household sites.
Altogether this study shows how a small community of color became established and survived an increasingly hostile racial atmosphere over the course of the 1800s. Evidence of shell fishing and wild food collection as well as lithic tool production in the early 19th century suggest a community that was well-adapted to the local environment and built on foundations connected to their Native American ancestry. Documentation of displacement by residential racial segregation and the loss of access to shoreline and forest resource collection sites shows how this initial period of security gave way to a more difficult period that was characterized by wage labor, debt, and the loss of heritage. Stories of resilience in the form of remembering stone-tool use, marketing cultural knowledge through clambakes, and the formation of an active community-based preservation and heritage movement help to illustrate why this community, despite its history of struggle, still survives.

DR. CALLA McNAMEE, University of Tennessee, received a grant in October 2013 to aid research on “Understanding Diverse Approaches to Floodplain Management: A Comparative Analysis of Human-Environmental Interaction in the Prehistoric Southwest. Through their ability to transform and manipulate the landscape, Southwestern Formative Period (ca AD 700-1400) prehistoric populations in the Upper Basin of Northern Arizona and in the Santa Clara River Valley of Northern Mexico thrived and developed complex societies within an arid environment that was far from ideal. This research combined microbotanical and geoarchaeological analysis of alluvial fans, floodplains, and terraces to compare the human-environmental interactions at these two different locations. Despite similarities in environmental conditions, these culture groups manage and manipulate their landscapes in very different manners. Within the Santa Clara River Valley, Formative Period populations utilized mid-sized alluvial floodplains and associated spring deposits to harvest maize, while in the Upper Basin, the occupants managed fire and its impacts on the vegetation succession of alluvial fans, to promote the growth of wild resources such as chenopodium. The on-going research of this study utilizes the results from stable isotope, pollen, phytolith, and macrobotanical analyses, to refine our understanding of the local environmental conditions, specific cultural practices, and impacts of human actions on the landscapes of these two areas.

DR. RICK J. SCHULTING, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Sourcing the Ancient Canoes of Florida's Wetlands.: The project sought to develop a means of sourcing the many prehistoric canoes that have been recovered in Florida’s waterways, using strontium isotope analysis. While previous research had suggested the viability of this approach, concerns were raised when initial results obtained on submerged canoes recovered from Newnans Lake, north-central Florida, indicated a persistent influence from strontium deriving from both lake water and the water used in the Florida Natural History Museum’s conservation laboratory. Substantial efforts were therefore directed at experiments designed to test different methods of removing exogenous strontium from submerged woods. To date, the results have yielded only limited success. A second major aim of the project was to better characterize the biologically available strontium values across central and northern Florida, where many of the canoes have been found. The available bedrock maps for Florida guided the sampling strategy. There are currently 92 measurements on modern trees from 78 locations, and it is apparent that there is considerably more variability than expected, and that this variability shows only limited spatial patterning. While trees growing close to bedrock near major watercourses have distinct values in or near the anticipated range, those only a few meters (or tens of meters, depending on the local topography) distant can have substantially different values, reflecting the influence of Pliocene to Holocene cover sands. This is an important finding, though it does
present a further challenge in terms of sourcing the canoes. Additional experimental research will be undertaken as a legacy of this project, and a strontium isoscape for northern Florida will be created.

ERIC G. SCHWEICKART, then a graduate student at University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, received funding in April 2018 to aid research on “Consumer Behavior and Household Complexity: Marketplace Interactions among Virginia’s 18th Century Enslaved Families,” supervised by Dr. Barbara Heath. This research project examines the intersection between households and global networks of commodity exchange in mid-18th-century Virginia. Drawing upon the extraordinary archaeological resources in and around Williamsburg, Virginia, this project examines whether more complex households, comprised of extended family and/or non-kin residents, serve to limit the consumer choices of their constituent members more than simple, nuclear households do. Household complexity among enslaved laborers in Virginia was constrained by the stability of plantation ownership. Larger, more stable plantations allowed for more complex enslaved households to form. Therefore, comparing the degree of similarity between the material attributes of copper alloy buttons associated with enslaved African-American households as they transitioned from a period of high plantation stability during the third quarter of the 18th century to a period of low plantation stability following the American Revolution allows for the examination of how consumer behavior is affected by changes in household complexity. Fieldwork for this project included examining 670 buttons associated with twelve different archaeological sites dating to the second half of the 18th century. Drawing upon this dataset, this project will determine the importance of household complexity as a factor which influenced the rise and spread of consumerism in the 18th century.

ANDREW JAMES UPTON, then a graduate student at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, was awarded funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Modeling Networks of Interaction, Identification, and Exchange through Mississippian Period Pottery in the US Midwest,” supervised by Dr. Jodie O’Gorman. This project examines changes in networks of social, economic, and identity politic interaction following a migration process. In particular, the grantee addresses the role of ceramic industry in the transformation of interaction and identification networks across the Middle to Late Mississippian transition in the Late Prehistoric central Illinois River valley (ca. A.D. 1200-1450). The integration of three different networks constructed from various relational approaches to ceramic industry examines how chiefly Mississippian social networks structured a circa 1300 A.D. in-migration of tribal Oneota peoples and how communities of agents negotiated multicultural regional cohabitation. Incipient results indicate that Oneota in-migration coincided with: 1) increasing regional diversity in social identification categories among Mississippian peoples and a reduced scale of parity in social identification; 2) a shift from global to local cultural transmission of socially mediated jar morphological attributes but a shift from local to global transmission of plate attributes; and 3) a shift from highly cohesive to highly dispersed networks of economic interaction related to ceramic industry. Taken together, these results suggest the development of an internal frontier that like structured Oneota in-migration and provide a corpus for exploring the multi-dimensionality of network interrelationships.
Oceania and the Pacific

DR. MAUREECE LEVIN, Stanford University, Stanford, California, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Cultural Niche Construction in Central-Eastern Micronesia: An Archaeology of Plant Food Systems on Pingelap Atoll.” The atolls of the Pacific Islands are some of the most remote places in earth, with low biodiversity and vulnerability to weather events. Nevertheless, archaeological evidence shows that humans began to settle these tiny coral islands soon after sea levels stabilized in the region around 3000 years ago. In addition to exploitation of marine resources, settlers accomplished this in large part by transporting domesticates with them and engineering landscapes that increased in biodiversity and soil quality, allowing for sufficient food to maintain dense populations. In this project, the aim is to study the practices of terrestrial food production on atolls, using the case study of Pingelap. Specifically, it applies the theory of cultural niche construction to understand the feedback between food production-related ecological engineering and the social and physical environment in which Pingelapese people have lived for over one-and-a-half millennia. Methodologically, the research uses archaeological survey, paleoethnobotanical analysis (including plant macroremains and phytoliths), and ethnoarchaeological interview to interpret food production in Pingelap’s past. Ultimately, this project sheds light on the way that humans adapt subsistence strategies to remote and insular environments over long periods of time.

KIRSTEN M.G. VACCA, then a graduate student at University of California, Berkeley, California, received a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “A Question of Design: The Investigation of Space and Structure in Hawaiian Kauhale,” supervised by Dr. Patrick Kirch. This project examines how the design of 17th century Hawaiian kauhale (house complexes) structured social interactions of household members. The questions driving the excavation and analyses of multiple complexes were concerned with the use of space in, and variability between each kauhale. This information was then compared across class lines to evaluate the effect of status on the social structure of everyday life. A multi-scaler research design was employed in order to properly assess the degree of separation between household members that was enforced through the architecture. The methods funded by the Wenner-Gren were micromorphology, phytolith, and starch, sediment analyses (pH, loss on ignition, and particle size distribution). Synthesizing and interpreting these datasets allowed for linking spatially-located events to specific activities. Activities were identified from the material traces by comparing the data with previous archaeological research and historical information. By considering microfossils in conjunction with contextualizing information gleaned from the sediment analyses it was possible to identify activity areas that would have otherwise been erased from the material record through cleaning practices, abandonment or geological events. Further, the microarchaeological record provided vital information for understanding the complex relationship between status and household organization in 17th century Hawai‘i.

General

DR. KRISH SEETAH, Stanford University, Stanford, California, was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2016 to aid research and writing on “Butchery as Social Practice: An Archaeological Case Study.” This book conceptualizes butchery as an expression of technological knowledge and culture embedded in action, defining the human-animal relationship. Situating the relationship between practice, practitioner, material, and commodity will resonate with the large body of scholars interested in food production,
assembly, consumption, and the craft of cuisine. The book utilizes butchery as a point of
departure for discussing the changing historical relationships with animal utility, symbolism,
and meat consumption. Meat, cut marks, the historic trade, and the modern industry have all
been extensively studied with copious literature on each of these subject areas. In addition,
the role of craft in production, and the role of craftspeople have all received considerable
attention. However, no comparable book has triangulated between these diverse topics to chart
and define the subject of butchery in the new and creative fashion undertaken in this book. It
is the first text to focused on the activity inherent in butchery, describe the “history of
knowledge” that typifies the craft, and provide anthropological and archaeological case
studies to support the book’s main conclusions. By innovatively conceptualizing butchery in
its own right, the overall achievement of the book not only illustrates what butchery is, but
also, the potential this topic has for a much closer examination of praxis. Butchery is infinitely
more than “cut marks;” it is embodied action.
PHYSICAL/BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

CHIARA BARBIERI, Max Planck Institute for Science of Human History, Jena Germany, was awarded funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Using Genomics to Test Models of Language Diffusion: A Case-study on Quechua Diversification.” Language diversification is shaped by demographic history, as well as by how culture, social structures, and ecology influence human interaction. This project examined a case study from the Andes with Quechua, the most-spoken indigenous language family of South America. The diffusion of Quechua was facilitated by the expansion of the Inca empire and by the Spanish colonial policies, but it is not clear if the process was driven by demographic spread or by cultural diffusion alone. The funded project searched for demographic connections by generating genomic data from understudied regions of northern Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia, targeting Quechua-speaking populations and non-Quechua-speaking neighbors. The broad genetic structure retrieved separates the Andes from the Amazonia, cutting through similar ethnolinguistic backgrounds. A third, previously unreported ancestry was found in northwestern Amazonia. On top of this ancient structure, shared genomic blocks from a common ancestor correspond to population demographic exchanges. These are found betweenmost Quechua speakers from the central/southern Andes and, in a minor way, between Quechua speakers of northern regions across ecogeographic domains. These results support demographic connections behind the diffusion of southern Quechua varieties and a mix of demographic and cultural contact for the northern Quechua varieties.

CHRISTINA CLOUTIER, then a graduate student at University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, was awarded funding in October 2014 to aid research on “Tracking Patterns of the Menopausal Transition Through Endocrine Change in the Chimpanzee (Pan troglodytes),” supervised by Dr. Kristen Hawkes. Chimpanzees are the best studied of the great apes, and the preferred living referent for modeling life history characteristics of the first members of the human lineage. Still, very little is known about reproductive function in the common chimpanzee (Pan troglodytes). Endocrine patterns of reproductive aging have been especially ignored. Traditional models have assumed that chimpanzees and humans experience very similar patterns and mechanisms of reproductive function; however, little attention has been paid to age-mediated reproductive endocrine changes over time within chimpanzee females. Here, the study improves quantitative comparisons between chimpanzees and humans associated with the biology of menopause. It investigates the endocrine and cycling profiles of 17 female chimpanzees over 30 years of age (mean age = 43.3 years). The research finds that, contrary to human patterns of the menopausal transition, chimpanzees do not seem to undergo a period of hyperestrogenemia, or an age-related decline in Pregnanediol-3-Glucuronide (PdG). Similarly, they do not exhibit an age-related increase in follicle stimulating hormone (FSH). Finally, whereas menstrual cycles shorten in women approaching menopause, chimpanzee cycles show no significant change with advancing age. Taken together, these data indicate different perimenopausal physiology in humans and chimpanzees.

DR. SHARON N. DEWITTE, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, was awarded a grant in April 2016 to aid research on “Diet and Health in the Context of Medieval Mortality Crises.” One of the most important mortality crises in history was the Black Death, an outbreak of plague that killed tens of millions of people in Europe alone (c. 1346-1352 CE). Medieval European populations also experienced numerous devastating famines associated with dramatic climatic shifts. This project uses paleodemographic, paleopathological, and isotopic data from human skeletal remains from medieval London
to examine the interactions among diet, sex, socioeconomic status, health, and mortality in the context of the medieval crises of famine and plague. This study will improve our understanding of the social, economic, and biological context of crises events. By revealing who might be most vulnerable during crises and which factors most significantly affect negative health outcomes or risk of mortality, this project can help motivate action in advance of crises to ameliorate their potential devastating effects. The findings of this project thus far reveal important associations between medieval diet (as revealed by carbon and nitrogen isotope values) and risks of mortality, and the potential influence of childhood stressors on susceptibility to famine mortality. Further isotopic analyses, which will reveal the intersection of diet, status, sex, and health in medieval London, are currently underway.

AMANDINE ERIKSEN, then a graduate student at State University of New York, Buffalo, New York, was awarded funding in April 2018 to aid research on “An Integrative Assessment of the Pattern and Causes of Bilateral Asymmetry across the Human Skeleton,” supervised by Dr. Noreen von Cramon-Taubadel. Previous studies of human bilateral asymmetry have tended to focus on single skeletal elements or resulted in conflicting interpretations as to the sources of asymmetry, thereby limiting the ability to differentiate between genetic, developmental, and behavioral causes of asymmetry such as the effect of hand preference. This project focused on fluctuating asymmetry (FA) and directional asymmetry (DA) implementing a morphometric approach to analyze 13 bones representing the skull, pelvis, and limbs to explore differences between each side of the body. Using three-dimensional data collected from 43 adult skeletons for whom hand preference and occupation was documented, this research tested the hypothesis that different skeletal elements exhibit different levels of asymmetry and to what extent handedness and everyday activities shape the skeleton. Results first indicate that different regions are subject to different asymmetry-inducing pressures, both across individuals and across the sexes. Secondarily, results suggest that handedness can affect asymmetry in parts of the skeleton not directly linked to the upper limb. Given the variety of genetic, developmental, and biomechanical factors influencing the skeleton, these findings highlight the importance of using a holistic approach to assessing asymmetry across the human skeleton.

RONG FAN, then a graduate student at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, was awarded a grant in October 2017 to aid research on “Physiological Stress, Workload and the Emergence of Social Inequality in Neolithic China, 7000-4000 BC,” supervised by Dr. Anne Underhill. During fieldwork in China, the grantee visited three cities to collect extensive human skeletal data of approximately 150 individuals excavated from two Middle Neolithic sites—an inland site (Jiahu) and a coastal site (Beiqian) – with the intent of building a biohistory for each individual with biocultural approaches, identifying marks or changes on the human skeletal remains that should be related to food consumption, nutritional intakes, physiological stress and workload. The study will then use independent data on mortuary treatment to draw conclusions about social differentiation. The preliminary results show differences among members of each society that had not been discovered previously. Combined with the results from other archaeological studies, such as burial locations through different chronological phases, this project is able to investigate, with greater refinement, which individuals were involved in heavy and intensive workload activities, resulting in them having a more strenuous life than other members of that society. Findings should provide further insights into the different possible social roles in Middle Neolithic communities that distinguished females versus males, children versus adults, and people in different burial
clusters. This research trip also helped build connections with Chinese scholars, who helped advance this dissertation research project tremendously.

DR. HILLARY N. FOUTS, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, received funding in April 2015 to aid research on “A Bio-Cultural Perspective of Parenting and Environmental Risk among the Gamo People in Southern Ethiopia.” Much research at the intersection of cultural and biological anthropology has supported models of parenting that identify environmental risk as a substantial influence on parenting and therefore child health and development. However, the research and models have predominantly focused on extrinsic risk factors, such as population-level child mortality rates. What is missing from this area of research is a focus on cultural models of environmental risk and parenting, and parents’ individual experiences and perceptions of risk and loss. This study used a multi-method bio-cultural approach to examine how environmental risk relates to parents’ experiences and perceptions and the care of infants and toddlers among the Gamo people in southern Ethiopia. Overall, the results suggest that environmental risk affects parents in complex ways and cannot be reduced to one driving factor. Analysis of qualitative and quantitative data exemplify that the confluence of individual experiences, cultural models, and perceptions of the environment together predict parenting behavior and exemplify the value of a multi-method bio-cultural approach.

ANGELA R. GARCIA, then a graduate student at University of California, Santa Barbara, California, was awarded funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Do Neuroendocrine-Immune Interactions Mediate Links between Social Disparities and Metabolic Risk among Honduran Immigrant Women?,” supervised by Dr. Aaron Blackwell. Diseases like cardiovascular disease and diabetes are the leading cause of death worldwide. The experience of marginalization is an important, under-studied, factor that may contribute to disease risk. Collectively, immigrants are one of the most vulnerable groups to experiencing marginalization. This project evaluates the theory that contemporary social stratification and inequality exert effects on disease risk, in part because marginalized individuals are more vulnerable to chronic experiences of stress and thus more likely to experience stress and immune dysregulation by social-environmental impacts. Specifically, it examines links between perceived social economic status (pSES), cortisol (a primary stress hormone), immune function, and metabolic risk in immigrant women on the Honduran island of Utila. In total, 137 women were interviewed on a range of social, ecological, demographic, and health-related topics. Multi-day saliva samples were collected to measure diurnal salivary cortisol and blood samples were taken to assess aspects of immunity and metabolic risk. Results indicate that low pSES is associated with altered cortisol, which is linked to disruption in diurnal immunity. Taken together, this research illuminates a pathway through which social phenomena may influence metabolic risk, and begins to unpack the dynamic processes that shape the health impacts of immigration and marginalization.

RIETI G. GENG, then a graduate student at University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, received a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “Biosocial Correlates of Political Invisibility among Asylum Seekers at Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya,” supervised by Dr. Rahul C. Oka. Given that the number of displaced persons worldwide currently sits at a record high, the mental and physical well-being of encamped refugees is of crucial concern. This dissertation project situates refugee well-being at the nexus of daily social practice, social support network behavior, bureaucratic processes of categorization and regimentation, and physiological stress. In a sample of 170 Somali and Oromo Ethiopian refugees, this research
examines how these multi-scalar, yet interdependent facets of lived experience contribute to refugees’ ability to cope with the psychological traumas associated with prolonged waiting, idleness, and sense of a “life on hold” that characterize life under encampment. Many refugees are rendered essentially invisible under conditions of extended institutional neglect, which was predicted to have tangible, negative effects across diverse measures of well-being. Ethnographic data reveal that the daily social routine of sitting together, engaging in culturally salient practices, offers refugees at Kakuma opportunities for commiseration, collective memory formation, and a sense of control that they would otherwise lack. Subsequent analysis will incorporate quantitative data on social support networks and biomarkers of health and physiological status in order to tease apart divergent experiences under distinct bureaucratic pressures, and to construct a biocultural model of psychosocial resilience.

IAN DOUGLAS GEORGE, then a graduate student at University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, received a grant in October 2013 to aid research on “Mapping the Cerebrocerebellar Language Network and its Role in Human Neuroevolution,” supervised by Dr. Kristina Aldridge. Language is arguably the key factor that has influenced the evolution of the human brain. Previous research on endocasts—the only direct evidence of the brains of human ancestors—has revealed a disproportionate increase in size of the cerebellum relative to the cerebrum. Recent neurological findings indicate that the cerebellum plays a role in modulating language through neural connections to the cerebrum. Research has mapped the connectivity among the cerebellum and language areas in the cerebrum through a specialized form of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), diffusion tensor imaging (DTI), and verified that the cerebellum is a key component of the language network in the human brain. When compared with behavioral measures of language research found significant correlations between connectivity in the language-specific cerebrocerebellar network (LSCN) and language production. This research provides critical data on how much can be known about language from the study of fossil brain endocasts by testing the assumption that brain structure, specifically in the LSCN, correlates with language ability. The hypothesis that these same suites of features are reliably reproduced on endocasts can now be tested. This evidence is essential for making predictions about the behavior of fossil hominin ancestors from endocast data.

THERESA E. GILDNER, then a graduate student at University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Life History Tradeoffs between Testosterone and Immune Function: Testing the Immunocompetence Handicap Hypothesis,” supervised by Dr. J. Josh Snodgrass. The hormone testosterone plays a key role in energy allocation and the development of male characteristics. Furthermore, evidence suggests that testosterone has negative immune effects. Testosterone is therefore hypothesized to mediate energetic trade-offs between male reproductive effort and immunity. However, associations between testosterone and immune function in humans are not well established. This study tests these relationships among indigenous Ecuadorian Shuar to assess how testosterone levels influence parasitic disease risk. Microscope slides were prepared from fecal samples to measure parasite load. Additionally, saliva samples were collected in the morning and evening for three days and analyzed in lab to establish participant average morning and evening testosterone levels. Results indicate that men in urban environments exhibit higher parasite loads than men in more rural communities, perhaps due to increased contact with domestic animals and altered testosterone levels. Furthermore, men with higher evening testosterone exhibit significantly higher parasite loads, suggesting a trade-off exists between male investment in reproductive effort and immune function. Infection patterns identified in this
study help inform future treatment programs by highlighting how physiological and environmental factors influence disease risk. These findings have also been used to facilitate the treatment of infected Shuar participants and advocate for improved healthcare.

ELAINE GOMEZ GUEVARA, then a graduate student at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Genomics of Longevity in a Wild Primate,” supervised by Dr. David Watts. Primates are long-lived among mammals and humans in particular are distinguished by exceptional longevity, which is proposed to have co-evolved with some of the defining characteristics of our species. Yet the physiological bases of this trait are not well understood. This study explored the evolution of senescence in primates using analyses of whole genome and exome sequence data from wild Verreaux’s sifakas (*Propithecus verreauxi*), a primate which, like humans, is long-lived for its body size and demonstrates a slow rate of aging. Scans for signatures of positive selection in 210 aging-related candidate genes revealed evidence of accelerated evolution in 20 of these genes. The largest functional category represented amongst these loci was the broad classification of genomic maintenance, which is consistent with the findings of genomic analyses of other naturally long-lived mammals, including naked mole rats, bats, and whales. In particular, a number of genes were identified that are involved in DNA double strand break repair, a phenomenon that has been associated with aging. These findings contribute to knowledge of the potential physiological basis of aging and provide a foundation for numerous follow-up studies.

MEAGAN M. GUILFOYLE, then a graduate student at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, was awarded a grant in April 2016 to aid research on “The Impact of Ramadan Fasting on Breast Milk Composition and Infant Growth in Rabat, Morocco,” supervised by Dr. Andrea Wiley. During the month of Ramadan, pregnant Muslim women around the world participate in a fast in which no food or water is consumed from sunrise to sunset. This research examines determinants of fasting, including maternal anthropometry, health, and social support, and outcomes of fasting, including milk cortisol concentrations 48-72 hours post-partum, infant anthropometry, infant feeding practices, and milk production. Fifty-eight percent of participants fasted every day of Ramadan before labor, 30% fasted some days, and 12% did not fast. Common reasons for not fasting or skipping days were health concerns and/or not feeling capable of fasting. Women with maternal health concerns, particularly diabetes and hypertension with higher weight, muscle mass, and bone mass, and whose families advised against fasting were less likely to fast and fasted for few days. Regarding infant anthropometry, fasting was only associated with length; mothers that did not fast had longer infants. Since maternal weight, muscle and bone mass also correlated with both maternal fasting and infant length, differences in length may be due to differences between fasting and non-fasting mothers. Number of days fasted was correlated with supplemental feeding behaviors in female but not male infants. Cortisol analysis is in progress.

KARI L. HANSON, then a graduate student at University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California, received a grant in April 2013 to aid research on “Mosaic Evolution of Subcortical Structures and Neural Circuits in the Primate Striatum,” supervised by Dr. Katerina Semendeferi. The human brain has seen a nearly three-fold increase in size since divergence from humans’ common ancestors shared with chimpanzees. The implications of this expansion for the intrinsic organization of the brain’s subcortical structures remains somewhat unexplored. Among these, the striatum, involved in social and reward learning, response inhibition, and language production, represents a site of significant modification. Research has shown that the human striatum scales much smaller than expected for a primate brain of
its size, with interesting implications for what size alone can reveal about function in brain structures. The computational demands of the expanded cerebral cortex are supported by an increase in specialized cells known as interneurons, from 5% of total neuronal populations in the rodent to more than 20% in the primate striatum. This may represent a significant shift in local processing capacities derived in the primate order. Utilizing a sample of eight anthropoid primate species, the study analyzed the distribution of interneurons expressing choline acetyltransferase, parvalbumin, and calretinin in the striatum. Overall differences in interneuron distributions seem to suggest that modifications in neural circuitry in the striatum may be shared at the hominoid level, with evidence for species-level differences in the densities of interneuron subtypes.

DR. MARY-ASHLEY HAZEL, Stanford University, Stanford, California, received a grant in April 2015 to aid research on “Ecology, Mobility, and Sexually Transmitted Virus Burden in a Pastoralist Population.” Sexual relationships are a critical component of a society’s larger social fabric. Among the pastoralists of Kaokoveld, Namibia, high levels of subsistence-based mobility result in frequent separation between married people. As a partial consequence of this, men and women typically have concurrent non-marital or extra-marital partners, who are said to provide important sources of material and social support. Despite increasing the risk of exposure to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), sexual-partner concurrency has yielded a net benefit to the Kaokoveld pastoralists’ social system. However, increasing changes to local mobility patterns, brought on by increasing access to urban areas and intensification of dry-season dispersal due to severe drought, may disrupt the tradeoff outcomes of partner concurrency and STI burden. This project explores mobility patterns, seasonal sexual-network patterns, and genetic characteristics of herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2) among the semi-nomadic agro-pastoralists of Kaokoveld, Namibia. The project objective is to understand how variation in mobility and subsistence strategy shapes epidemiologically relevant network structures and geographic patterns of viral STI prevalence.

NATALIE M. LAUDICINA, then a graduate student at Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, was awarded a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “Examining the Evolution of Human Birth: A Novel Approach,” supervised by Dr. Matt Cartmill. For decades, the mechanics of human birth were thought to be unique amongst primates. It is not clear why and how the process of human labor became so complex and perilous. The widely accepted “obstetrical dilemma” account attributes this to a combination of large neonatal size, a uniquely large neonatal brain, and a maternal pelvis that has become modified for bipedal locomotion by growing dorsoventrally shallower and transversely broader. The grantee compared obstetric constraints amongst a variety of anthropoid primates and fossil hominins, creating a novel technique using 3D surface scans, animation software, and complete birth canal reconstruction. Funding allowed for travel to six institutions to scan over 200 primate specimens. Comparing fetal dimensions to the birth canal morphology and size, the study examined species-specific obstetric constraints to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the degree of birth difficulty in non-human primates. This research presented findings that showed that some non-human primate species have cephalopelvic ratios that are equally as tight as humans.

SEAN M. LEE, then a graduate student at George Washington University, Washington, DC, received funding in April 2017 to support research on “Prosocial and Craniofacial Ontogeny in Wild Chimpanzees and Bonobos: A Test of the Self-Domestication Hypothesis,” supervised by Dr. Carson M. Murray. This project aimed to generate data on the behavioral and morphological development of wild populations of bonobos (LuiKotale, Democratic
Republic of Congo) and chimpanzees (Gombe, Tanzania), which will be used to evaluate the self-domestication hypothesis. Captive data on the development of these two species support the self-domestication hypothesis, which posits that selection against aggression in bonobos results in their reduced aggression and craniofacial robusticity relative to chimpanzees, and that these differences arise via development in a manner analogous to domesticates who have undergone intentional selection against aggression. However, empirical evidence from wild populations are needed to determine whether these patterns representative of self-domestication are evident under natural conditions. Some researchers have suggested that humans have also undergone self-domestication, as selection against aggression is thought to have facilitated a number of human traits, enhanced social learning capabilities, early-emerging cooperative-communicative behaviors, and gracile craniofacial features. Understanding more about the self-domestication of bonobos, who along with chimpanzees are humans’ closest living relatives, can thus provide insight into possible self-domestication of humans.

ALLISON L. MACHNICKI, then a graduate student at Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, received a grant in April 2016 to aid research on “Evolution and Development of the Hominoid Thoracolumbar Transition,” supervised by Dr. Philip L. Reno. The thoracolumbar spine is crucial for understanding primate evolution and the origins and unique adoption of human bipedalism. Both great apes and humans have stabilized their spine with the posterior shift of the change in orientation of the articular facets (the transitional vertebra) and reduction of non-ribbed lumbar vertebra. There is debate regarding whether these features are evolved once in a common ancestor or independently, and thus whether bipedalism evolved from a short stiff back like great apes or a longer lumbar column more similar to monkeys and Miocene hominoids. Genetic modification of Hox9 genes in mice results in the independent modification of rib count and transitional vertebra placement. These transitions mimic the shift of the transitional vertebra boundary in hominoids. This analysis compares the morphology of the primate transitional vertebra and experimentally modified mice. Quantitative, qualitative, and geometric morphometric analyses were conducted on primate museum specimens and mouse thoracic and lumbar columns using 3D and micro-CT scanning. Together these projects demonstrated that the pattern of the thoracolumbar transition was different across the great apes in shape of the spinous processes and articular facets and humans, gibbons, and monkeys had similar transitions in these vertebral characteristics.

COLLIN M. MCCABE, then a graduate student at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, received a grant in May 2014 to aid research on “Unwelcome Guests: Human-Rodent Cohabitation and its Implications for Disease Transfer in Sedentary Agricultural Populations,” supervised by Dr. Richard Wrangham. This project studied what draws rodents to cohabitate human homes, as well as what parasites these rodents carry. This was done to propose an explanation for how rodent infection status and proximity to humans may interact to create specific disease risks for these humans. Toward this goal, ten months of live rodent trapping and parasite sampling was conducted in central Kenya in and around human settlements. The study area was chosen because of recent transitions of villages in the area from nomadic pastoralist to sedentary agriculturalist lifeways. Such transitions likely mirror those seen in the Fertile Crescent, where some of the first archaeological evidence of rodent avoidance was also discovered, approximately 10,000 years ago, around the advent of agriculture. Results showed that house-dwelling rodents tended to be drawn to human settlements not by cached food resources, but rather by proximity to wildlife preserves. These house dwelling rodents also carried fewer pathogens with lower parasite richnesses, perhaps
indicating that chance encounters with wild rodents have had greater effects on spillover than repeated interactions with cohabiting ones. Additionally, increasing buffer area between human settlements and wildlife preserves may be the best way to mitigate disease risks from these populations going forward.

DR. ELIZABETH MILLER, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, received funding in October 2015 to aid research on “Ecology of the Human Milk and Infant Salivary Microbiomes.” This project seeks to understand the relationships between mother’s milk and infant salivary microbiomes from 251 mother-infant pairs in Kenya. The aims of this research are to characterize the maternal milk and infant salivary microbiomes, to explore the relationship between mothers’ milk and infant salivary microbiomes, and to test ecological factors that may influence these microbiomes. The scope of work in this project was to sequence the V3-V4 regions of bacterial 16s rDNA from milk and infant saliva samples using next generation sequencing, assign taxonomy, and do preliminary analysis of results. This research found that milk samples, including test samples collected immediately prior to DNA extraction, show low levels of low-quality DNA even after pre-amplification of DNA and PCR. This finding has implications for future work in milk microbiomes. After sequencing, reads were cleaned, filtered, and assigned taxonomy using the R program DADA2, which maintains sequence variants along with bacterial taxonomy for fine-grained analysis of variation. Preliminary characterization of the infant salivary microbiome shows consistencies with prior work; specifically, a dominance of Streptococcus bacteria in the saliva of infants. Further work on this project will further characterize the microbiomes and test the relationships between the microbiomes and mother-infant ecologies.

ELIZABETH ANN MOFFETT, then a graduate student at University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, was awarded funding in October 2014 to aid research on “Effect of Cephalopelvic Proportions on Anthropoid Pelvic Morphology and Integration,” supervised by Dr. Carol V. Ward. This dissertation addresses how obstetric selection influences dimorphism and integration in the pelves of anthropoid taxa. Previously it has been assumed that the observed extreme dimorphism in human bony pelves is the result of obstetric selection. However, many primate species, including some that give birth to relatively small offspring, have dimorphic pelves. The research shows that most primates have dimorphic pelves, but the magnitude of dimorphism (how different the sexes are) is greatest in species with relatively large neonates. Further, in these species, females have higher magnitudes of integration (greater covariation between traits) in the pelvis compared to males, but this is not true in species with relatively small neonates. The inference is that obstetric selection maintains high dimorphism levels (and high integration in female birth canals) in species with relatively large neonates. There is a clear association between the magnitude of dimorphism and magnitude of integration in primate pelves and obstetric demand in anthropoid primates.
DR. JILL DAPHNE PRUETZ, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas, received a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “How Do Spear-hunting Chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes verus) Adjust to Prey Behavior at Fongoli, Senegal?” Chimpanzees at the Fongoli, Senegal, study site are the only non-humans that regularly use tools to hunt. These savanna-dwelling apes fashion “spear” tools to jab into tree cavities to capture nocturnal bushbabies (Galago senegalensis) resting there during the day. Research focused on the hypothesis that Galago behavior influences Fongoli chimpanzee hunting. Specifically, the limited rainy season hunting warranted explanation. Data were collected on Galago cavity use across seasons as well as temperatures within branch versus tree trunk cavities. The availability of Galago prey for Fongoli chimpanzees was best explained by rainfall itself. Following storms, chimpanzees were more likely to hunt with tools. As Galago cavities became inundated with water, bushbabies apparently moved to the outer cavity and were easier for apes to capture. An alternative hypothesis related to food scarcity was not supported in that chimpanzees did not hunt with tools more when food was scarce, but they did hunt more when party sizes were largest. Better understanding prey behavior is crucial to providing insight into chimpanzee hunting. This aspect of hunting receives little attention in discussion of the evolution of hunting behavior in our own lineage but has implications for the complexity of ape and hominin behavior.

KELSEY PUGH, then a graduate student at City University of New York, New York, New York, was awarded a grant in April 2016 to aid research on “Early Hominin Evolution within the Broader Context of Mid-Late Miocene Hominoid Phylogeny,” supervised by Dr. Christopher Gilbert. The living great apes, humans, and their fossil relatives (Family Hominidae) are among the most intensively studied mammalian groups, yet many aspects of their shared evolutionary history are not well understood. Phylogenetic relationships—how species are related to one another—among fossil hominids, as well as between fossil and living hominids, are poorly resolved despite the numerous recent fossil discoveries due in part to a lack of comprehensive analyses. Moreover, previous phylogenetic studies have examined hominin or ape phylogeny in isolation, rather than evaluating early hominin evolution within the larger Mid-Late Miocene ape radiation. The main objective of this project is to perform a phylogenetic analysis of all known Mid-Late Miocene hominoid taxa, including the earliest potential hominins Ardipithecus, Orrorin, and Sahelanthropus using updated character analysis and tree inference methods. Data collection for this project is nearing completion, and parsimony and Bayesian inference will follow finalization of the character matrix. Bayesian hypothesis testing of proposed scenarios of biogeography and locomotor evolution, as well as ancestral state reconstruction, will follow. An understanding of phylogeny is essential to many of the larger questions we seek answers to in paleoanthropology, providing the necessary foundation to frame both taxonomic and paleobiological questions.

MARY P. ROGERS, then a graduate student at University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, received a grant in October 2016 to aid research on “Bridging Early Environment and Reproductive Traits: Epigenetic Patterns in Rural Polish and Polish American Women,” supervised by Dr. Kathryn Clancy. This research project aimed to expand current understanding of how environmental and genetic factors together affect reproductive traits by investigating epigenetic and environmental correlates of age at a girl’s first menses (menarche) and reproductive function in women from related ancestral backgrounds living in two different environments: Polish and Polish American women. Life history survey, reproductive hormone, and epigenetic data was collected from Polish (n=123) and Polish American (n=47) women between 2014-2017. The project found that ages at menarche have declined over time in Poland, which matches a trend seen globally. Ages at menarche were
earlier for Polish American women, and there was a generational affect where second generation Polish Americans had the lowest average ages at menarche. This study further investigated gene methylation, an epigenetic mechanism which can change in response to environmental cues and affect gene expression. This project identified a pathway by which methylation at the gene CYP19A1 mediated a relationship between cortisol concentrations and urinary estradiol metabolites. Overall, the results of this research underscore that reproductive function is sensitive to environmental conditions experienced throughout development and that that epigenetic traits like gene methylation may provide a piece of the lacking intermediate structure linking stress and reproductive traits.

MEAGAN A. RUBEL, then a graduate student at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Effect of Diet and Parasites on the Gut Metagenomics of Environmentally Diverse Africans,” supervised by Dr. Sarah Tishkoff. This research characterized human gut microbiomes (GMs) using fecal metagenomic sequencing and parasite testing from ethnically and geographically diverse African populations to assess fundamental questions about human evolution and adaptation to disease and diet. African populations have adapted to a range of environments and foods as they spread through the continent, and their GMs may have coevolved with them. Furthermore, infectious blood and fecal parasites endemic to the environments of the sampled populations may be implicated in gastrointestinal disease, and may have a role in GM structure and function. The study focused this research on hunter-gatherers, pastoralists, and agropastoralists from Botswana, Tanzania, and Cameroon, and compared their GM sequences with industrial agro-pastoralists from the U.S. GMs were dominated by Bacteroides, a taxa associated with diets high in animal fats and proteins. Prevotella, a taxa associated with traditional diets that are high in fiber, was abundant in the GMs of rural Africans, although substantial variation was present—for instance, a subset of rural agropastoralists from Botswana had Bacteroides abundances similar to U.S. samples, which may indicate increased industrialization. Overall, Cameroonians were more highly parasitized than Botswanans and Tanzanians, and many individuals were polyparasitized by more than one type of fecal and/or gut parasite.

Dr. CLARA SCARRY, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, received funding in October 2015 to aid research on “The Evolution and Maintenance of Male Cooperation in Argentine Tufted Capuchin Monkeys.” Collective defense of resources and home ranges is vulnerable to the potential for free-riding on the investment of others, a phenomenon that has only recently begun to receive attention in studies of non-human primates. To date, most work on successful male cooperation and territorial defense has focused on systems with male philopatry (e.g., chimpanzees, spider monkeys). This study examined patterns of male participation in intergroup aggression among tufted capuchins monkeys (Sapajus nigritus) in Iguazú, Argentina, a species with male-biased dispersal that also appears to overcome the potential collective action problem. This study focused on three potential pathways that may be maintaining these high levels of intragroup cooperation among males: 1) hidden male kin networks within groups; 2) private incentives, such as mating access and social tolerance; and 3) reproductive queueing and delayed maturation. Preliminary results identified occasional occurrences of staggered immigrations by related males, however, most groups appear unlikely to exhibit high levels of male relatedness. Ongoing analyses will determine whether male relatedness and reproductive skew mirror behavioral observations of male transfers and mating access, as well as investigate whether age or sociospatial integration affect individual investment in collective defense and the prospects of becoming dominant male.
EMILY A. SHARP, then a graduate student at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, was awarded a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “Investigating Cultural and Direct Violence in the Prehispanic North-Central Andes,” supervised by Dr. Jane Buikstra. This project investigated the role violence played in ancient politics and lived experience across a broad timescale (2800 BC–AD 1450) in the north-central Andes. Funds supported osteological analyses and AMS radiocarbon dating of individuals from six archaeological sites in the Callejón de Huaylas, Peru. Specifically, this study tested the correlation between different forms of violence—cultural and direct—during the periods before, during, and after Recuay cultural fluorescence. Preliminary results indicate the scale and intensity of direct violence changed dramatically, with the greatest frequency of victims and lethal injuries post-AD 1000. Findings also tentatively suggest an earlier uptick in physical violence circa AD 50-200; however, additional evidence is needed to bolster this claim. Contextualizing these results within other social changes complicates current understanding of how political power and violence operate together. Recuay leaders legitimized their power by valorizing artistic representations of warriors; yet, the centralization of this power was perhaps not accompanied by high levels of physical violence. Through a historical, bioarchaeological approach, this research demonstrates how ideologies of control become materialized in the body, legitimated in material culture, and entrenched in social orders. Future work will continue to address these issues by delineating more nuanced patterns of violence.

DR. KATHERINE WANDER, Binghamton University, Binghamton, New York, was awarded a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “The Immune System of Milk: In Vitro Immune Responses in Whole Milk.” Human milk provides not only nutrition for infants, but also immune protection: the cells, antibodies, antimicrobial compounds, and immune cell communication molecules in milk constitute an entire immune system, capable of mounting immune responses and directing infant immune development. To better understand the immune value of milk, this project developed a field-friendly method for describing milk immune responses for anthropological research, with the goal of describing not only what is in milk, but what is happening in milk. To do this, milk specimens were collected from breastfeeding volunteers living in upstate New York. Milk was incubated for twenty-four hours with a stimulus (e.g., a “probiotic” bacteria like Lactobacillus or a pathogenic bacteria like Salmonella). The concentration of immune cell communication molecules (cytokines) before and after incubation was compared as a measure of the immune response to each stimulus. In over half of milk specimens, large increases in cytokines (up to ~2500-fold) were evident. Increases were most often pro-inflammatory. This method is simple, affordable, and effective in describing pro-inflammatory milk immune responses. It has the potential to be very useful to anthropological research—for example, in projects seeking to understand the immune value of milk across diverse infectious disease ecologies.

KYLE WILEY, then a graduate student at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, was awarded funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Intergenerational Consequences of Interpersonal Violence: The Role of Fetal Programming,” supervised by Dr. Catherine Panter-Brick. Anthropologists and human biologists are increasingly committed to investigating the proximate mechanisms by which prenatal stress is transmitted to the next generation and the consequences of these experiences on health and wellbeing. Epigenetic and hormonal programming of the hypothalamic pituitary adrenal axis during fetal development are potential mechanisms of transmission but remain poorly understood. This study examined the intergenerational consequences of interpersonal violence in a cohort of first-time pregnant adolescents from São Paulo, Brazil. The children of mothers who experience interpersonal violence during pregnancy had altered methylation profiles of stress regulatory genes and...
elevated bedtime cortisol at one year of age. Violence exposure was not associated with cortisol during pregnancy but was associated with maternal depression and anxiety. Maternal mental health may act as a pathway through which the maternal experience shapes programming of fetal stress systems. Maternal anxiety was associated with altered methylation profiles that were associated with increased infant bedtime cortisol. This study contributes to a growing literature of the mechanisms that link environment, experience, and health, and unpack biological mechanisms that are often neglected in anthropological research. Future studies can continue to elucidate these mechanisms by investigating the development of a range of physiological and behavioral outcomes.

KELSEY E. WITT, then a graduate student at University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Using Ancient Dog DNA to Test Models of Human Migration History,” supervised by Dr. Ripan S. Malhi. Complete mitochondrial genomes of 72 ancient dogs from 21 American archaeological sites were sequenced to study the demographic history of dogs in the Americas prior to European contact, and to relate the histories of ancient dog and human populations in the Americas. Using demographic modeling, research found that dogs likely arrived to the Americas around 15,000 years before present (ybp), with the first peopling of the Americas. The study also found that these dog mitochondrial DNA sequences split into two primary groups, with one group limited to North America and the other group distributed across North and South America. This pattern is also found in Native American populations, which derive from two genetically-distinct groups. Also, parallels in patterns of genetic diversity between ancient human and dog populations in the Americas were found. For example, dogs from the Midwestern United States show a rapid increase in genetic diversity around 1000 years ago, which coincides with the development of Mississippian culture, a large Native American empire centered around the Midwestern United States. This study of ancient American dogs shows their connections to the human populations who lived alongside them.
LINGUISTICS

ROSALIE EDMONDS, then a graduate student at University of California, Los Angeles, California, received funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Language Ideologies, Conservation Ideologies: Multilingualism and Collaboration in Transnational Environmental Work,” supervised by Dr. Paul Kroskrity. With Wenner-Gren funding, the researcher conducted three months of ethnographic and linguistic fieldwork from 2017 to 2018 at the Limbe Wildlife Centre in Cameroon. This sanctuary was chosen for its reputation for successful conservation work in the midst of great cultural, linguistic, and ideological diversity. The researcher explored how this success is possible by analyzing the everyday communicative practices that occur as Cameroonian animal keepers, French managers, and European volunteers work together to care for animals rescued from illegal wildlife trafficking. Through the analysis of field notes, interviews, and video recording, the study found that although everyone orients to English as the main language of communication, the bulk of work at the LWC occurs instead in French or Cameroonian Pidgin English—languages that are unequally available to different people. Additionally, management, staff, and volunteers hold different motivations for and ideologies about working with animals—while management take a primatological perspective, keepers’ approaches focus on the practical contingencies involved in animal care, and volunteers come with few skills, but a passion for animals. Despite these differences, the LWC maintains an international reputation for successful conservation work.

MARCELLO FRANCIONI, then a graduate student at University of London, London, United Kingdom, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Onne-kotoba. Masculinity, Language and Sexuality in Contemporary Japan,” supervised by Dr. Carolina Osella. Funding assisted research on the service industry in Japanese-style gay bars in Tokyo (Japan). The main aim of this research was to trace the implications of gender and service, and what is the role of language in the gay bar scene. By working as a waiter, the grantee collected data necessary to claim that the service industry in Japan is geared towards a masculinization of the customer, regardless of their proclaimed gender, and of a feminization of the staff through economic transaction. By adopting mother-like and wife-like behaviors, staff members gave customers the upper hand in after-work one-on-one interactions that counterbalanced their everyday work routines of company workers lacking general interactional power. Moreover, research investigated the role of language use at gay bars, through the analysis of gay bars’ speech style (called “onne-kotoba.”) Contrary to the literature on the subject, this style mixes both hyper-feminine and hyper-masculine language in order to access a more nuanced emotional repertoire. Masterful mixing, it was observed, made for desirable customers and conversation partners at the bars.

SIMON R. JO-KEELING, then a graduate student at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was awarded funding in May 2005 to aid research on “The Poetry and Music of Conflict: Exploring Bamileke Funeral Performance,” supervised by Dr. Judith T. Irvine. This research explored the meanings of music, poetry, and place among Bamileke members of music-and-finance associations in Bangangte, Cameroon. The grantee attended the weekly meetings and rehearsals of some such groups, and arranged private music and language lessons. Attending and performing at mourning rites are among the most important functions of the groups. The grantee recorded music at rehearsals, lessons, and performances. Most song texts concerned: 1) responsibility to kin; 2) death, ritual, and the afterlife; or 3) the connections between ritual, kin-groups, and villages. The third theme includes traditions of naming which include both “given” names and predictable names based on these connections.
Decisions about which name to use when seem to be a significant poetic resource. Consultants’ talk about villages and values demonstrated that the near-sacred spaces of village farms are crucial to how they understand power, beauty, and ethics. Working with micro-financial institutions showed that Bangangte is a place where the emotional intensity of poverty and generosity is entangled with that of ritual and place. Making music together is neither tangential nor superficial to such complexities; it develops, contains, deepens, permits and celebrates intimacy and affective intensity. All of this was going on in a context also shaped by a discourse of “modernity” that cast “village” practices in a negative light. Therefore, the Bamileke of Bangangte are engaged in struggles for prestige that run through music and daily life.

KEVIN KENJAR, then a graduate student from University of California, Berkeley, California, received a grant in April 2016, to aid research on “Linguistic Landscapes and Ideological Horizons: Language and Ideology in Post-Yugoslav Space,” supervised by Dr. Charles L. Briggs. Funding allowed the grantee to successfully complete fieldwork in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro. The primary purpose of this period was to collect data on the diverse linguistic landscapes (official signs, advertising, graffiti, and other forms of public signage) throughout the region, paying strict attention to place, space, and the linguistic forms used. This was paired with archival work and photo-elicitation based interviews, in which a diverse group of informants would interpret the linguistic information present in ways that differed not only from the grantee’s interpretations, but also from each other based largely on respective experience and positioning. As a result of the interview process, in which the linguistic landscape was portrayed and delineated as a space of action, numerous informants became engaged with the linguistic landscape in ways they had not previously. This includes not only paying heed to the writing on the walls around them (nearly universal among informants), but also documenting it on their own and sending photographs to the researcher (entirely unsolicited), and even making and documenting interventions of their own, such as modifying fascist graffiti to present anti-fascist sentiments. This revelation forces one to consider curatorial power, particularly that of a researcher.

MARSHALL B. KNUDSON, then a graduate student at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received a grant in October 2016 to aid research on “Mapuche Language Revitalization and Identity in Urban Chile,” supervised by Dr. Asif Agha. Recent years have seen an upsurge of interest in and action centered on the language of the Mapuche people in Chile. The lion’s share of language activism occurs not in the rural reservation communities but in the urban diaspora. To examine the relation of language activism on the experience of Mapuche subjectivity, identity, and politics in the urban diaspora in Chile, field research was undertaken between January 2017 and January 2018 using a multi-sited approach, where six months were spent studying the Santiago scene, and another six months spent studying the scene in a major city in the South. Both cities are home to large urban Mapuche populations and are now centers of language activism. Participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and video-ethnography were used over the course of the year spent on projects to promote Mapuche language, culture, and society, through language classes and workshops, public fora and conferences, pedagogical design and planning, officialization campaigns, and efforts at graphemic, lexical, or phonetic standardization. Research revealed how the dynamics of Mapuche groups, the problems of authority, hierarchy, and economy of scarce cultural knowledge interact with the State indigenous development apparatus and education system in the outcomes of different urban language projects.
HANNAH McELGUNN, then a graduate student at University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Translating Hopi: Language Revitalization, Knowledge and Property,” supervised by Dr. Justin Richard. This project investigated how three different sets of actors—the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office staff and advisors, Hopi language teachers, and off-reservation archivists—embedded the Hopi language in different systems of proprietary knowledge. Initial findings suggest that despite having different interests in the Hopi language and being in dialogue with different non-Hopi audiences, both the Cultural Preservation Office staff and the language teachers worked to uphold a similar system of proprietary knowledge. This system is centripetal: while Hopi cultural material may travel beyond the mesas to non-Hopi audiences, both sets of actors worked to ensure that all instantiations are tied back to the Hopi mesas, upholding them as the center of cultural life. On the other hand, in striving to balance the accommodation of native interests with a commitment to serving “the public,” some archivists attended more to the dynamics of secrecy and disclosure, so that accommodation took the form of modulating rights of access to native materials under their management. However, this focus on access—to the exclusion of other ways of imagining relationships between the archive, documents, and their audiences—may have the unintended effect of undermining certain Hopi norms of proprietary knowledge.

DAVID PAULSON, JR., then a graduate student at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received funding in October 2015 to aid research on “Writing in the Margins: Indigenous Literacy, Childhood Socialization, and Rapid Modernization in a Vietnamese Village,” supervised by Dr. Paul Garrett. Since the 1986 “Doi Moi” economic reforms, Vietnam has undergone unprecedented change in the interest of “developing the nation” by 2020. Robust financial and institutional investments have been made in support foreign languages, while far less have been devoted to the indigenous languages of ethnic minorities. Consequentially, ethnic Cham minorities have been left to contend with maintaining their cultural and linguistic traditions as they are routinely devalued in the ideological climate of “modernity.” Drawing on ethnographic observations of Cham-, Vietnamese-, and foreign-language learning environments, as well religious rituals, performances, homes, and other spaces where these languages are used, the present research examines the everyday language practices of Cham youth as they work to preserve their traditional heritage amid Vietnam’s post-socialist transformation. This study analyzes how participation in diverse literacy practices indexes different senses of cultural citizenship, which, in turn, inform Cham youth’s complex sense of belonging within, and their meaningful intergenerational engagement with, the language and culture of their ancestors. This investigation reveals how indigenous youth cultivate fluency in the culturally organized use of multiple literacies in this context, and how the Vietnam’s rapid development informs experiences of youth, transforms everyday communicative practices, and affects the vitality of minority languages.
SOCIAL/CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Africa:

NISRIN ABDELRAHMAN, then a graduate student at Stanford University, Stanford, California, received a grant in April 2015 to aid research on “Life, Law and Belonging: Contested Land and the Politics of Claim-making in Central Sudan,” supervised by Dr. James Ferguson. This research explored how large-scale land deals, struck between Gulf agribusiness companies and Sudanese government elites, are reshaping quotidian social relations between local stakeholders with competing claims to Sudanese land. The research took place in rural communities in the Gezira region of central Sudan and in the zawiyas of prominent sheikhs, who are mediating and shaping land disputes that have emerged out of this context. The research finds that negotiability in land and the introduction of titling in the aftermath of failed land deals, is generating profound changes in gendered and ethnic social relations and in the values people attach to land. It suggests that focusing ethnographic attention on land contestations provides insights into how Gezira residents and their sheikhs are negotiating and contesting the convergence of neoliberal state policies and transnational Saudi and Emirati development visions, in their everyday lives.

JOELLA W. BITTER, then a graduate student at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, was awarded a grant in October 2016 to aid research on “Sounding the City: Noise Regulation and Everyday Rhythms in Gulu, Uganda,” supervised by Dr. Louise Meintjes. This research explores the role aural- and oral- relationships play in a rapidly changing urban environment, with a focus on the Ugandan city of Gulu. Previous research indicates that acoustic markers can enable and inform sociocultural and ecological relations, while oral practices can be a means of unifying social relationships. Building on these ideas, this research seeks to engage aural and oral practices through their material and technical expressions. To what extent do aural and oral practices contribute to or transform the trajectory of urbanization? As the fastest urbanizing area of the world, the African continent functions as a laboratory for exploring the role of sound and noise in urban development. While institutions such as the World Bank, UN-Habitat, and Cities Alliance have taken special interest in guiding the orderly development of such cities in the global south, this research starts from the premise that urbanization occurs not only as a result of official development efforts, but also through the daily activities of urban residents. Through ethnographic research methods that focus on participant-observation with planning experts, music producers, and transport mechanics and sound recording of Gulu’s urban soundscape, this research will suggest ways to conduct an anthropology of the senses that engages technical-vernacular sound knowledges among urban residents, a perspective which may reveal more plural or grounded strategies for guiding the emergence of cities in East Africa.

CAITLYN BOLTON, then a graduate student at City University of New York, Graduate Center, New York, New York, received a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “The Spirit of Progress: Islamic Education, Development, and Modernity in Zanzibar,” supervised by Dr. Mandana Limbert. Perched on the edges of Africa and the Indian Ocean, the islands of Zanzibar have long been at both the center and margins of multiple empires and geographies. As a hub of transoceanic commerce and regional cultural production, it was a key site for British colonial improvement projects and later, Euro-American development programs. Such projects, from educational to agricultural reform, struggled here as elsewhere to relate meaningfully to indigenous knowledge and value systems, particularly on the role of religion
in modern society. Yet, as the nineteenth century capital of the Omani sultanate, Zanzibar was also a site for the imperial ambitions of the Arab Islamic world, and now increasingly a destination for international Islamic development organizations from across the Indian Ocean. Such organizations seek to enact a vision of social change that is vitally structured by Islamic religious narratives—yet inevitably also informed by local and Euro-American epistemologies and practices. Drawing upon archival and ethnographic research in Zanzibar and the Gulf, this project analyzes approaches to development by international Islamic organizations working in education in Zanzibar, examining the role of religion and the conceptions of social change that emerge at this nexus of multiple global communities and systems of meaning.

JACOB DOHERTY, U. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was awarded funding in February 2018 to aid engaged activities on “Wasted Opportunities: Designs to Recognize Informal Waste Infrastructures in Kampala, Uganda.” Earlier dissertation research on the waste stream in Kampala, Uganda, showed that small scale waste managers (including discarded plastic salvagers, door-to-door household garbage collectors, and youth recycling projects) play a vital but unrecognized, even criminalized, role in cleaning the city. This Engaged Anthropology Grant supported a collaboration with a youth-lead environmental arts education organization to create a mobile-gallery built from recycled plastic bottles to mount a pop-up exhibition on innovative ways to integrate small scale garbage collectors into the official waste management system. The exhibit featured photographs highlighting waste challenges in low-income communities and the innovative informal services developed in response. In preparation for the exhibition, the grant supported a day-long workshop with informal waste workers and eco-artists to discuss how informal infrastructures can be improved and more equitably integrated into mainstream waste management. This workshop resulted in the production of design proposals to ameliorate conditions and incomes for informal livelihoods in and around the city’s waste stream. These designs were displayed at the pop-up exhibit and disseminated to the municipality and environmental NGOs. The project documented informal workers’ expertise and innovations, provide a forum to communicate their proposals to planners, and worked to transform public perceptions of the value of informal waste work.

KEVIN P. DONOVAN, then a graduate student at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, received funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Making Markets and Margins in East Africa,” supervised by Dr. Gabrielle Hecht. This project is an historical ethnography of the entanglement of political sovereignty and economic valuation. Through research on central banking, market regulation, and commodity smuggling, it examines how authority rests on contests over value forms and relations. I argue that postcolonial states have been marked by an enduring uncertainty over how best to make value that is amenable to appropriation by state and capital. Data was collected through ethnography and oral historical research in Nairobi and the Kenya-Uganda borderlands, as well as archival research into the history of central banking, the standardization of pricing, and the policing of territorial frontiers. This research will analyze how states have sought to rescale the measure of value, its spatial extent, and its temporal dynamics. In particular, it examines the infrastructures and ideas undergirding the pragmatic work of central banks, the ambiguities surrounding cross-border smuggling, and the paradoxical relations between popular market practices and official regulatory efforts.
VIVIAN CHENXUE LU, then a graduate student at Stanford University, Stanford, California, received a grant in April 2014 to aid research on “Bring Home the World: Nigerian Merchant Mobility amongst Global South Trade Sites,” supervised by Dr. Sylvia Yanagisako. Since the 1990s, bustling markets across Asia and the Middle East have seen an uptick of unlikely, and often notorious, visitors—thousands of energetic, young Igbo Nigerian men, seeking to strike it rich. While they are most globally well-known as innovators of the “I am a Nigerian Prince” email scam phenomenon, the vast majority create livelihoods by sourcing goods currently not mass-manufactured on the continent and importing them to West Africa. Through ethnographic research based in Lagos, Nigeria, the study traced the mercantile networks and migratory trajectories of young Igbo Nigerians across the Global South. The project examined the global emergence of this mercantile generation from the turbulent petro-state of Nigeria, where Igbo are mercurially stereotyped as a commercially inclined ethnic group with secessionist aspirations. Through archival research and analysis of merchants’ curatorial practices of mass-manufactured commodities, the project examined how “profit” has emerged historically in the postcolonial context as a contested moral space subject to individual and collective claims.

MATTHEW NESVET, then a graduate student at University of California, Davis, California, received funding in May 2014 to aid research on “‘Zama Zama’: The Hustle and Flow of Criminalized Gold Production in Gauteng and Free State Provinces, South Africa,” supervised by Dr. James Smith. The grantee spent more than two years undertaking fieldwork in Gauteng and Free State provinces, working among some of South Africa’s largest pirate gold mining groups as well as smaller groups involved in producing and trading illicit gold. Research was collaborated with diggers, traders, fighters, and musicians to explore the world of criminal gold production and its contribution to urban change. Moving between the backyards of homes in informal settlements where gold refiners and traders work, city and village houses in Gauteng, Free State, and Lesotho—where illicit mining group members and leaders live, industrial mines, recording studios, urban diggings, and abandoned underground shafts—the grantee recorded how criminalized communities are developing Johannesburg and its hinterlands from below. The study documented the lived experience of mining abandoned hard-rock mineshafts; diggers’ and refiners’ struggles to access contested urban and peri-urban spaces; the political economy of closed gold mining zones; linkages between Johannesburg’s licit and illicit economies; and how subsurface relations shape life aboveground.

SARAH M. O’SULLIVAN, then a graduate student at University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, received a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “Stigma Transformed? The Politics of Everday Life and ARV Adherence in Post-conflict Northern Uganda,” supervised by Dr. Bianca Dahl. The goal of this project was to challenge narratives in anthropology and global health circles that suggest HIV-related stigma is primarily incited through the disease’s corporeal visibility rather than how everyday actions are evaluated and made knowable through local moralities. To understand stigma as such is to ignore the dovetailing of historical, political-economic, and social particularities across space and place that form the basis of contemporary moralities. This project, based in post-conflict Acholiland in northern Uganda, was an ethnographic exploration of “the moral life of stigma” shown through how openly HIV-positive members of Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) navigate and perform “ethical” living. In the wake of a two-decades-long civil war, VSLAs became popular opportunities for Acholi to gain access to resources and appear as hard working citizens contributing towards Acholiland’s (re)development. HIV-positive VSLA members become liminal subjects between worlds where they must be “vulnerable” (to elicit aid from
NGOs), yet “productive” (to garner respect from surrounding communities). Failure to navigate this liminality risks HIV-positive people falling into stereotypes of lazy and aid-dependent. Interactions between VSLA members become a form of moral politics where collective participation in the potentiality of shared “developed” futures is what policies appropriate actions for HIV-positive Acholi.

JOHANNA ALAIMO PACYGA, then a student at University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, received funding in June 2017 to aid in research for “Cultivating Catholicism: Gender, Practice, and the ‘Civilizing Mission in Colonial Senegal, ca. 1860-1930,’” supervised by Dr. François G. Richard. This dissertation investigates the history of the Mission of Saint Joseph in Ngazobil—one of the first and largest missions in Senegal—and the role it played in the cultivation and dissemination of Catholicism through the labor and conversion of mission women. This was done through an historical archaeology of the lives of French and West African sisters, as well as laywomen and girls living at the convent and in the village of Saint-Joseph. Funding supported research in five archives across Senegal and France, as well as the archaeological analysis of excavated materials. Beyond illuminating the forgotten narratives of female life in colonial Senegal, this research has clarified: 1) the relationship between missionary and colonial projects; 2) the significance of everyday practices (culinary, sartorial, hygienic) to conversion as a process that goes beyond belief and into the realm of daily life; and 3) the role of women in reproducing Catholicism through the domestic and intellectual education of girls.

VANESSA PARREIRA PERIN, then a graduate student at Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was awarded funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Amid Technique & Politics: Ethnography of an International Cooperation Program for Agricultural Development of Mozambique,” supervised by Dr. Macedo Barroso. The research proposes to conduct an ethnographic study of the ProSavana, an international cooperation program signed by the governments of Mozambique, Brazil, and Japan, which aims to execute technology transfer projects for agricultural development in the northern region of Mozambique. The study seeks to understand how such an intervention is connected to issues as the right to land tenure in the region; the social and environmental impacts produced by changes in the Mozambican agricultural model; and the criticism of local and transnational organizations about the lack of transparency by program managers. The research’s main focus is how technology transfer for development – carried forward and justified from a technical reason – also becomes an instance of production of political questionings and resistances. Through fieldwork it has been possible to grasp three techno-political themes that pervade the operationalization of this enterprise, which are often obliterated by technical discourse: the subjects’ relationship with the land, the transfer of “technical packages” and the transnationalization of social movements. This analysis helps us understand and connect in a more nuanced way the debates about the operation of a “development apparatus” in the midst of the advances of “global neoliberalism.”

DR. TRICIA REDEKER-HEPNER, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, was awarded funding in April 2015 to aid research on “Spirits of the Dead and Transitional Justice in Northern Uganda.” This study is an ethnographic analysis of how the dead impinge upon the lives, objectives, and actions of survivors of mass violence with respect to local and national transitional justice processes in post-conflict northern Uganda. The research examined survivors’ perspectives on multiple improper burial scenarios related to the 1986-2006 Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) war, including mass graves and internal displacement camp (IDP) burials. Data consists of 143 individual interviews and 21 focus groups as well as
more than a dozen site surveys of burials defined as troublesome by survivors. The central question asked how different burial or deposition contexts are linked to different kinds of disturbances for survivors and different possible avenues for redress. Data suggests that mass graves of unknown people are most closely associated with spirit possession, hallucinations and nightmares, and mental and physical illness. IDP camp graves create economic problems for landowners, while living relatives report spiritual disturbances in which the deceased demands reburial at home. A second set of patterns has to do with survivors’ perspectives on “justice” broadly defined. Many survivors ranked material compensation from the government, including funding to conduct reburials, more highly than prosecuting or pardoning rebels.

DR. LARA ROSENOFF GAUVIN, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, received funding in April 2017 to aid research on “We are Sons and Daughters of Bwoc:’ Indigenous Governance, Land Rights, and Refusal in Rural Post-Conflict Acoliland, Northern Uganda.” This study found that 85% of chiefdoms in Acoliland have reported writing indigenous governance constitutions (at either the clan or chiefdom level) since the end of the war between the Lord’s Resistance Army and the Ugandan Government. The primary reasons for this widespread phenomena include: 1) the necessity to organize and reconcile communities upon returning to communal ancestral lands after at least a decade of forced displacement and two decades of intra-community violence; and 2) to safeguard ancestral lands in the present by regulating members’ use of land, and in the future by eventually securing formal communal title to their lands. Based on these findings, the grantee argues that real and perceived land pressures in the present and future have strengthened kin-based communal governance organizations in Acoliland (clans, chiefdoms), and thus kin-based relatedness that has allowed for high levels of intra-community reconciliation and unity. The widespread phenomena of clan and/or chiefdom constitutions across Acoliland also suggest communities’ hopes that these forms of legibility of Acoli indigenous rights and responsibilities will lead to more secure land rights and peaceful relations within the Ugandan State.

SONIA RUPCIC, then a graduate student at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, received a grant in April 2016 to aid research on “Redressing Sexual Wrongs in a Former South African Homeland,” supervised by Dr. Jatin Dua. Fieldwork was carried out to investigate how survivors of sexual violence seek remedy and recognition in post-apartheid South Africa, where rape has been called a “national nightmare.” Across eighteen months of fieldwork in the town of Sibasa, South Africa, the researcher set out to answer three questions: 1) How do victims of wrongdoing seek remedy? 2) What is the relationship between different forums of redress? 3) How is wrongdoing constituted as transgression through forums of redress? Research was carried out in arenas more explicitly oriented toward safety and security: rape trials held at court, university disciplinary hearings, meetings of community groups, “tribal courts,” trauma centers, victim offender dialogs. With an eye to understanding the difference between normative and transgressive sex, the researcher participated in the rhythms of daily life: visiting local salons to chat about sex, love, and crime; going to public concerts and local night clubs; attending baby-showers, weddings, and funerals; interacting on social media. Methods included participant-observation, semi-structured interviews, and conversational journals, wherein conversations overheard in public spaces are documented anonymously. These methodologies enabled the tracking of biographies of sexual encounters through a variety of social spaces.
AALYIA FEROZ ALI SADRUDDIN, then a graduate student at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, received a grant in April 2016 to aid research on “Late-Life Caregiving and Aging in Post-Genocide Rwanda,” supervised by Dr. Catherine Panter-Brick. Population aging is an issue of rising global importance. Very little, however, is known about older persons’ care arrangements in settings where socio-economic transformations are challenging historically dominant narratives of elderhood, late-life care, and intergenerational relationships. The study examines these issues in Rwanda, where new configurations and expectations of care are flourishing due to increased rates urbanization, youth mobility, and economic development in the aftermath of the 1994-genocide. Based on fourteen-months of ethnographic research, conducted across rural, peri-urban, and urban Rwanda, the research presents the dynamic ways in which older women and men—who despite losing their spouses, children, and land before or during the genocide—are cultivating a renewed sense of belonging and dignity through the establishment of personalized care networks. Data for this research were collected via participant observation, semi-structured and genealogical interviews, and media analysis and textual discourse. By offering a relational understanding of care, the research broadens anthropological narratives about the connections and conflicts between older and younger persons in a region of the world where both are often pitted against it each other. An approach of this kind sheds much needed light on older Africans as active agents and on care as a practice that mirrors the fabric of society.

DR. NOAH TAMARKIN, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, was awarded a grant to aid research on “Juridical Genetics: Scientific Citizenship and Genetic Justice in South Africa.” Genomic science has become increasingly important as a means to know the past and to pursue rights and justice in the present. But how does DNA become socially, politically, and legally meaningful? How do differently situated people transform genetic data into genetic evidence and what are the consequences for how science and citizenship are lived and experienced? This project addresses these questions through an ethnographic investigation of South Africa’s recently passed DNA Act, the national DNA database that it mandates, and related research and social justice activities. It examines how people who work in the varied spaces of non-governmental organizations, consultancy companies, universities, police stations, forensic laboratories, and courtrooms negotiate the implications and meanings of DNA as they together transform genetic data into genetic evidence. This project advances anthropological theory by grounding questions about the social, political, and legal significance of genomics in active, relational struggles over cultural meaning, value, and practice. The objective of the project is to illuminate what happens when DNA becomes a prominent part of a legal framework in a postcolonial context where science, race, and law have all been deeply contested.

DANIEL K. THOMPSON, JR., then a graduate student at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, received funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Capital in the Borderlands: Diaspora Investment and the Borderland Economy in Jigjiga, Ethiopia,” supervised by Dr. Peter D. Little. This project investigates how Somali emigrants who previously fled from their homeland in eastern Ethiopia have reshaped the regional economy by returning to invest following decades of conflict. The study begins with a historical analysis of how so-called “ethnic” and “clan” conflicts in the Horn of Africa were shaped by policies increasing the political salience of ethnic identities, even though many groups in the borderlands area cannot be slotted into official ethnic categories. Somalis living in Ethiopia were for decades marginalized and vilified in Ethiopian politics; secessionist conflict drove a massive exodus of Somalis. Today, thousands of Somalis who fled as refugees and previously supported
secessionist rebels are returning from the global North to pour their life savings into investments in the city of Jigjiga, the provincial capital in what was a war zone only a decade ago. The study traces the wave of diaspora return to regional administrative shifts in 2010, and shows how the new alliance between emigrants and the regional government has driven rapid urban development while also increasing disparities in wealth and opportunity and creating new gendered dimensions of urban informality. The system contributed to its own demise by opening up space for diaspora dissidents with democratizing agendas.

TYLER J. ZOANNI, then a graduate student at New York University, New York, New York, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “In the Image of God?: Christianity and Disability in Uganda,” supervised by Dr. Faye Ginsburg. Based on nearly two years of ethnographic and archival research, the dissertation examines Christian engagements with disability in Uganda. Uganda has high rates of disability due to five decades of political violence, limited medical care, and poverty. In this context, a range of Ugandan Catholic and Protestant groups have become the major providers of disability care and support. Across their differences these groups share the notion that people with disabilities are created in the “Image of God.” The dissertation explores the varying non-secular, non-liberal engagements with disability that arise among Ugandan Christians in light of the notion of the “Image of God.” It answers why Christian disability efforts have become prominent while secular, liberal efforts have not, and it tracks the forms of sociality, politics, and ritual that arise around non-normative minds and bodies in Ugandan Christian settings. In so doing, the dissertation advances the emergent anthropology of disability and the interdisciplinary field of Disability Studies, both of which tend to focus on secular, Euro-American cultures, histories, and literatures.

Asia:

GHAZAL ASIF, then a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, received a grant in April 2016 to aid research on “Papering the Divide: Religious Difference, Bureaucracy and Belonging in Pakistan,” supervised by Dr. Naveeda Khan. This project investigated the making of political life in the face of state hostility and neglect among the Hindu religious minority living in a mid-sized town in Sindh, Pakistan. Over fifteen months, the grantee conducted participant observation and ethnographic fieldwork along with interviews with activists, office-bearers, lawyers, judges, teachers, oral historians, and NGO workers on various tactics and strategies involved in the aspiration for political recognition, in the context of an ideological state that only partly recognizes one’s community. A district court, the local municipal government civic registry, a small temple, and finally circles of Dalit activists formed the principal sites of this project, along with legal and state archives. Particular attention was paid to how members of a beleaguered minority remained mindful of familial, national, and global ties as they navigated the trajectories and concerns of silenced Hindu political life. The project addresses current debates on the nature of citizenship through an exploration of how nation, community, and belonging come to be reformulated through everyday negotiations and strategies. It further contributes to anthropological scholarship on law, religious freedom and minorities, everyday life, the paradoxes of the modern nation state.

SANGEETA BANERJI, then a graduate student at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, received funding in October 2017 to aid research on “Fixing (in) Mumbai: An Ethnography of Brokerage within the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai,” supervised
by Dr. Asher Ghetner. This project investigates “fixers” who have been for years, instrumental in “fixing” the city of Mumbai by mobilizing varying politics at within one of the largest bureaucratic state apparatuses in South Asia: the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. Rejecting normative black and white accounts of state action in India, the research finds that it is the “fixers” operating in the space of the local state, who are key makers of the Indian city. This ethnographic project is motivated by the two broad questions of: How is it that these key “fixers” mold the space of the state to settle and unsettle the city of Mumbai? And how the changing space of the state in Mumbai in which these fixers reside, influences the ways in which the city of Mumbai is produced? Results indicate that each of these key fixers though located at very different junctures in the local state serve at gatekeepers to different processes but are inherently linked in the way that each are instrumental in producing the city in one way or the other.

DR. TARINI BEDI, University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois, received funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Everyday Technologies of the Urban: Motorizing and Mobilities in Bombay/Mumbai’s Taxis Trade.” Through a labor-centric approach to urban transport (the taxi-trade in particular) this project examined the relationships between transport-labor, capital investment in transport infrastructure, and the practices of urban governments in governing mobile labor. The fieldwork focused on the shifts in the taxi trade in the Indian city of Mumbai, the travel of inter-asian “models” of the taxi trade from the city of Singapore to India, and the new structures of labor represented by the sharing economy. The research found the struggles over transport infrastructure become matters of new political alliances and claims making, just as much as they are matters of planning material projects. It also found that in contexts of rapid expansion of transport infrastructure the right to the road and the right to labor intersected for those who drive for a living. Therefore, the research expanded anthropological understandings by illustrating how concepts of transport labor and road infrastructures can be understood less fixed matter and more as the materialization of political imaginaries that themselves move across urban spaces and national boundaries and through which new forms of public intervention, labor politics, and social formations emerge to make cities.

DR. JENNY T. CHIO, University of Southern California, was awarded a Fejos Postdoctoral Fellowship to aid filmmaking on “These Days, These Homes: An Ethnographic Portrait Film.” These Days, These Homes is an ethnographic portrait film focused on the lives of two ethnic Miao women in Guizhou, China. Wu and Qin were both born in China’s post-reform 1980s and married into the same village, Jidao, in 2004. Since then, Wu has moved numerous times, from her husband’s village house to a South China factory town to a farmstead on the outskirts of Kaili city and in 2018 to a concrete one-bedroom apartment within one of Kaili’s informal settlements. For Chen, her work as the village clinician and in Jidao village’s tourism has brought her new challenges and new sources of income. Within the village, she has moved three times: from a small apartment attached to the village clinic to her husband’s family house to a newly built home with guestrooms for tourists. In 2018, Chen and her family moved into a brand-new, high-rise apartment in one of Kaili’s more well-to-do residential complexes, where they spend their weekends. These Days, These Homes uses the spaces of their lives—their homes in the village and the city—to illuminate and reflect upon the gendered experience of modernity against a backdrop of rapid, almost unimaginable socioeconomic transformation across China.

WALKER H. DePUY, then a graduate student at University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, received a grant in May 2016 to aid research on “Towards a Political Ecology of Social
Safeguards: Translating ‘Rights’ across an Indonesian REDD+ Project,” supervised by Dr. Julie L. Velasquez Runk. The purpose of this research is to understand how rights-based conservation is pursued in the Berau Forest Carbon Program (BFCP), an Indonesian REDD+ project. Social safeguards are an internationally designed mechanism to protect REDD+ communities’ knowledge and rights. Current safeguard language, however, is broad, raising the question of how different stakeholders, whether conservation practitioners or local communities, interpret safeguard concepts and how different interpretations might create tension between stakeholders and affect project outcomes. Through multi-sited ethnography across national, provincial, district, and village sites, this research offers a valuable case study for understanding how communication and perception vary between REDD+ stakeholder groups and how forest conservation and carbon mitigation activities in Indonesia might be improved. Results indicate differences in knowledge, terminology, and conceptual models used for concepts such as free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), as well as tenure systems and ontologies recognized by communities and practitioners in REDD+ projects today. Understanding and engaging these differences is critical to promoting more effective, equitable, and sustainable REDD+ conservation efforts.

DR. NATASHA FIJN, Independent Scholar, Braidwood, Australia, received a Fejos Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2016 to aid filmmaking on “Multispecies Medicine in Mongolia.” Herding families in the Khangai Mountains of Mongolia live in extreme climatic conditions and are crucially reliant on their herd animals for survival. This fellowship entailed an observational film-based research inquiry into the medicinal practices used by Mongolian herders to treat their families and their herd animals. This multispecies-based analysis engages with more-than-human sociality and perceptions towards other beings. The concept of one’s homeland (nutag) and a strong sense of place are crucially important to herders. The documentary focuses on three different locations, or homelands in Mongolia, filmed in spring and then again in autumn. In spring the focus is on the birth of newborn animals and increasing immunity, sometimes through bloodletting to prevent illness, while in autumn the focus is on preparing hay for winter and collecting medicinal herbs. Layering the two seasons with the three locations means the 90-minute film is structurally divided into six separate parts: Ganbaa visiting his homeland in spring; Nara’s homeland in spring; Bor and Bornbog’s homeland in spring, then returning again to all three communities in autumn. The film conveys how medicinal knowledge is passed on through practical forms of mentorship within these extended families.

SANDHYA FUCHS, then a graduate student at London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “The Language of Change: Dalit Voices and Institutional Actors in the Indian Legal Landscape,” supervised by Dr. Alpa Shah. This thesis explores how legal social protection measures like the 1989 Prevention of Atrocities Act (PoA) in India interact with, and shape, the lives of the communities they aim to assist. Focusing on acts of severe physical caste-based violence against Dalits in Rajasthan, the grantee investigates how local notions of violence, fairness and order converse with the formal conceptions of equality, “atrocity,” and justice outlined in Indian state law. This work aims to understand to what extent, and under what circumstances, the PoA comes to represent a meaningful avenue of justice for Dalit victims of violence. In an attempt to consider law an agency-bearing entity that simultaneously enacts and counteracts violence, this study tries to understand policy and law as multi-faceted, multi-functioning and organically evolving phenomena. The social life and effects of such laws can be, both, ethically problematic and societally beneficial at different times and for different actors. The research asks how legal frameworks speak on behalf of those who seek their
protection and what is emphasized or lost in this process. Finally, the project is concerned with the impact of legal approaches on struggles for equality. What does it mean to relocate the Dalit movement to the arena of law?

ZEHRA HASMI, then a graduate student at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, received funding in May 2017 to aid research on “Kinship: Identification Security and Miometric Belonging in Urban Pakistan,” supervised by Dr. Matthew Hull. Renamed “Datafied Kinship: Identification, Belonging and Databased Governance in Urban Pakistan,” this research project investigates how Pakistan’s biometric identity card system has moved from a security-oriented identification system into a broader regime shaping domains of social life far outside security. This card, built from biometrics that consolidates records on citizens’ kin ties, is a central preoccupation for Pashtun migrants in urban locations. Through fieldwork at institutional sites and Pashtun settlements across Islamabad, this research explores the intersection of data and kinship by following various actors. Focusing on digital technology in governance—screens, networks and especially databases—it shows how a technobureaucratic genealogical imagination transforms Pashtun experiences, notions and practices of kinship. The research traced how daily identification processes were in turn shaped by Pashtun encounters with the system, and the implications of these encounters for governance and security. It examined how participation within NADRA’s databases shape everyday practices, especially for the ethnically marginalized in urban space, affecting mobility, access to housing, education and government services. This ethnography explores historically constituted links between kinship, biometrics and governance as they crystallize into a networked, state-organized infrastructure.

AMY JOHNSON, then a graduate student at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, received funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Citizenship and Belonging: Environment, Federalism, and Nepal’s New Constitution,” supervised by Dr. Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan. Retitled “Federalism, Environment, and the Aesthetics of Belonging: State Re-Making in Nepal,” the grantee conducted 24 months of ethnographic and historical research on this dissertation between March 2016-March 2018. Centered on the unfolding implementation of Nepal’s federal constitution, the research explores how intimate experience of land and state become part of the institutional design of a nation through the territorial politics of federalism. Research interlocutors included high-caste Hill-origin settlers residing in the lowland Tarai of Farwestern Nepal, regional political elites, and constitutional lawyers, scholars, parliamentarians, and federalism experts based in Nepal’s capital, Kathmandu. Connecting formal political processes (i.e. constitution writing and federal restructuring) with quotidian subjective processes of belonging, this dissertation research brings together methodological and theoretical insights from the anthropology of the state, environmental anthropology, phenomenology of place, and settler colonial studies.

JANANIE KALYANARAMAN, then a graduate student at University of California, Los Angeles, California, received funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Traffic: Investigating Infrastructure and Social Inequality through Spatial Mobility,” supervised by Dr. Akhil Gupta. As cities in India rapidly expand, large amounts of state and corporate funds are being channelled into transportation. In Bengaluru city, the “IT capital” of India, transport and access are closely linked to caste, class and gender identities. Factors that influence people’s access to public transport include: the processes and spatial ideologies involved in planning bus and metro routes, and housing location, which is closely linked to caste and class identities. Based on where they live and work, people are differentially constrained with
respect to access to parastatal transport systems (bus and metro). Through ethnographic research on urban mobility across two neighbourhoods in Bengaluru, this study—subsequently retitled “Window Seats: Studying Inequality and Social Mobility through Transport in Bengaluru City, India”—argues that access is central to understanding the relations between caste, gender, class, and the city. Following anthropological critiques of mainstream development models, this study examines the ways people access, use and make meaning of transport to assert that transport is entangled in people’s visions of the future in complex ways. Furthermore, this study argues that while parastatal transport systems attempt to implement the state’s developmental vision, more attention needs to be paid to locally emergent transport systems that are closely related to the politics of placemaking in the city.

SOHAIB KHAN, then a graduate student at Columbia University, New York, New York, was awarded funding in October 2015 to aid research on “From Fatwas to Finance: An Ethnography of Shari’a Compliant Banking in Pakistan,” supervised by Dr. Brinkey Messik. A textual and ethnographic study of Muftis (jurisconsults) and finance professionals in the service of Pakistan’s Islamic banking industry. The dissertation examines the codification of Islamic law into “Shari’a Compliance” and its ethical consequences for commercial exchange within overlapping jurisdictions of religious and financial institutions. It traces the creation of a Shari’a-compliant product through collaborative labors of textual translation and financial engineering between Muftis and finance professionals. In tying financial instruments with theological imperatives of their faith, both experts strike a compromise between constraints of textual authenticity and demands of market profitability. How do Muftis and finance professionals grant discursive coherence to their project of financial hybridization? Moreover, how does Shari’a Compliance subject Muslims to modern financial discipline? Connecting discursive shifts in Shari’a interpretation with movements of religious texts/subjects from the Madrasa to the business corporation, the dissertation produces an ethnographic account of the Mufti’s ethical transformation from a docile subject willfully submitting to the norms of tradition to a pragmatic calculating agent valued as human capital. Fieldwork was conducted at Jami’a Ashrafiyya and Meezan Bank Ltd. The research methodology combined literary-critical approaches to the study of textuality with empirical methods of network analysis in Actor Network Theory.

HIROKO KUMAKI, then a student at University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Mobilizing the ‘Ecological:’ Disaster Mental Health in Post-2011 Tsunami and Nuclear Disaster Japan,” supervised by Dr. Michael Fisch. The funding supported twelve months of ethnographic fieldwork on ongoing disaster mental health interventions in areas affected by the 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster in Japan. The research involved: participant observation and interviews with disaster mental health care providers and residents who receive care; visits to clinics, organizations, and universities working in this area; and attendance at national and international conferences and meetings on the topic. The project investigated how disaster mental health has become a point of connection and contention about what consists of “healthy” relationship between human and their post-disaster ecological environments. It examined the ways in which different actors mobilize knowledges and experiences of the ecological environment in order to configure “appropriate” mental health responses to disasters, and how such responses in turn reconfigure the ways in which physical and psychological well-being becomes articulated and experienced by those who practice or become target of such care.

MEI-CHUN LEE, then a graduate student at University of California, Davis, California, was awarded a grant in October 2016 to aid research on “Open Government: Digital Activism in
Post-Authoritarian Taiwan,” supervised by Dr. Li Zhang. Funding supported seventeen months of fieldwork to study digital activism and the emergence of civic technologies as a new approach to democracy in Taiwan. The particularly focus was on “g0v,” a hacker group that uses digital technologies to promote civic engagement and experiment on “direct” democracy. These hackers propose a decentralized, open network, in which all citizens can collaborate in its governing process. By translating the idea of openness from open source software to government operations, they introduce alternative ways to engage in politics and thus ignite a movement of “save the nation by keyboards”. However, there have been increasing anxieties and conflicts among hackers regarding the institutionalization of openness since the Democratic Progressive Party took power in 2016. The idea of openness is constantly challenged as it swings between activism and governance. Using an ethnographic approach to study g0v, the research asks: 1) how democracy is rearticulated and reimagined with digital technologies in this post-authoritarian state; 2) whether the politicization of technologies leads to the de-politicization of governance or vice versa; and 3) how governance is mediated and transformed (or sustained) by digital technologies.

ELENA LESLEY, then a graduate student at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, received funding in August 2017 to aid the dissertation research project “Testifying to Trauma in Cambodia: Post-Genocidal Justice, Politics and Narrative Therapy,” supervised by Dr. Bruce Knauft. This project examines the treatment outcomes and historical narrative construction of two groups of Khmer Rouge survivors, those who consult traditional healers for symptoms associated with psychological distress, and those undergoing “testimonial therapy,” an imported psychotherapy associated with transitional justice efforts in the country. In testimonial therapy, patients work with a counselor to create a narrative of their suffering under the Khmer Rouge and publicly call for justice as rendered through the country’s UN-backed tribunal. Along with the broader transitional justice project, it is envisioned as a healing mechanism for the populace, one that will transform Cambodia into a liberal, democratic society. Yet Cambodia remains wracked by corruption, growing inequality, and political persecution. This was particularly true during the research period leading to the highly fraught July 2018 national election, which many international observers saw as a final turning point toward authoritarianism in the country. Tracking the treatment experiences over time of Khmer Rouge survivors, this project traces how people come to develop new narratives of their country’s divisive history —and the related impact on mental health— during a period of acute political tension.

JOSEPH LIVESEY, then a graduate student at New York University, New York, New York, was awarded a grant in October 2017 to aid research on “The Chinese in Vladivostok,” supervised by Dr. Bruce Grant. This grant supported ethnographic research on Chinese economic expansion in the Far East of Russia from January through August 2018 in the Russian Federation’s Maritime Province, mainly in the provincial capital Vladivostok. This project asked after the potential emergence of a specifically “postsocialist capitalism” coming out of unprecedented commercial exchanges between China and Russia in this region. This ethnography of their mutually constitutive socioeconomic formations sought to advance anthropological understandings of China’s global economic expansion and postsocialist capitalism in a context that challenged the assumptions derived from more widely documented instances of Chinese expansions in other parts of the world. Drawing on longstanding fluency in Russian and Mandarin, the grantee mapped this emergent economic form ethnographically by working with several Chinese commercial enterprises operating in Vladivostok, while at the same time participating in Vladivostok’s myriad business, cultural, and educational forums for the promotion of exchanges between the two countries. In this fieldwork with
Chinese enterprises and local Russian-led initiatives to engage with China, focus was on the manifest, concrete, institutionalized processes that were facilitating and had been facilitated by China’s growing economic presence in the region.

DR. MICHAEL T. McGOVERN, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was awarded funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Culture and Contestation: Non-Violent Challenges to the State by Ethnic Minorities in Myanmar.” The funded research took place in a village of about 3,000 inhabitants of three different ethnic minority groups—Danu, Shan, and Pa-O—in southern Shan State, Myanmar. The research was conducted from September 2017 through May 2018 and was organized around participant observation especially with five farming families of different ethnicities and socio-economic statuses in the village (five months) followed by a mix of participant observation and life history interviews of 35 villagers. Key findings included: 1) Most farmers in the research region are relatively prosperous, and the relative security of land tenure and use rights has played an important role in farmers' willingness to invest in agriculture. This situation is not representative of the whole country, and may even be considered anomalous; 2) Most villagers are pious and not prone to xenophobia or bigotry, though they are primed to follow whatever their local monks tell them is right. Within the sangha of Buddhist practitioners, ethnic differences amongst ethnic minorities are not considered important; 3) A process of ethnogenesis is underway in the non-Bama regions of the country in those places where the expression of minority ethnic identity is no longer actively suppressed by the government.

HEANGJIN PARK, then a graduate student at University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, received a grant in October 2016 to aid research on “Brokerage and Translation in Made-in-China Kimchi Trade,” supervised by Dr. Julie Chu. This research analyzes how social relations are (re)configured alongside transnational supply chains of commodities. Through an ethnographic case study of a kimchi factory in Qingdao, People’s Republic of China, this dissertation project reveals how social, economic, cultural, and political relationships between Chinese and South Korean are registered through their involvement with the production and distribution of kimchi, “Korean” food that has been massively produced in China and now widely consumed both in South Korea and China. This study particularly focuses on: 1) how social configuration in commodity chains affects the material composition of commodities and their trajectories in markets; 2) how technical natures of mediums of communication—emails, messaging, phone calls, documents, and photography—shape the communicative interactions in commodity chains; and 3) how the quality and value of commodities are evaluated and manipulated through communicative interactions. Responding these questions, this research examines how the industrial and commercial production of the “same” commodities (of their value and quality) articulate “differences” among people involved with the supply chains; and how such differences—sociopolitical hierarchies, economic inequalities, and discrimination—are enacted on the ways people’s work and lives are composed in contemporary Northeast Asia.

DR. GAYATRI REDDY, University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois, received a grant in April 2016 to aid research on “Karma of Black Folk in India: Siddis and Meanings of Race and Masculinity in Hyderabad.” This project explores contemporary meanings of blackness, masculinity, religion, and belonging in India, through the lens of the Indian community of Siddis—third and fourth-generation people of African-descent who are believed to have migrated as slaves—in contemporary Hyderabad. It asks the question: What does it mean for Siddis to belong in contemporary India? How do Siddis see themselves in a landscape where the ways in which they are perceived—as black, as descendants of slaves, and as Muslim—
are fraught categories of identification in India? Drawing on data gathered through archival and ethnographic fieldwork among Siddis in Hyderabad, this project unpacks these processes of marginalization and Siddi negotiations of these positionings, exploring the ways in which constructions of race, gender, religion, and history animate contemporary narratives of Siddi identification and dis-identification, belonging and alienation, in Hyderabad. The research reveals the ways in which Siddi articulations are as much a statement of the place of Siddis in contemporary India, as they are about social, economic, and political precarity in the world today.

DR. SAIBA VARMA, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California, received a grant in October 2016 to aid research on “Occupied Health Systems: Medicine, Hospitals and Politics in Kashmir.” Fieldwork at public health institutions in India- and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir shows medical institutions, medical professionals, and patients in health settings as being severely impacted and constrained by the effects of political instability and conflict. In Indian-controlled Kashmir, during the summer of 2016, one of the state’s main public health institutions was turned into a direct and indirect theater of state violence; medical professionals and ambulances were attacked, threatened, and injured protestors receiving treatment placed under police surveillance. In Pakistan-controlled Gilgit-Baltistan, government hospitals remain the setting for instabilities and crises of diverse orders, which impact the ways that providers manage patients, and patients interpret treatment processes and their outcomes, especially when care is provided across lines of sectarian affiliation. In both fieldsites, the social and political complexities entangled with medical services impinged on and degraded the quality of care, even leading to rumors of the states’ necropolitical impulses. Notwithstanding these complications and crises, medical professionals and patients developed innovative and creative ways to provide and receiving care. This research reveals Kashmir’s clinical and public health settings to be paradigmatic sites in which fraught forms of governance and contentious citizen-state relations both play out and are contested.

YAN ZHANG, then a graduate student at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, received funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Biopolitics of Aging and Caregiving: The Experience of Family Caregiving for Elders with Dementia in Shanghai, China,” supervised by Dr. Lihong Shi. Based on twelve months’ ethnographic research, this project has explored the impact of the biopolitical constructions of dementia as a stigmatized mental disorder and the state enactment of family responsibility for eldercare on the experience of family caregiving for elders with dementia in China. Dementia has become an increasing public health concern in China due to its rapid increase and its medicalization as a stigmatized mental illness. Meanwhile, the Chinese government legalized family responsibility for eldercare in the 2013 Elder Protection Law. Although families constitute the primary resources for eldercare in many societies, little attention has been paid to the complex relations of state, professional power, social organizations, and families in enacting dementia care forms and practices. The study first investigated how dementia was conceptualized as a stigmatized mental disorder by examining the complex relations of state and professional power in knowledge production. Then, it turned to the experience of family caregiving within the biopolitical discourse by examining the decision-making of care arrangement, care practices, and the seeking social support. Lastly, the study explored how family caregivers negotiate the moral self in taking care of elders with stigmatized mental illness. Overall, this project contributes to the cross-cultural understanding of dementia care within family settings.
Europe:

TETIANA BULAKH, then a graduate student at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, was awarded funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Things That Matter: Humanitarian Aid and Citizenship among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ukraine,” supervised by Dr. Sarah D. Phillips. This project investigates humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and its effects on state-citizens relationships in Ukraine. Since 2014, an armed conflict in eastern Ukraine have forced more than 1.4 million people to leave their homes and become IDPs. Whereas refugees cross national borderlines seeking international assistance, internally displaced citizens largely rely on the state support. For IDPs, humanitarian aid is not only a matter of addressing material needs, but also an issue of citizens’ rights to social protection and welfare as provided by the state. Employing ethnographic techniques, the research explores the politics of governance, routes of circulation, and patterns of consumption of material aid. The project combines creative ethnographic methods—like social biographies of aid objects, object-based interviews, and projective tests—with traditional anthropological techniques of interviews and participant observation. Based on the collected qualitative data, the dissertation will explain the role of humanitarian aid not only in rebuilding IDPs’ lives, but also in transformation of citizens’ entitlements in times of emergency and uncertainty.

ADRIAN DEOANCA, then a graduate student at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, received funding in April 2015 to aid research on “De-railed: Infrastructure, Politics, and Postsocialist Imaginaries in Romania,” supervised by Dr. Krisztina Fehervary. Through participant observation, mobile ethnography, time-space diaries, interviews, and archival research, this project studied the techno-political functioning and the signification of Romania’s state-run railways, a crumbling infrastructure that had served as a chief vector of social modernity, mobility, and welfare in the times of state-socialism. Confronted with severe cuts to public spending that have curtailed the budget of rail companies, managers have to engage in complex calculations pertaining to how spare parts and other materials needed for repair work can be obtained either via official pathways or through informal networks. At the same time, managers are faced with calculations about how technology can be overexploited and how its life can be prolonged in conditions of scarcity and unavailability of funds for retrofitting and renewal. Bereft of resources and poorly equipped with tools and personnel, workers in the shop often have to resort to bricolage in order to implement makeshift technical solutions to immediate technological problems. While innovative, such solutions are often risky both for laborers themselves and for the operation of the machines and the safety of the passengers.

SULTAN DOUGHAN, then a graduate student at University of California, Berkeley, California, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Genealogies of Belonging: Citizenship and Religious Difference in Contemporary Germany,” supervised by Dr. Charles K. Hirschkind. Funding supported this research in the domain of civic education in Berlin on the question of citizenship incorporation for racialized religious minorities. Civic education as a supplemental field to public education is defined by the memory of the Holocaust and the specter of fascism. In the last decade additional funds were allocated to combat Islamic extremism as a form of political ideology lingering within immigrant communities and proliferating. The guiding question for fieldwork has been how civic tolerance is taught by civic educators of immigrant backgrounds, mostly of Palestinian and Turkish descent, to youth of heterogeneous immigrant backgrounds grouped as Muslims. The research was organized around two organizations, one social movement, and one neighborhood community
organization and was conducted in different stages over the course of fieldwork. By focusing on teaching strategies and interactions between female civic educators and students, the researcher has generated data that contours a form of Islam and a Muslim subject both shaped by the practices in civic education and yet excluded as dangerous to society. The research data bespeaks the ongoing pedagogy, embodiment and performance of citizenship as a secular practice and the anxiety to fail that ideal.

DR. RABIA HARMANSAH, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey, received a grant in August 2016 to aid engaged activities on “Exhibition: Shared Sacred Spaces in Cyprus.” The project develops an exhibition on shared sacred spaces in the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. It features brief historical information about six Orthodox Christian and Muslim sites, a variety of personal accounts, and visual material related to the sites, where sharing occurs or used to occur in the past. The exhibition is based on previous ethnographic fieldwork project conducted by the grantee in Cyprus between 2010-2012, which examines the practices of memory-making and forgetting at sacred sites in Cyprus after the ethnic conflict and 1974 partition of the island. The exhibition is designed to share this research with the people of Cyprus and to stimulate a bi-communal dialogue on shared spaces and ‘alternative’ readings of the past. The exhibition is complemented by an interactive website, which was launched to promote the project, and to provide a platform for exchanging ideas, memories, and photographs (https://www.rememberingforward.org).

DR. LARISA JASAREVIC, an independent scholar in Chicago, Illinois, received a grant in October 2015 to aid research on “Post-War Natures and Contemplative Apicultures: Beekeeping in Bosnia.” This research project explored contemplative tendencies of medicinal beekeeping in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In pursuit of therapeutic quality of hive products, apiarists cultivate “true nature” in and around their apiaries or hunt for forage in the new “wilderness” (divljina) of the 1990s battlegrounds, now overgrown with melliferous weeds and nurturing biological and ethnic diversity. The project suggests that medicinal beekeeping engages honeybees as competent and secretive counterparts—inspired, knowledgeable, and resilient—and the creatures vulnerable to anthropogenic threats, from weather changes to the post-socialist or particularly Bosnian toxicities. The local science of apiculture that emerges in practice is keenly empathetic and empirical but rarely ever secular, with a number of implications. Foraging itineraries, technical curiosity, and apian affection regularly form alliances that are political by default: spatialized along the former frontlines irrespective of the ethno-national borders, capable of transforming lives (insective, vegetal, and human), as well as turning wilderness and otherness into multiethnic, multispecies togetherness. Beyond the politics, however, contemplations of bees’ endangerment repurpose the terms of Islamic and Sufi eschatology while providing philosophical and dispositional resources for a particular kind of hope and responsibility in the face of the planetary disaster.

NORA TYEKLAR, then a graduate student at University of Texas, Austin, Texas, received a grant in April 2016 to aid research on “Performing Precarity in Neoliberal Canada: The Everyday Metapragmatics of Narrative by Romani Hungarian Refugee Claimants,” supervised by Dr. Elizabeth L. Keating. This research concerns what the grantee terms the poetics of Roma displacement. Here poetics is not being used as a romantic term but rather a way to show the power of ethnography to generate understanding of the cruel pessimism that former refugee claimants who were not successful express. Through analyzing narratives of displacement collected during 21 months of fieldwork in a Roma community in northern Hungary, the study describes perceptions and relations of geographic mobility in the case of former refugee claimants returning from Canada, local activist politics, and segregated, but in
some ways progressive schooling in an area of Hungary with a large Roma population and a high rate of poverty. Through narratives the grantee engages the experience of displacement in several ways, holding that the usual spatial metaphors of displacement can obscure the ways in which people are limited in their mobility, and how they can experience being displaced without having moved even though spatial configurations often index non-spatial, unmoving ones. Narratives of displacement have the potential to better characterize aspects of refugee perspectives that need to be part of debates about violence, displacement, and Romani identity in post-socialist Hungary and elsewhere. Far from including Roma as full citizens, national and local policies promising only minimal social services disavow the possibility for the advancement of Roma while fostering a cruel pessimism. The narratives show the contradictions of the acceptance of the impossible within the spheres of collective activist politics, educational achievement, and community solidarity.

AMBER L. WEEKES, then a graduate student at Stanford University, Stanford, California, received funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Digitizing the Nation-State: The (De)materialization of Nationalism, Sovereignty, and Belonging in e-Stonia,” supervised by Dr. Ian Hodder. The supported research took place between May 2017 and September 2017. During this period, the grantee conducted participant-observation at the Lift99 co-working space in Tallinn and pursued targeted ethnographic engagements with members of the Estonian e-Residency and data embassies team. Though the grantee did not pursue sustained participant-observation with Estonian civic society organizations, 21 semi-structured interviews were conducted with Estonians not involved in Estonian e-governance, including citizens involved in heritage activism and the far-right youth group Sinine Äratus. Collectively, this research enabled collection og the following types of evidence: 1) field notes based on participant-observation with Estonian tech entrepreneurs; 2) field notes based on participant-observation with Estonian technocrats, including those involved with e-Residency and the data embassies initiative; and 3) interview transcriptions and notes based on semi-structured interviews with Estonian technocrats and e-governance users.

Latin America and the Caribbean:

JULIO ARIAS VANEGAS, then a graduate student at Hunter College, New York, New York, received a grant in October 2017 to aid research on “The Making and Unmaking of State Lands: State, Property, and Agribusiness in the Colombian Altiplanura,” supervised by Dr. Marc Edelman. What are state and public lands? How are they defined and delimited, and what conflicts emerge from these definitions? While much scholarly and political attention has been directed toward the commodification and privatization of collective lands across the global South, this research examines a different problem: the disputes over the expansion and use of state and public lands in a context where discourses of security and state-led agribusiness projects converge in Colombia. By analyzing these disputes, this research asks how the state is regionally produced and contested through contending conceptions and relations of property in the Altiplanura region. Even before peace negotiations with the FARC guerrillas began in 2012, state officials re-defined the Altiplanura as the last agricultural frontier to be conquered in the country, and its conquest as a fundamental step towards the post-conflict era. Through an historical and ethnographic analysis of three interrelated cases, this research studies the history of specific state programs and interventions, legal and political debates, and notions and forms of property from 1970s to 2018. Throughout this study, this project expands upon classic theoretical framings of the neoliberal state, distinctions between the private and public domains, and political disputes over land.
DR. YARIMAR BONILLA, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, received funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Puerto Rico’s American Dream.” This project examines the rising popularity and shifting strategies of the Puerto Rican statehood movement, with a focus on how and why annexation has come to be imagined as a form of anti-colonial politics. Over the last several decades, as the territory has experienced an acute economic crisis and historic levels of out-migration, the statehood option has grown in popularity increasingly combining the language and rhetoric of anti-colonialism with a conservative political agenda that stresses the importance of cultural assimilation and individual responsibility in the quest for the American Dream. At a time when globalization and neoliberalism continue to transform the nature of state boundaries along with forms of political identification, this research examines how notions of citizenship and national identity are reimagined within contexts of shifting, disputed, and constrained sovereignty. Utilizing data collected through archival research, participant observation, surveys, focus groups and individual interviews, we ask how and why annexation has come to be understood as a form of decolonization and query the discursive and rhetorical strategies used to sustain an anti-colonialist pro-annexationist stance.

BAIRD C. CAMPBELL, then a graduate student at Rice University, Houston, Texas, was awarded funding in October 2017 to aid research on “Making History: Trans Activism and Social Media Archives in Santiago de Chile,” supervised by Dr. Cymene Howe. During fieldwork in Chile, the funding allowed the grantee to conduct long-term participant observation at a crucial time in Chile’s trans rights movement. Against the backdrop of the debate surrounding the country’s nascent gender identity law, finally passed in early September of 2018 after more than five years of congressional back-and-forth, semi-structured interviews and focus groups were conducted with trans activists, their allies, and their political adversaries, lending nuance to the original proposal concerning the role of religion and science in state-based human rights projects. The funding also permitted the early stages of a long-term project of online archive building, which while still ongoing, laid bare crucial tensions among activist groups, differently gendered subjectivities, and activists of different generations. The project’s focus on social and digital media was especially important in this regard, as the access and know-how required to make use of these technologies varies greatly according to age, education, and socioeconomic level. These conclusions allowed and encouraged the grantee to look offline for trans archival practices that were similar or analogous to the online practices the proposal focused on, and which in many cases predate these online practices.

VINICIUS DE AGUIAR FURUIE, then a graduate student at Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, was awarded funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Xingu River Trade: An Ethnography of Value in the Belo Monte Dam Area,” supervised by Dr. Joao Biehl. How do goods and people circulate in the Amazonian rivers far from towns and marketplaces? Riverside dwellers (ribeirinhos) and indigenous people in the upper Iriri river, in the Xingu valley of eastern Brazilian Amazon, live a week by boat from the city of Altamira. They do business with river traders (regatão) to whom they sell mostly Brazil nuts, cocoa beans, and fish but with whom they may trade chickens, cassava flour, or even gold. The traders and the peoples that live in these remote places are bound by their complementary activities and have a complex relationship that encompasses kinship, affinity, economic calculation, and feelings of mutual responsibility. In this project, the researcher lived with these families and travelled on trading boats to document how business is done in the absence of usual market institutions such as competition, regulation and arbitration. This ethnographic work examines the inner workings of debt and patronage and how they are discussed, performed and realized in
Amazonian riverbanks, many times in contradiction to outsider’s expectations of exploitation, bondage and slavery. Close attention to relations revealed that successful transactions are often full of affects of care and broken deals become stories of their own, involving threats and refusals to cooperate that will sometimes last for decades.

CHARLES DOLPH, then a graduate student at City University of New York Graduate Center, New York, New York, received funding in April 2015 to aid research on “The Terror of Debt? Soft Law and the Politics of Money in Argentina,” supervised by Dr. Marc Edelman. This grant funded research aimed at understanding the imbrications of money and debt with the process of Argentine nation-state formation. Fieldwork during 2015 general elections included attention to electoral campaigns and media coverage, attendance at selected campaign events, and participant-observation with a Kirchnerist youth group. Research focusing on the subsequent governmental transition included participant-observation at an encampment of fired Central Bank workers and interviews with selected participants amid mass firings in state institutions. Further research connected this period of democratic process and governmental transition with capitalist restructuring initiated in the 1970’s through combined state terror and monetarist/neoliberal reforms. Interviews with Kirchnerist state policy-makers and officials, attendance at a cycle of training courses for workers in state regulatory agencies, and archival research generated data on long-standing conflicts between the state and landholding elites and for control of the institutions connecting the Argentine state with the wider financial system, as well as competing projects of ruling elites to shape economic subjectivities according to particular economic theories. Research findings indicate a historical process in which the state is a terrain of struggle between political forces with antagonistic visions of the social logics of money and debt. The dissertation produced from this research combines historical and ethnographic approaches to illuminate the process of Argentine nation-state formation as constitutive of, and inscribed within, shifts in global capitalism.

DR. PENEOLOPE ZOE DRANSART, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lampeter, United Kingdom, received funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Weather, Water, and Ways of Knowing: Response to Climate Change in Isluga, Northern Chile.” This study investigated how camelid herders in the Andes of northern Chile are being challenged by unprecedented changes in water availability. Focusing on meteorological phenomena, especially rain, mist, and wind, the study explored how herders of llamas, alpacas, and sheep in Isluga react to inconstant weather conditions. The methodology included participant observation, open-ended interviews, and site visits in the company of research participants. Two main strategies were employed: 1) the researchers analysed the terms Isluga people use for meteorological conditions and discussed with them how they talk about seasonal events, to demonstrate how people verbalize their lived experience of the weather; and 2) taking people’s practical know-how into account by exploring their tacit knowledge in their reactions to anticipated seasonal changes and unanticipated weather circumstances. Migration from the highlands to coastal cities has accompanied climate change and many young people no longer have year-round experience of living in Isluga. Research participants expressed great concern over difficulties in the inter-generational transmission of knowledge. Analysis of the study’s findings demonstrates that Isluga residents maintain profoundly felt relationships to weather phenomena not always commensurate with Western worldviews, cross-cutting their affiliation to different faiths, Catholic and Protestant.

SARAH A. EBEL, then a graduate student at University of Maine, Orono, Maine, received a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “Policy, Agency, and Collective Action: A Multilevel
Analysis of Chile’s Territorial User Rights in Fisheries Policy,” supervised by Dr. Christina Beitl. Studies of collective action—the action taken by a group in pursuit of a shared interest—in natural resource settings are often limited to its role in the formation of institutions for resource management. This theoretical and empirical emphasis ignores the salient ways in which individuals are influenced by political structures and act collectively to contest policy. This research, situated in the Lakes Region of southern Chile, draws upon anthropological understandings of policy, structure, and human agency to elucidate how policy constrained or facilitated individual and institutional collective action and adaptation under Chile’s fisheries management policy, Territorial Use Rights in Fisheries (TURFs) after an environmental crisis in 2016—a harmful algal bloom—closed access to marine resource harvesting. Using participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and structured surveys for six months, this research explored individual and institutional collective action and adaptation to environmental change. Analysis of ethnographic and quantitative data demonstrated that individuals and institutions had different preferences for adaptation to environmental change at the local and regional scale. Individuals and institutions sought alternatives to the TURFs policy to protect the marine environment and their livelihoods, including the creation of marine protected areas and small-scale seaweed and shellfish aquaculture.

TOBIN MICHAEL-PERRY HANSEN, then a graduate student at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, received funding in July 2016 to aid research on “Belonging: Place, Care, and Masculinities Among ‘Criminal Aliens’ Deported to Mexico,” supervised by Dr. Lynn Stephen. This project explored a fundamental question: How do displaced people seek to belong? In recent decades, the U.S. government’s conjoining of immigration control with tough-on-crime policies has increased so-called “criminal alien” deportations, many of men who arrived as children and grew up considering the United States home. Ethnographic research in northern Mexico examined these men’s disorientation, social isolation, and stigmatization after deportation as well as the ways that shared identities and collective memory enabled solidarity in the joint struggle to carve out narrow spaces of belonging. The boundaries of social difference in northern Mexico that demarcated criminalized, “Americanized” outsider identities and relegated deportees to the margins, simultaneously permitted their mutual recognition and coming together to circulate everyday material and affective care. Illuminating the relationships between social and legal belonging, identity formation, and belonging to place(s) in the context of forcible displacement provides insights into ways that regional and personal histories, cultures, and interpersonal relationships form the basis of belonging.

DR. CHRISTOPHER HEWLETT, Independent Scholar, Charlottesville, Virginia, received a Fejos Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2016 to aid filmmaking on “Amahuaca—Building the Future: A Collaborative Film Project in Peruvian Amazonia.” The Postdoctoral Fellowship was spent working on a series of inter-connected films about Amahuaca people from communities on the Inuya River in the central Peruvian Amazon. Throughout the course of the fellowship the grantee collaborated with Fernando Valdivia, a Peruvian filmmaker, social commentator and professor of cinema and filmmaking. While three separate films were made during the fellowship, including one documenting a health crisis in an Amahuaca community, the project is oriented around the creation of an Indigenous Cultural Heritage Center and formation of a new indigenous political federation, which took place over a three-day event in 2015. While centering the narrative on this event the film explores the themes of memory, transformation, cultural heritage, and collective resilience. These themes emerge as the film follows three generations of Amahuaca people as they navigate contemporary life, reflect upon their lives and share their hopes for the future. The title, “Amahuaca Siempre”
(Amahuaca Always) comes from the final scene of the documentary when Carlos Melendez, the only Amahuaca bilingual schoolteacher, explains the importance of being Amahuaca for himself and why he continues fighting to make younger Amahuaca people proud of their heritage and identity.

DIANA R. HOYOS GOMEZ, then a graduate student at University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, received funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Campesinos and the State: Imagination of the State and Reconfiguration of State Practices in Montes de Maria, Colombia,” supervised by Dr. Kathleen Musante. This study investigated how violent practices, carried out on campesino communities by state actors during the armed conflict, shape current relationships between communities and the state, as well as how citizens-state relationships and state practices are reshaped in the transition to “post-conflict” in Montes de Maria, Colombia. By focusing on the relationships between campesino communities and the state during and in the aftermath of armed conflict 2000-2018, this research examines these questions to understand state building processes in the transition to “post-conflict.” Ethnographic research focused on the long-term impact of state violence carried out on communities during the armed conflict, especially mass arbitrary detentions; the study of an emblematic case in the region where several forms of violence during and after the armed conflict converge with a process of land restitution; and the process of construction of Development Plans with Territorial Focus (PDETS), a central aspect of the Peace Accords signed between the government and the FARC guerrillas in 2016. This study provides an understanding of the intersections between the long-term impact of violence on campesino communities and their relationships with the state, continuities and discontinuities of state practices in the transition to ‘post-conflict’ and efforts to reshape citizen-state relationships in rural communities. This research also received funding from the Inter-American Foundation.

SARA K. KAUKO, then a graduate student at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, was awarded funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Coloring across Class Lines: Socioeconomic Mobility and Changing Subjectivities among Criollos in Provincial Argentina,” supervised by Dr. Bradd Shore. This project examines the intersections between middle-classness, social status, and race in a poor, northern Argentine city called Santiago del Estero. The research concerns Santiago’s mixed-race criollos and the recent changes in their social and economic standing. It asks: how does economic and social success shape marginalized populations’ social status, sense of self, and their racial and class identities? In Argentina, Santiago is considered the country’s backwards hinterland. Unlike in the economic and cultural centers in the country where the majority of population are white, often of European origin, most inhabitants in Santiago are dark-skinned criollos: a mix of indigenous peoples, early Spanish colonizers, and European and Arab immigrants. Historically, they have resided in the society’s margins, with little chance to climb up in the local social and economic ladder. In 2005, Santiago’s economy started booming. Federal loans and private investments started arriving in the city, leading to improvements in infrastructure, education, and public services. The socioeconomic growth also involved criollos, who began to experience economic success and finally gain access to the local social field of class and status mobility. Within this context, this project investigates how social and economic success reconfigures local understandings of race and class and challenges historic lines of ethno-racial inclusion and exclusion.

DR. FLAVIA KREMER, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom, was awarded a Fejos Postdoctoral Fellowship in Ethnographic Filmmaking in October 2015 to aid completion of “Is a Non-Bororo Man a ‘Mr. Wrong?’: Exploring Gender and Kinship through
the Generation of Filmic Knowledge.” Renamed “In Search of a Bororo Mr. Right,” this film is an experimental “rom com,” in that it seeks to introduce the romantic comedy genre as a novel tool for an ethnographic analysis of kinship. The “rom com” genre explores the topics of love, marriage, and women’s issues with the biological clock. This ethnographic film deals with the search for love and explores the character’s concerns with finding “Mr. Right,” conciliating love and career, as well as the ticking of the biological clock. It can only be understood as a “rom com” in the context of ethnographic film. The mythology of Bororo people designs specific paths of marriage for each clan. It prescribes the path one should take on the moral village plan in order to find their “true” husband or wife. The film navigates Bororo myth, telling the story of two Bororo girls who set out in search of their mythical Mr. Right.

DR. ALICIA E. McGILL, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2016 to aid research and writing on “A History of Heritage: Cultural Education, Community-based Archaeology, and Heritage Management in Belize.” Support of the Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship aided completion of a manuscript for Ruins and Recitations: Education, Colonization, and Heritage in Belize. This book examines how cultural heritage came to be constructed, controlled, transmitted, and negotiated through the contexts of archaeology (“ruins”) and formal education (“recitations”) in Belize. Drawing from critical heritage studies and theories of governmentality and development, this book demonstrates how Belizean institutions during the colonial period and following independence used heritage to manage difference, govern subjects and citizens, and reinforce development agenda, resulting in marginalized pasts and enduring racial and ethnic inequalities. But, this book is also a story of resistance and agency, which details how Belizean children and teachers in two Kriol African-descendant communities have responded to persistent colonial legacies. Utilizing historical and anthropological methods this book examines a web of factors that influence how heritage is constructed, preserved, and used in the present. The book draws from institutional primary sources (e.g. education reports, curricula, archaeological reports) and ethnographic data from participant observation in schools and interviews with curriculum designers and heritage officials to demonstrate how hegemonic ideas about race and ethnicity were established through over a century of schooling and archaeology. And, through close examinations of primary sources like community petitions, as well as contemporary cultural activities, interviews with teachers and youth, and youth drawings, this book reveals the agency of Belizean Kriol citizens as they resisted and transformed heritage ideologies.

JACK MULLEE, then a graduate student at University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Approximations: Technics and Territory in Sao Paulo Health,” supervised by Dr. Julie Chu. This dissertation is an ethnography of sociotechnical work and thought in Brazil’s largest, wealthiest metropolitan region, Greater Sao Paulo. More precisely, it examines the sociotechnical as it is imagined, materialized, and re-envisioned through encounters with saúde (“health”). However, its focus is not on biomedical conceptions of bodily health, nor on religious or otherwise “alternative” approaches to wellbeing. Rather, the project is concerned with ways of thinking and encountering health system(s), as well as health work, health objects (paper/electronic records, MRI machines, hospital gurneys, etc.), and health law and policy more broadly. This variegated domain, which in English we gloss as “healthcare”, is signified in Brazil as simply “saúde”. This is an ethnography of reflexive encounters with saúde in this sense of the word: saúde as the laws, objects, administrative mores and ontological visions of collective life through which coherent modes of sociotechnical work and thought transpire in Sao Paulo.
These modes of work and thought are sociotechnical insofar as they constitute a convergence of technical principles with social processes. The dissertation will specify the characteristics of the sociotechnical through the analytic of approximations: an apparent set of technical, scientific and pseudo-mathematical values that condition imaginaries of health in Sao Paulo.

CHRISTOPHER J. PARISANO, then a graduate student at City University of New York Graduate Center, New York, New York, received a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “Between Waste and Huacas: Cultural Patrimony and Recyclers’ Rights in Lima, Peru,” supervised by Dr. John F. Collins. This fieldwork traced shifting property relations in Lima, Peru, by examining how efforts by the Ministry of Culture to convert pre-Columbian shrines (“huacas”) into cultural patrimony reconfigure popular economic resources and forms of legal personhood tied to their use. Once targets of colonial-era looting and anti-idolatry campaigns, Lima’s huacas have more recently merged with auto-constructed communities where they are used as dumpsites and as sources of salvageable commodities. By focusing on the overlapping value-producing techniques of scrap-pickers and heritage administrators, and the field of moral discourse undergirding these groups’ attempts to extract goods from huacas, this project analyzes the ways official definitions of waste instantiate a tension between market exchange and cultural preservation at the core of emergent property regimes. Findings reveal that claims to these sites and their contents are embedded within a contentious spiritual landscape whose agents include Pentecostal preachers and urban sorcerers. This project’s exploration of struggles over huacas’ commercial value, their status as monuments to national culture, and their role as sacred elements in popular religious practice points to the centrality of these sites in shaping ideas about spiritual corruption and salvation, possession, and collective being, and thus in staking authoritative claims to resources in marginal communities.

ROSIE SIMS, then a graduate student at Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland, received a grant in October 2017 to aid research on “Towards a Brave New World: New Configurations of Virus, Vector, and Human Relations in Colombia,” supervised by Dr. Vinh-Kim Nguyen. In the context of emerging arboviruses such as Zika, this research investigates an alternative approach to vector control that differs from attempts seeking to eradicate or destroy the mosquito. This project explores the deployment of a biotechnological solution premised on the notion of living with the mosquito in Medellín, Colombia, in order to understand how new ways of intervening depart from existing rationales of eradication. Focusing on a group of scientists releasing Wolbachia bacteria-infected mosquitoes in Medellin that cannot transmit viruses such as dengue, chikungunya, or Zika, this project follows the various actors involved in such a process that makes the natural “safe” or “acceptable” to live with. Ethnography reveals how the making of this biotechnological intervention is embedded within broader social dynamics and political tensions that complicate the smooth narrative of a paradigm change. This research follows epistemological and empirical practices turning the city into an urban laboratory and producing both human and more-than-human experimental populations. This research highlights that much is at stake in the governing of the human-mosquito interface and more broadly in the production of knowledge in global health.

JOSHUA Z. WEISS, then a graduate student at University of California, Davis, California, received funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Making the Internet: Emergent Cuban Media,” supervised by Dr. Tim Choy. Several modes of accessing network technologies have recently become prevalent in Cuba making it a compelling site for observing the means by which the meaning of “the internet” becomes formed, contested, and deployed. This ethnographic research traces the medium as it has moved from relative cultural scarcity to
relative scarcity ubiquity over the past several years. By studying the practices and views of educators, technologists, diplomats, and casual interlocutors of the internet in Cuba, this project seeks to explore how/what media comes to mean as it emerges into this new space.

**Middle East:**

ISAAC BLACKSIN, then a graduate student at University of California, Santa Cruz, California, was awarded a grant in October 2016 to aid research on “Writing Violence: The Discourse and Culture of Journalism in the Middle East,” supervised by Dr. Robert Meister. Research with journalists in Iraq and Lebanon revealed a conflict between what can be told as news and what challenges journalistic meaning-making. While journalists’ encounters with violence disturb generic borders between factual and fictive, certain and ambiguous, knowable and unknowable, the permeability of these frontiers is mystified in the news journalists produce. For even as the authority and authenticity of war reportage depends upon journalists’ intimate experiences of violence, the conventional truth of reportage entails the narrative elision of just these experiences. For journalists – the public’s surrogate witnesses to faraway war – the ethics of witnessing can only be in conflict with the discursive constraints of the news. This aporia poses problems for how journalists report war, and it exposes violence as a site of contestation for truth-telling. Observation of journalists at checkpoints, refugee camps, and scenes of conflict, and interviews with journalists covering war in the Middle East, allowed the grantee to track how journalists assimilate violence into knowledge: the negotiations, relationships, and routines of journalistic professionalism, and the fantasies, tropes, and silences of journalistic signification. This ethnographic and narratological approach revealed both the management of violence in the news and other, still conflicted ways of encountering a violent world.

ONDER CELIK, then a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, received a grant in April 2016 to aid research on “Legal Regulation, Armenian Treasures, and Unspoken Crimes: Gold Hunting in the Kurdish Region of Turkey,” supervised by Dr. Veena Das. This project examined the legal regulation of hunting for Armenian treasures and the practices of Kurdish treasure hunters under legal scrutiny in Turkey’s Kurdistan. Throughout the twelve-month long research period, treasure hunters’ applications for excavation permits from local state museums were traced and treasure hunters were accompanied on authorized excavations. In the project, permit applications were collected and analyzed. Lawsuit files concerning “illegal excavations without an official permit” were collected and analyzed in the courtroom archives to examine the formation of legal accusations against treasure hunters. Through an analysis of the complex forms in which legal and historical claims on the Armenian past are made, this research found how knowledge of the Armenian genocide is produced through official classifications, logics, descriptions of the land, valuable objects buried under it, and legal regulations of treasure hunters’ quest for material wealth. “Armenian gold” and the ruins where the gold is searched are defined by these legal processes and documents as the products of the disappearance of the Armenian people from their historical homeland. In that sense, the project has detected how the legal regulation of treasure hunts became an alternative archive for the study of the Armenian genocide.

CAITLIN M. DAVIS, then a graduate student at University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, was granted funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Drafting Governance: An ‘Architecture’ of Israeli Heritage Conservation,” supervised by Dr. Les Field. The political-military immediacy of architecture in Israel has rarely been questioned, creating a
space for scholars, journalists, and politicians to treat the preservation or destruction of particular historic sites as a central component of Israeli nation-building projects. This study examines specific episodes in the architectural conservation of the Old City of Acre. The events it describes are noticeably mundane. They are about the bureaucratic fingers that point at buildings and the measuring tapes that enact their boundaries. They are about the invisible agents that populate lives and that circulate through buildings, agents that conservation architects have only recently learned to “see” and tried to enroll. By studying in detail how architectural conservation works in the Old City of Acre, this project examines the strategies of coordination that help to perform the subjects and the objects that populate these episodes. It studies the ways in which human and nonhuman actants come together, if only partially, enacting different versions of government along the way. This partiality is important. Sometimes, it is this sort of fractional coherence that actually allows (settler colonial) governance to succeed, to flatline, to fail.

ANNA J. DOWELL, then a graduate student at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Evangelicalism in Egypt: Transformations of Citizenship and Piety among Protestants in Egypt,” supervised by Dr. Rebecca L. Stein. This dissertation research explores the historical and contemporary entanglements of Protestant piety, nationalist imagination, and global flows or people, ideas, and material objects that produces the small, vocal Evangelical Egyptian community. Spanning archival research at the premiere Evangelical educational establishment in Egypt, years of participant observation and interviews in local churches, para-church organizations, and service organizations, and close analysis of music, publishing, and art, this research aims to explore how an indigenous religious identity and institution was produced and is being produced out of an historically colonially-tinged Euro-American religious movement. This research aims to both trouble the notions of two over-determined categories—that of the evangelical believer and that of the Arab citizen—as well as produce a counterpoint to the anthropology of Christianity’s over-reliance on the notion of rupture as central to the contemporary explosion of charismatic/evangelical Christianity. The question of the difference that Christianity makes to both national and international aspirations and community building is pressing for both understanding Egypt in the years following the 2012 popular uprisings and the increased importance of understanding how nationalism interfaces with piety movements and evangelical/charismatic currents in other global spaces.

CONNIE GAGLIARDI, then a graduate student at University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “The Craft of Iconography: Re-Imagining the Holy Land,” supervised by Dr. Valentina Napolitano. This research explores the production and politics of neo-Byzantine iconography and its resurgence amongst Christians in Palestine. By looking at the production of icons, this project investigates Christian experience and religious and cultural transformations within the fraught terrain of the Holy Land. Since the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, the presence and minority status of Palestinian Christians has become increasingly precarious. Local iconography schools intend to revive an indigenous, Arab Christian craft in the hopes of restoring a Christian presence and rejuvenating Christian spirituality in Palestine. This project offers a unique view, highlighting the ways in which Palestinian Christian world views are shaped by the presence and production of icons, but also by historical forces such as the Israeli Occupation. A key intervention of this project interrogates the role of international actors involved in this project of building iconography schools. It situates them within the larger history of Western colonial involvement in Palestine, as well as within recent theorizations on the ambivalent affects induced by the NGO framework in contemporary Palestine.
Research methods included participant observation in iconography schools and workshops, interviews with religious clergy and Palestinian artists and art collectors, and observation of public religious rituals.

SUMAYYA KASSAMALI, then a graduate student at Columbia University, New York, New York, received funding in April 2013 to aid research on “Death, Disappearance, Martyrdom: Warscapes of Contemporary Lebanon,” supervised by Dr. Brinkley Messick. This project focuses on African and Asian migrant labor, Syrian refugees, and urban transformation in the contemporary Middle East. Based on two years of ethnographic research in Beirut, the dissertation examines how marginalized workers in Beirut have built a set of religious and commercial establishments, informal services, community rituals, internal codes, new ways of speaking Arabic, and underground spaces for leisure and desire that have reconfigured the capital city over the last decade. Research was conducted within mixed spaces of escaped female domestic workers, “foreign” (ie. non-Arab) male laborers, and working Syrian and Palestinian refugees. In turn, this project provides a nuanced portrayal of how Lebanon is changing with the mass displacement of Arab refugees across its borders alongside the local presence of hundreds of thousands of non-Arab workers. It is centrally concerned with the complex modes through which belonging is created in conditions of structural exclusion, considering the analytic implications of large migrant populations who are rendered both permanently temporary and permanently foreign. At a time of significant regional upheaval as well as a so-called global migration crisis, it is thus offered as a provocation to rethink the assumed subjects, and therefore the attendant formulations of minority identity and sociopolitical life, of both Lebanon and the Arab world at large.

PAUL KOHLBRY, then a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, was awarded a grant in October 2016 to aid research on “Land and Title: Private Property and Political Struggle in the West Bank,” supervised by Dr. Deborah Poole. Through a study of land registration, this research explores the making of private property in the West Bank under Israeli settler colonialism. Private property is crucial in two respects. On the one hand, it shapes the core political struggle between settler and indigenous populations for sovereignty over territory. On the other, it ensures the material reproduction and expansion of the settler colony by incorporating land into the capitalist market. However, the logic of exclusive sovereignty often sits uneasily with the interests of capital, and the ensuing conflicts within and between settler and indigenous societies over land are not simply over ownership, but an ongoing battle over the constitution of private property itself. Through 21 months of archival and ethnographic fieldwork in Jordan, the West Bank and Israel, this research asks how private property is continually remade through the process of land registration in which Israelis and Palestinians attempt to claim ownership by articulating novel arrangements of documents and practices. It traces the unexpected political economies that emerge through this process, and explores how private property becomes an unstable, contested category that is as troubling as it is necessary for the politics of sovereignty.

ZEYNEP OGÜZ, then a graduate student at City University of New York Graduate Center, New York, New York, received funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Subterranean Futures: The Politics of Hydrocarbon Exploration in Turkey,” supervised by Dr. Gary Wilder. Funding allowed the grantee to conduct ethnographic and archival research to understand Turkey’s contemporary carbon-intensive energy politics and examine how the Turkish government’s historical and recent attempts to explore oil and gas in Turkey’s Kurdistan as well as the Mediterranean and Black Seas have been taking place on the backdrop of competing imaginaries of the future. Research including archival work at the national state
archives in Ankara, participant observation with petroleum geologists and engineers, interviews with government officials and experts, and oral histories with Kurdish villagers and petroleum workers in Ankara, Diyarbakir, Batman, Adiyaman, and Siirt. Specifically, the grantee interviewed more than 150 geologists, engineers, workers, bureaucrats, and activist; participated in conferences and summits on oil and energy, oil extraction and exploration activities, as well as in protests and meetings against fossil fuels; collected interviews and documents about widespread conspiracy theories about oil; and, finally, examined national and local newspapers and collected documents from the personal archives of retired geologists and engineers on the place of oil in Turkey’s politics.

AYDIN OZIPEK, then a graduate student at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, received funding in April 2016 to aid research on “The Promise of Authenticity: Civilizing Youth and Branding the Nation in Contemporary Islamist Turkey,” supervised by Dr. Jessica R. Winegar. The research undertaken during the grant involved conducting ethnographic fieldwork and interviews on the youth-oriented culturing campaign of Turkish state with a focus on the tradition-making practices that involved a selective recalling of the Ottoman past as a source of political and cultural inspiration for younger generations. Turkey is undergoing profound political, socioeconomic, and demographic transformations under the rule of the AKP/Erdogan governments, and suffering from high levels of youth unemployment and poverty. Both as a demographic group and a cultural category, youth has become the target of various governmental interventions, which coincide with and promote the rising popular interest in the history of the Ottoman Empire, popularly called “neo-Ottomanism.” The dissertation views such practices as attempts at tradition-making, which involve contentious processes that mediate individual and collective temporal orientations, political sensibilities, and economic interests. Research was conducted primarily in two sites—an Ottoman language class and a youth culture center, both sponsored by AKP-run local governments in two separate districts of Istanbul.

KAMALA R. RUSSELL, then a graduate student at University of California, Berkeley, California, was granted funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Morality Begins at Home: Practices of Privacy and the Institution of Qabila in Southern Oman,” supervised by Dr. William F. Hanks. This project uses ethnographic, linguistic, and otherwise semiotic data to explore how speakers of Shehret Modern South Arabian in the Dho far mountains of the Sultanate of Oman enact their individual ethical responsibilities in ambivalent relationships to the social organization of the family and tribe. Forty years of development has brought mountain-dwelling Dhofaris from pastoral nomadism to public spaces for work, entertainment, and commerce, producing an expanded field of mobility, social opportunity, and visibility, as well as new ways to desire worldly relations, entertainment, and success. This research focuses on how mountain families negotiate the possibility of ethical life in this phenomenal world (dunya) of social relations and worldly attachments. To do so, the researcher recorded how certain everyday normative and habitual ways of speaking, dressing, moving, and building serve to do good, teach good, and reflect on one’s relation to good through concealing their emotions, deeds, visages, and affairs. In focusing on everyday speech and comportment, this dissertation provides a detailed case of the everyday negotiation of Islamic ethics and worldly social demands within a rapidly modernizing context.

ALEXANDRA SCHINDLER, then a graduate student at City University of New York Graduate Center, New York, New York, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “The Untimeliness of Permanent Transience: The Social Lives of Syrians in Alexandria,” supervised by Gary Wilder. This project examines the socio-economic relations, urban
infrastructures, and informal economies emerging in Alexandria, Egypt, through an ethnographic study of Syrian refugees who have migrated since 2011, and their everyday relationship with the city. This research studies the confluence of factors within the city today: large-scale displacement, a lucrative smuggling industry, and the promise of asylum inside Europe’s fast-closing borders—materializing amid Alexandria’s post-Uprising development and revitalization projects, and the peculiar space of permanent transience that emerges from its complex web. This research included interviews with Syrian individuals and families, and participant observation at local community centers and NGOs, as well as extended research with a few families over the duration of the research. The research also included archival work on the modern city and its origins and ethnographic research, including interviews and participant observation, with major social actors in the city.

DOUAA SHEET, then a graduate student at City University of New York Graduate Center, New York, New York, received funding in October 2016 to aid research on “The Politics of ‘Dignity’ in Post-Uprising Tunisia: Transitional Justice, Social Suffering, and Shifting Fault Lines,” supervised by Dr. Vincent Crapanzano. This project is a historical and ethnographic study of “dignity” (karāmā): the moral demand that mobilized the 2011 Tunisian uprising and dominated the social and political scene in its aftermath. Through the lens of the Truth and Dignity Commission (TDC)—the heated controversies that have surrounded its work, public hearings, demonstrations protesting its proceedings, interviews with its commissioners and staff, participation in its national consultations, and a reading of its internal laws and reports—this study investigates the role of moral values in mobilizing social movements. The competing moral traditions examined include: the Islamic tradition that gained more dominance with the rise of the Islamist Ennahda party to power after the uprising, the leftist understanding of dignity as employment, and the human rights discourse of dignity as recognition of past abuses represented by the TDC. Findings detailing how differential conceptions of dignity in Tunisia are used as moral grounds to legitimize certain models of militancy and disparage others are analyzed to identify the role of moral values in mobilizing the 2011 Arab Spring. This project advances studies of national reconciliation processes, social movements, the adjudication of human rights violations, and the changing role of women in the broader Middle East.

MEHMET F. TATARI, then a graduate student at University of California, Davis, California, received funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Farmer Organizing in Northeastern Turkey: Making Cheese and Reimagining Borders,” supervised by Dr. Marisol de la Cadena. Through ethnographic fieldwork in northeastern Turkey, this research investigates everyday animal husbandry and cheesemaking practices that make boundaries, which differ from—and at times challenge—state imposed borders. In so doing, it focuses on a nascent collaboration between small farmers as they engage in place-based certification processes of local cheese products. The geographical borders that these certificates define in official legislations are deeply entangled with the contentious political borders in the region. This research first interrogates the relationship—frictional or collaborative—between everyday pastoral practices and the ways in which the nation-state exercises its sovereignty. What are the practices through which cheesemaking enables local communities to remember and negotiate violent memories, and to reimagine boundaries? How do these practices circumvent state enforcement of borders? Secondly, this research is concerned with the materiality of cheese, as farmers and scientists mobilize it through their collaboration. What kinds of new regional boundaries are produced through the practices of local cheesemakers and microbiologists, and how? This fieldwork thus approached cheese as an important node—and perhaps agent—in different practices of
border-making by the nation-state and local communities on the one hand, and by scientists, animal husbandry practitioners, and dairy producers on the other.

LAURA ANNE THOMPSON, then a graduate student at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, was awarded funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Sacred Freedoms, Sacred Faith: Blasphemy Cases in Post-Arab-Spring Tunisia,” supervised by Dr. Malika Zeghal. The grantee completed six months of dissertation research on a series of blasphemy cases in Tunis, Tunisia. While in the field, the project was reconceptualized and expanded to include not only post-Arab-Spring blasphemy cases, but also a case from the mid-19th century Ottoman Regency of Tunis along with a case from the early 20th-century French protectorate. By studying these blasphemy cases together, the project eschews the common framing of post-2011 Tunisian blasphemy cases as negligible anomalies, imagining them instead as recurring societal mechanisms. The grantee completed archival research on the two historical cases under study, moving in between state-run libraries and archives and working with private booksellers and independent archivists. This initial period of work culminated in a public event she co-organized with the Tunisian office of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Regarding the post-Arab-Spring cases, the grantee gathered and began to analyze important paperwork concerning an unusual 2017 appeal related to a 2012 blasphemy case stemming from the television broadcast of a Franco-Iranian film. Lawyers defending artists in a never-closed 2012 blasphemy investigation stemming from an art exhibit were also interviewed. Finally, new blasphemy cases were followed, including one against a primary teacher and another against a popular progressive scholar of Islam.

North America:

LISA A. AVRON, then a graduate student at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, received a grant in October 2017 to aid research on “Predicting Florida’s Environmental Futures: Risk, Boundaries, and the Ethics of Multiplicity,” supervised by Dr. Sara Pritchard. Retitled “Ethical Oracles: Predicting Florida’s Climate Changed Futures,” this project examines local climate change predictions for South Florida, ultimately finding the boundaries for “what was, is, and will be” in regard to global warming fundamentally undergirded by ethical prescriptions for “what should be.” The research studied an array of actors—nonprofits, Miami officials, local university scientists, and state experts—over the course of nine months. It asked, “Who is ‘vulnerable?’ What future environmental habitus is imagined in the face of four-to-six feet of sea level rise and mega hurricanes? And by whom?” It found, as predictions are created and circulate within a local context, various political organizations and governing agencies use this knowledge to assess how people should live together, how they should consume, who or what matters most, and who or what is vulnerable in the face global warming. The future of a transcendent economy looms large for local politicians (e.g. “Will developers still invest in Miami?”), while historically disenfranchised immigrant communities of color live the imminent realities of Miami’s legacy as the most-unequal city in the U.S. today. This dissertation counters narratives of top-down knowledge production and “resiliency” strategies, be they forms of governance or capitalist techno-progress. Instead, it grounds climate change in Miami’s streets, bringing the city’s enfolded environmental histories and contemporary political-economy to the fore.

S. CAROLYN BARNES, then a graduate student at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Bluegrass Horsemen: Thoroughbred Trainers, Equine Biocapital, and Elite Agrarian Expertise in Kentucky’s
Horseracing Industry,” supervised by Dr. Peter Benson. This research examined how Kentucky racehorse trainers’ practices, social roles, and relationships with thoroughbreds are being affected by the shrinking economic viability of the industry, advances in veterinary science and biotechnology, and public concerns about horse welfare at the track. The funding supported the primary phase of ethnographic fieldwork in central Kentucky, a center of the thoroughbred industry. Findings reveal that trainers’ expertise is constituted through traditional horsemanship skills—being present with and sensing each horse to know it as an individual—as much as in managerial power aimed at producing aestheticized equines and pastoral spaces. Economic pressures, labor shortages, and record keeping regimes increasingly make many middle- to low-range trainers feel they cannot compete with elite trainers who tend to spend less time with horses and more time managing their businesses. While trainers exercise a great deal of power in their barns, they are brought under scrutiny at the track, where they are subjects of state regulation stemming from efforts to improve public perception of the sport. These dynamics reveal debates within the industry about who has knowledge of horses, what are/not ethical forms of equine care, and whether state regulation and oversight can render a biocapitalist endeavor (more) ethical.

BURCU BAYKURT, then a graduate student at Columbia University, New York, New York, received funding in October 2015 to aid research on “The Politics of Speed: Making Futures in the Gigabit City,” supervised by Dr. Michael Schudson. Renamed “The City as Data Machine: Local Governance in the Age of Big Data,” this project is an ethnographic study of an experimental smart city—a city in which urban environments are augmented with sensors, wireless connectivity, and software for better city management. Beginning with a brief history of how technology companies have made a foray into urban environments since the 1990s, it then draws on ethnographic fieldwork in a large Midwestern smart city to demonstrate the ways the smart city stratifies civic ties and changes how social problems are identified in local governance. By following multiple communities’ encounters with digital infrastructures, it also shows how entrepreneurial residents, public officials, and low-income communities interpret, enact, and resist data-centric local governance. In doing so, it addresses larger issues about the intersections among urban inequality, the ideology of connectivity, and surveillance capitalism.

TRACIE J. CANADA, then a graduate student at University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, was awarded funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Tackling the Everyday: Race, Family, and Nation in Big-Time College Football,” supervised by Dr. George Mentore. Between August 2017 and July 2018, ethnographic fieldwork was conducted with Black college football players, primarily at an institution referred to via the pseudonym, Mellon University. This research explored the everyday lives of these athletes because they are uniquely at the center of a variety of overlapping ordered and ordering systems that rely on certain rules, demand certain behaviors, and carry certain expectations. Black players, who are highly visible and over-represented in college football, then have to navigate these normalizing spaces that often privilege whiteness. During the research period, the grantee spent time with players in their daily lives, both on and off the field; conducted semi-structured interviews; and learned how student-athletes frame their own lives through life narratives. Findings from fieldwork reveal that instead of the team narrative constantly touted by football administrators and the media, Black players confront this paradigm about close relationships with their own forms of relatedness that, at times, contradict and undermine the idea of the team. This research encourages greater understanding of a previously unexplored population and addresses the tensions of race, masculinity, and nationalism as they relate not just to sport, but to America’s cultural and moral landscape.
NICHOLAS L. CAVERLY, then a graduate student at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “What Remains: Building Removal, Worker Retraining, and Toxic Materials in Detroit,” supervised by Dr. Erik Mueggler. This project examined how the lived realities of structural inequalities—specifically racism, economic opportunity, and environmental burden—are both confronted and reproduced through spatial management. It did so by way of vacant building demolition in Detroit, a city where 40,000 empty buildings index decades of racialized disinvestment. Since 2014, hundreds of millions in public funds have been funneled into private enterprises that demolish buildings and train formerly incarcerated people to labor on demolition sites. Such programs were authorized on grounds that they help develop a “financially stable and decontaminated city.” Nevertheless, state regulators drafted memos describing how tearing buildings down with specialized equipment dispersed asbestos-laden dust into the lungs of workers and surrounding residents. This project used ethnographic fieldwork in living rooms, non-profit offices, regulatory hearings, excavator cabs, legal proceedings, and training facilities to examine how the transformation of Detroit’s vacant buildings has enabled the redistribution land, work, and toxins. By following how demolitions render the products of racialized systems of property, industry, and mass incarceration into freshly unequal accumulations of territory, profit, and contamination, this project found how systems of privilege and marginalization endure through the destruction of their material remains.

VINITA CHAUDHRY, then a graduate student at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, received a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “The Price of Transgender Justice: Race, Gender, and the Institutionalization of Marginality,” supervised by Dr. Shalini Shankar. “Transgender” as a category has received widespread media attention due not only to unprecedented moments of public visibility, but also inequalities with regard to legislation, health, and violence. Across the United States, nonprofit organizations are looking to serve marginalized transgender communities; they often do so, however, with inconsistent, racialized, and classed understandings of what “transgender” signifies, particularly to gender nonconforming communities of color, who experience multiple forms of economic and social marginalization. This project examines negotiations and interactions among funders, advocates, social service providers, and gender nonconforming people of color in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which boasts a rich history of transgender community building. Using ethnographic methods drawn from linguistic and cultural anthropology, including participant observation, interviews, and discourse analysis with these actors in Philadelphia, the project will document the varying institutional uses of “transgender” and the moralized scripts that funders, advocates, and gender nonconforming people develop in order to achieve funding-related goals. In the production of these scripts and negotiations focused on gendered and racialized communities, they redefine and reshape broader meanings of gender, sexuality, race, and class. Through ethnographic investigation, this project will offer on-the-ground perspectives on the institutional production of “transgender” as an economically, materially, and socially pertinent category.

MARK DOERKSEN, then a graduate student at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “The New Humans: Emerging Theories and Practices of Sensory Modification,” supervised by Dr. Kregg Hetherington. This ethnographic research examines the Canadian and American grinder scenes to gain insight into the role of senses in understanding and responding to social problems. Grinders, a subset of biohackers, aim to enhance themselves by assimilating emerging material technologies (including, but not limited to, electronics) with their bodies through experiments and
surgeries. They opt for a do-it-yourself (DIY) approach in order to maintain a sense of agency that might be lost if pursued through traditional means, such as “normalized” medical research, ethically constrained university research, or market-driven private industry. How do grinders make sense (literally and figuratively) of their bodies as a site for enhancement? Findings suggest grinders conceive of the human body as a hybrid of positivism and constructionism, determined by its techno-biological material yet simultaneously amenable to endless modification. In practice, however, the results of the tension between stability and variability tend to reinforce hegemonic social and economic relationships. What grinders ultimately enhance is the ability to adapt their physical bodies to social uncertainty brought about by the accelerating digital economy of information.

KEHLI HENRY, then a graduate student at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “An American Indian Community’s War on Drugs: Intersections of History, Culture, Policy and Representation,” supervised by Dr. Heather Howard. This dissertation project focused on using community-based ethnographic research to answer three interrelated questions. First was asked, “Why and how have varied ideologies of drug and alcohol use, and representations of drug and alcohol users, shifted in the American Indian community at the center of my research, and in relation to larger society over time?” Specifically, it examined how these shifts may be influenced by political, economic, and social issues within the American Indian community itself, and in the relationships between tribal, federal, state, county, city, and collegiate institutions (including governmental, educational, biomedical and behavioral health institutions). Second, “How do varying discussions and representations of drug and alcohol users reflect different ideologies about tribal identity, sovereignty, culture, community, and the relationships between American Indian community members and addiction?” In particular, the research explored how representations of drug and alcohol users, especially within the American Indian community, reinforce, reframe, and/or actively resist dominant discourses about the relationships that American Indian people have (or have had) with drugs, alcohol, and addiction. And third, “In what ways do community members reinforce, enact, contest or reject hegemonic ideals and rhetoric in their drug and alcohol related discussions and actions?” The grantee was especially interested in the extent to which they draw on ideas of culture and cultural difference to contest or align with certain discourses regarding drug and alcohol use, punitive consequences of illicit drug use, and recovery from addiction.

CAMERON HU, then a graduate student at University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, was awarded funding in October 2015 to aid research on “The Bakken Formation and the Nature of American Power,” supervised by Dr. Joseph P. Masco. This ethnographic fieldwork examined transformations in the logics and practices of petro-capitalism in the contemporary United States, currently the world’s largest petrostate. The years following the global financial crisis saw a surge in the production of crude oil from “tight” shale formations in the American interior—a highly controversial phenomenon hyped to transform the global geopolitics of petroleum. Working across the massively distributed system of tight oil exploration and production in a previously depleted oil region, the grantee examined the financial, epistemic, and imaginative processes through which a new oil resource was fantasized, realized, and contested in an era of extreme turbulence in global economy and environment. How, the grantee asked, does contemporary petro-capitalism attempt to re-engineer the planet, the world oil system, and its own structure through a new geological resource, at the very moment when oil was expected to become scarce? Building on intensive ethnographic fieldwork, the resulting dissertation stands to contribute to social-scientific understandings of the geopolitics of economy, technology, and nature.
KASEY JERNIGAN, then a graduate student at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, received a grant in April 2016 to aid research on “Obesity, Cultural Identity, and Food Distribution Programs in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma,” supervised by Dr. Thomas Letterman. This mixed-methods research examines obesity among Choctaws at the intersections of issues related to: structural violence; identity; heritage and historical trauma narratives; and meaning-making. Unique to American Indians (AIs) is an historical reliance on food assistance, from rations in the 1800s to the more recent Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) of the USDA. Participation in FDPIR is linked with increased risk of obesity, with FDPIR foods historically high in fat and sugar, with few (if any) fresh vegetables. FDPIR plays a prominent role in (re)shaping contemporary AI food environments: it is the primary food source for more than 60% of AIs and is attributed with unhealthy food preferences now prevalent among AIs. Food plays a major part of cultural survival and affirmation, thus the demise of traditional foodways should signify cultural extinction. Instead, it is recognized as a specific experience that informs what it means to be AI today. This research reveals the ways that Choctaws consider the experiences of struggle, poverty, and discrimination—specific experiences of poor food environments, continued dependence on government supplied foods, and material and cultural dispossession—as markers of Indianness, with obesity framed as the embodiment of those experiences.

NATHAN JESSEE, then a graduate student at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Inhabiting Disaster Media Worlds: Visual Media, Indigenous Activism, and Adaptation to Coastal Hazards in Louisiana,” supervised by Dr. Damien Stankiewicz. This research followed the Isle de Jean Charles Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Tribe’s resettlement process and the media attention their experiences and efforts have garnered. In response to decades of coastal erosion, land subsidence, and the subsequent outward migration of community members, tribal leaders have been planning their resettlement for nearly twenty years to reunite their tribe and rejuvenate their communal ways of life. In January of 2016, the tribe’s longstanding resettlement plans were awarded $52 million in support from National Disaster Resilience Competition, leading the New York Times and other global institutions to dub them “the first official American climate refugees” and initiating a planning process that would completely transform their efforts to resettle. The project investigated three components of this newfound visibility: 1) the material, social, and cultural encounters produced as experiences were circulated through journalism, film, and community-driven initiatives; 2) the impacts this visibility; and 3) the emergent social tensions of climate adaptation as reflected in the circulation of representations of the tribe, their land, and the socio-environmental processes. This research demonstrates how resettlement and environmental change are conditioned by broader historical injustices associated with settler colonialism. Climate adaptation policy and programming must incorporate social justice in design and implementation.

DR. IEVA JUSIONYTE, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, received a grant in October 2015 to aid research on “‘We Walk Where the Devil Dances:’ Rescue and Security on the U.S.-Mexico Border.” This anthropological research project documented the lived experiences of first responders—personnel of the U.S. fire and rescue departments: firefighters, EMTs and paramedics—along the U.S.-Mexico border in order to raise and examine critical questions about security, statecraft and the politics and ethics of rescue. As public service providers, emergency responders are street-level bureaucrats who work on the frontlines of the post-9/11 security state, facing political, legal and ethical collisions between increasing border militarization and their social-humanitarian responsibilities. Professional
ethics and healthcare laws require that first responders provide help without regard to the legal status of victims and patients, but as state actors they are also invested with political and symbolic functions of governmental authority and tightly integrated into the federal emergency preparedness and homeland security infrastructures—part of the same system that criminalizes and injures the very people they often rescue on the border: migrants who suffer traumatic injuries from trying to jump over the wall that separates urban neighborhoods in Ambos Nogales, or become dehydrated while crossing hazardous desert and mountain terrain of the Sonoran Desert in an attempt to avoid Border Patrol checkpoints. Consisting of extensive ethnographic fieldwork, interviews, focus group discussions and archival research in southern Arizona’s and northern Sonora’s fire departments, this study looks at first responders as both humanitarian rescuers and uniformed state authorities to expand the understanding of the human and social consequences of security policies and border enforcement and making timely contributions to political and legal anthropology, and the critical anthropology of security.

SAMUEL MAULL, then a graduate student at Stanford University, Stanford, California, was awarded a grant in October 2016 to aid research on "Family on the Inside: Kinship and the Crisis of the Criminal Justice System," supervised by Dr. Angela Garcia. Mass incarceration has become part of American society over the past 40 years. During that time millions of Americans, particularly poor people of color, have passed through the country’s prisons and jails. While recent interest has turned to the effect that incarceration has on those who experience it directly, this project investigated the more indirect effect of incarceration; on families of incarcerated people, through a long-term, ethnographic study with men incarcerated in a San Francisco county jail and their families. Findings from this project emphasize the massive financial and emotional burden that incarceration places on families, who are often called upon to bear the costs of legal fees, bail, commissary, and phone bills, as well as caring for children and providing emotional support to incarcerated people. These burdens were justified by County officials and employees of the Sherriff’s Department by reference to the criminality of incarcerated people: privations were a consequence of criminal behavior, they reasoned. Through extensive interviews with incarcerated people I found that they understood this logic to be reversed: they saw themselves as trapped in a vicious cycle where they were assumed to be criminal since childhood.

MEGAN K. MULLER, then a graduate student at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, received funding in October 2017 to aid research on “Effectuating Care: Negotiating Sameness and Difference through the Integration of Indigenous Healing in Nursing Services,” supervised by Dr. Donna Patrick. Indigenous values, beliefs and healing practices have begun to claim an unprecedented role in Canadian health policy and service delivery. This research project explores how Indigenous approaches to wellness are translated into community nursing services to improve health outcomes and access to primary care. This project has been conducted in partnership with the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, a self-governing entity representing 14 First Nations on the Canadian west coast. The NTC provides nursing services for members of affiliated communities and has established its own unique framework for care provision that combines Indigenous traditions, values, and beliefs with the framework of cultural safety as well as conventional nursing protocol. This project provides experiential data on present opportunities and barriers to accessing culturally safe care. Furthermore, it investigates the meanings and expectations attached to culturally safe care from the perspective of community nurses, clients, and within regional health policy. This project was conducted using ethnographic methods, including interviews with NTC nurses, clients, community leaders and Elders, as well as participant observation of nursing visits, health
conferences and community events. Findings reveal that the relational approach to nursing offered by the NTC has had great success in encouraging and supporting community members to take steps towards productively managing their own health. However, patients often experience difficulty communicating with physicians, leading to the development of care management plans that do not fit with the patient’s lifestyle and particular needs. Patients often return from out-of-town appointments feeling dismissed or discriminated against, while their health needs remain inadequately addressed. This disparity is exacerbated by a history of trauma stemming from the residential school system and Indian hospitals. Stereotyping and discrimination in the form of refusing to offer health services continues to be an obstacle. Thus, in addressing the health equity gap, it is necessary to identify the circumstances and practices that allow for caregivers and clients to mutually transcend these historical and socio-cultural conditions that perpetuate barriers to adequate health services. As this research reveals, one of such conditions would be increased systemic support for approaches to health service delivery that allow for relational and client-directed care practices.

HEATH PEARSON, then a graduate student at Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “The Porosity of Prisons: An Ethnography of Citizenship and Security in Rural New Jersey,” supervised by Dr. Joao Biehl. Renamed “The Carceral Outside: Land and Labor in an American Prison Town,” the dissertation is based on two years of ethnographic research in Bridgeton, New Jersey, a rural town with a county jail, a state prison, and a federal prison. The study focuses on the world outside of these correctional facilities, bringing the examination of incarceration out of the realm of federal policies and onto the ground. The dissertation is anchored by an archival unearthing of land deeds that details how each unit of land came to be a prison site, and by a chronicle of family and life histories based on more than two hundred ethnographic interviews and eighteen months of participant observation. Mass incarceration has been primarily understood as a federal response to deindustrialization driven by a racist backlash to expanded civil rights. This research reframes the longue durée of the U.S. carceral project by showing that long before the prisons were sited, the town was practicing “carceral governance,” a theory the grantee develops to illuminate how racialized practices of surveillance, segregation, and containment both enforces conformity and engenders dissent. The study analyzes the many dimensions of governance that cut across local-federal and public-private distinctions and offer an understanding of the impact federal policies can have on local democratic practice and daily life. The project foregrounds how formerly incarcerated and non-incarcerated residents become political activists, and how they come to articulate their ethical understanding of self, community, and rights alongside the daily struggle for economic survival and social mobility—all within the context of deindustrialization police violence, and a prison boom. From this perspective, mass incarceration is not simply a way to describe an acute federal crisis within American democracy. Rather, mass incarceration appears as only the current iteration within a much longer carceral, democratic project implemented over time and with collaboration between local, state, and federal realms.

LAKE C. POLAN, then a graduate student at University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, was awarded a grant in April 2016 to aid research on “The Techno-Politics of American Privacy,” supervised by Dr. Joseph P. Masco. This project explores the efforts of Silicon Valley-based technology corporations to protect privacy using design and engineering. It asks whether, how, and for whom privacy’s meaning and practice changes as, increasingly, we come to think of privacy as best achieved through information technology. During fourteen months of fieldwork among privacy and technology engineers, designers, and activists in the San Francisco Bay Area, the grantee observed how, as technologists seek to embed something
recognizable as privacy in their products, they symbolically and materially “tether” privacy to the logics and tools of commercial software development. Further, Silicon Valley corporations frequently gauge the success of privacy solutions in terms of their perceived ability to contain or manage the destabilizing forms of logical and emotional uncertainty, which digital surveillance has attached to places (e.g., the home, the car), objects (e.g., computers, cellphones) and behaviors (e.g., surfing the web) long presumed by law or social norm to be private. The form of privacy produced in this context is thus gauged as much with respect to the emotions, expectations, and calculations elicited in consumers by technology devices as it is by the formal privacy-preserving properties of any particular technology.

LARA RODRIGUEZ-J-DELGADO, then a graduate student at George Washington University, Washington, DC, was awarded a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “The Social Life of ‘Frackquakes’: Geology, Activism, and Governance in Oklahoma’s Earthquakes Controversy,” supervised by Dr. Hugh Gusterson. This project examines struggles to redefine the legacies and futures of energy extraction in Oklahoma in the context of public and technical controversies over the seismic risks of fracking. Participant observation and interviews were conducted among geoscientists, residents, activists, and state officials holding competing views on the alleged link between fracking and a recent, unprecedented upsurge in earthquakes. Such debates have tested both authoritative narratives of the imperative of fossil-energy innovation in Oklahoma and the limits of earthquake science itself. The study traces multiple constructions of causation, risk, and intervention, and analyzes the practices and politics of expertise, probes the role of geological knowledge in social and political relations with contested landscapes, and tracks the emergence of grassroots activism. Findings underscore how novel geological disturbances are not only significant for the ways they challenge technoscientific and governmental action but also are integral to the everyday ways in which those exposed make sense of their histories and futures. The study contributes to understandings of the relationship between science, politics, environment, and society, illustrating the shifting role played by geoscientific communities who are today thrust into technopolitical controversies over the effects of the “shale revolution,” and, in turn, on how their ideas and beliefs interact with the formation of activist and regulatory publics.

DR. SOLEN ROTH, University of Montreal, Montreal, Canada, was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2016 to aid research and writing on “Culturally Modified Capitalism: Indigenizing Capitalist markets in the Name of Cultural Perpetuity.” This research examines the market of Indigenous-themed products in Canada through two case studies: 1) in Vancouver, British Columbia, it shows how Northwest Coast artists and entrepreneurs have progressively gained greater control over the industry that reproduces their designs on mass-produced objects of everyday life; and 2) in the Upper Mauricie region of Québec, it discusses how members of the Atikamekw Nehirowisiwok Nation are currently working to develop a market for their art products in a way that respects their social institutions and nurtures their ways of life. In these two contexts, as a result of the involvement of Indigenous artists, entrepreneurs, and employees in the commodification of their own cultural heritage, capitalist market relations are infused with approaches to property, relationships, and economics that directly reflect their histories and worldviews. These processes result in examples of what can be called “culturally modified capitalism,” a concept that highlights the reciprocal tension that exists between the use of capitalism as a means of perpetuating local cultures and, in turn, the perpetuation of capitalism by its integration of culturally specific values and practices.
MARISA SOLOMON, then a graduate student at New School University, New York, New York, received funding in October 2014 to aid research on “Letting Trash Talk: Garbage in the Order of People,” supervised by Dr. Miriam Ticktin. This research explored the race and class politics of long-distance waste management connecting the historically black neighborhood of Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn, and the working-class region of southeastern Virginia. This research focused on how the placement of waste infrastructure, primarily landfills—is implicated in the uneven decisions about which cities and neighborhoods need to be “cleaned” in order to “gentrify” and how those displaced by gentrification are affected by the material and discursive significance of “trash” in the clean-up discourses of gentrification initiatives. By working with dispossessed waste laborers, this research shows how poor and working-class people use objects and their own re-readings of objects as a way to comment on the racial histories shaping initiatives to “improve” space through a variety of strategies—such as re-selling or recirculating objects from housing demolition, or re-selling magazines in white spaces to support the disappearance of black businesses. Being attentive to the different uses working-class people of color have for waste, this research shows how integral “trash” is to the way capitalism determines the value of space, and how people can or cannot make claims to belonging.

DIANA M. STANLEY, then a graduate student at McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Caring in Custody: Subjectivity and Personhood in a Men’s Prison Hospice,” supervised by Dr. Ellen Badone. This research explores end of life and hospice care in U.S. state prisons. More precisely, the study examines community-based hospice care that includes prisoners in the process, and the experiences of prisoners as either receiver or provider of end of life care. The research involves a critical policy analysis and fieldwork over two years in men’s maximum and medium security prisons. The grantee conducted participant observation of prison medical units, infirmaries, an assisted living unit and a prison hospice and interviews with prisoners, correctional and medical staff, and local hospice experts. This study also followed the journeys of five men through terminal illness, active dying and physical death, and the experiences of the prisoners who cared for them. The research offers new insights into the paradoxes of care and custody, life and death, compassion and suffering, as well as the intersections between them. This study presents a counter-narrative to popular representations of prisons – and those who inhabit its spaces – as inherently violent and offers new understandings of the carceral world as spaces were car(ing) might exist within, but also apart from, repression. The research will inform policymakers and suggest meaningful models of peer-based, person-centered hospice care that include prisoners in the process.

SHREYA SUBRAMANI, then a graduate student at Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Cartographic Citizenship: An Ethnography of Grassroots Mapping in the U.S. Gulf Coast,” supervised by Dr. Joao Biehl. Retitled “Venturing On: The Carceral Politics of Entrepreneurialism in New Orleans, Louisiana,” this project is an ethnography that explores how punitive and market logics are mutually dependent and entangled in the social and political processes of racialization. Based on two years of fieldwork in the city of New Orleans supported by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program and the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the research traces the institutional and intimate socialites of the formerly incarcerated and their families as well as the legal professionals, nonprofit operatives, city planners and municipal bureaucrats—who, together, participate in the growing marketplace of reentry. Specifically, this work focuses on the courts and city/nonprofit efforts that emphasize vocational training, sustainable employment, financial planning and business ownership as putative modes of
emancipation. This work argues that the ethics of entrepreneurialism emphasized by these reentry projects obscure the racialized histories and logics constitutive of venture capitalism, property ownership, citizenship and labor today. Thus, the grantee more generally critiques the political potentials of progressive, “innovative” redesigns of criminal justice institutions, neighborhoods, families and personhood alike through the narratives of this study’s ethnographic collaborators.

THOMAS FREDERICK THORNTON, then a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, received funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Incarceration, Christianity, Obedience: Ethical Life Inside a Maximum-Security Faith Dorm,” supervised by Dr. Naveeda Khan. From September 2017 through February 2018, the researcher began an ethnographic study of inmates and Christian chaplains inside and around a maximum-security prison in Alabama. The researcher examined the relationship between prison security and Christianity—how two doctrines of obedience (a penal ethic and a Christian ethic) are combined through having a “faith dorm” in prison. Based inside this faith dorm, this research sought to understand the kind of ethical lives emerging through the paradoxical position of Christianity: offering possibilities of salvific freedom transcendent to the prison while remaining subordinate to penal security. To follow the ethical lives and possibilities the faith dorm affords, the researcher worked extensively with inmates, attended regional chaplaincy meetings deciding how religious practices and penal security fit together, and followed missionary chaplains through their Anabaptist-based chaplaincy organization and in their pastoral work to disciple inmates. The researcher observed how security’s focus on the body conditions the ethical work Christianity does inside (and outside) the prison—making bodies “faster than the flesh.” From this research more attention will be directed toward how a space of discipline is made into a space of ethics through examining the bodily engagement with the penal environment.

MARK WEBB, then a graduate student at City University of New York Graduate Center, New York, New York, received a grant in October 2016 to aid research on “Crisis on Campus: Student Debt, Risk and the Financialization of Young Futures,” supervised by Dr. Leith Mullings. Seeking insight into the kinds of new financial subjectivities that emerge within a growing student debt crisis, data was collected during twelve months of fieldwork at New York University. Using participant observation and semi-structured interviews, the language, data was gathered on the action, and affect, of white, middle-class student debtors of both genders in order to examine the ways they embodied, expressed, or elided financial risk. Based upon this data, this study concludes that student loan repayment is a moment of dispossession through financial expropriation that has meaningful impact on how students experience their college education and early years after graduation.

DR. ANNA JANE WILLOW, Ohio State University, Marion, Ohio, was granted funding in October 2015 to aid research on “Contested Developments and Cumulative Effects: Understanding Diverse Responses to Energy Resource Development in British Columbia’s Peace River Region.” Why do residents of a shared geographic territory respond differently to energy resource development? Why do some people facing uninvited industrial expansion take action to protect the land while others allow extractive endeavors to go unchallenged? Spread over two successful seasons of summer field research, this project generated rich primary data on diverse responses to energy extraction in the Peace River region of northeastern British Columbia, Canada. Informed by an understanding of humans as components of complex and conjoined socioecological systems, this field research provides an essential ethnographic foundation upon which theoretical considerations of how physical,
cultural, and political elements converge to produce future realities will be built. Situated in a district concurrently facing oil and gas production and pipelines, coal mining, and the ongoing but fiercely debated construction of the Site C hydroelectric dam, a cultural cumulative effects framework was created as a way to communicate industrial activities’ true costs and identify how past experiences of extraction influence present decisions. Preliminary analysis suggests that physical proximity to impacts, perceived economic need, customary relationships to land, empowerment/efficacy, dedicated leadership, and access to information play important roles in determining whether individuals embrace, accept, or oppose environmentally-transformative undertakings.

JONNA M. YARRINGTON, then a graduate student at University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, was awarded funding in October 2017 to aid research on “The Disappearing Island: The Effect of Imminent Displacement on Social Exchange Relations on Tangier Island,” supervised by Dr. Brackette Williams. This ethnographic and archival research project examines the effect of the threat of imminent displacement on intergenerational exchange on a small island in the Chesapeake Bay, USA. Data gathered over seventeen months focuses on inheritance, succession, and relatedness, and concepts of nature, change, time, and space from 1900 to 2018. Methods include archival work, interviewing, genealogical and oral history elicitation, and participant-observation. The field site, Tangier Island, is an incorporated town, just over one square mile, of 430 inhabitants, belonging to Accomack County, Commonwealth of Virginia. Residents are watermen and tugboat owners and their families—white, lower income, politically conservative, Christian, skeptical of science and climate change. Social organization is characterized by networks of roles, residences, and kinship relations, which, over time, continue to be densely interconnected as they are reproduced by younger generations. The island, a series of three ridges, is predicted by scientists to be uninhabitable in 25-50 years due to subsidence. Residents have been aware of flooding and land loss since the island was settled in the 1770s and increasingly during the 20th century, following the great storm of August 1933, periodic dredging of the northern channel, and seasonal storms and “king tides” that cripple movement on the island.

TALI ROSENMAN ZIV, then a graduate student at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was awarded funding in April 2017 to aid research on “The Politics of Rehabilitation: Correction, Care and Psychic Life in the Re-entry of the Philadelphia Poor,” supervised by Dr. John Jackson, Jr. A great deal of recent media and academic attention has centered on alternatives to incarceration as cities across the country move to reduce their jail populations and transition to community diversion alternatives. These efforts are particularly salient in Philadelphia, the poorest of America's top ten largest cities that has the highest incarceration rate, as well as the second highest opiate-related overdose rate of all of the largest counties in the country. City government has publicly stated that incarceration is no longer an acceptable solution, and is relying on the Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) to develop and lead jail reduction efforts in the city. CJAB and its subcommittees have developed upwards of six new diversion programs under the purview of MacArthur Grant reforms and the Opiate taskforce which were rolled out in 2017 and will be renewed in 2018. This project explores this process of recovery and rehabilitation in Philadelphia as an intimate process of power negotiation and future reckoning, as well as a political and economic shift that hinges upon a contraction of the “prisonfare” state. Through ethnographic research at the community and municipal levels, this research interrogates the long-term relationship between the community, the criminal justice system, and its markets, articulating how these institutional relationships play out in the intimate life of the subject and the therapeutic practices of social workers and case managers.
**Oceania and the Pacific:**

KATHRINE ANN CAGAT, then a graduate student at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, United Kingdom, received a grant in October 2015 to aid research on “Challenging Interruptions: A Political Ecology of Road Networks in Ifugao, Philippines,” supervised by Dr. Konstantinos Retsikas. By exploring the entanglement of road networks and dynamic weather conditions, this research apprehends mobility in relation to interruptions, with the aim of framing climate change discussions in relation to the daily, mundane negotiations and tensions experienced by communities. This ethnographic research focuses on the Banaue-Hungduan-Benguet Road and the Kiangan-Tinoc-Buguias Road and the dynamic weather forces experienced in the province. The two roads connect the different municipalities of Ifugao Province and links them to nearby provinces. Additionally, the roads traverse an agro-eco system that includes privately owned forests, grasslands, and agricultural fields, which are impacted by weather forces, but also contributes to how people manage climate change impacts. The research investigates how roads are constituted in the climate change challenges faced by communities in Ifugao Province and the strategies residents employ against these challenges. Furthermore, the research examines the materiality of the landscape, including road networks, to unpack local discourses on the allocation of provincial resources and tensions regarding the reconciliation of economic development and management of natural resources. As such, this research considers a spectrum of interruptions constituted in changing and dynamic weather and road conditions in Ifugao, and how people navigate them.

SOPHIE PASCOE, then a graduate student at University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, received funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Storytelling REDD+: Interactions and Inequalities between Global Environmental Governance and Local Lives,” supervised by Dr. Wolfram H. Dressler. This research is centered on the intersections and inequalities that emerge as global environmental governance initiatives, like Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), are translated locally in Papua New Guinea (PNG). It focuses on the multiplicity of “ontological” assumptions—that is, assumptions about the nature of existence—that intersect and mingle in the context of climate change and environmental governance. Through ethnography and storytelling, it investigates how people implicated in the Central Suau REDD+ Pilot Project in the Milne Bay Province negotiate heterogeneous assumptions to make sense of complex processes of socio-environmental change. Importantly, this work analyses how the foregrounding of certain assumptions over others enables and constrains particular approaches to environmental governance that may generate and reinscribe inequalities. By using institutional ethnography to trace the ways that actors privilege certain assumptions to stabilize the REDD+ assemblage in PNG, this research also explores the exclusion and marginalization of alternative ways of being and knowing in the world. Drawing attention to the precariousness and instability of the REDD+ assemblage in PNG, this research problematizes these inequalities and attempts to open up a space for different, more equitable, approaches to environmental governance to emerge.

HELENA ZEWERI, then a graduate student at Rice University, Houston, Texas, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Between Watchful Care and Surveillance: Humanitarian Reason and the Criminalization of Forced Marriage in Australia,” supervised by Dr. James D. Faubion. Upon completion of the funded portion of research, this project was retitled “Expanding Definitions of Family Violence: Knowledge Politics in Australia’s
Emergent Forced Marriage Sector." In the state of Victoria, Australia, where fieldwork was completed over twelve months, the definition of family violence has expanded to account for more subtle forms of family pressure and to extend accountability across multiple family members. In the aftermath of a federal law which makes coercing someone into a marriage a federal-level crime, this project examined how forced marriage, in particular, has emerged as a unique category of family violence. As caseworkers, policymakers, law enforcement, health practitioners, and community workers attempt to define the fine line between situations of consent and coercion, experiences of family pressure in marriage are rendered diagnosable and assessable through the recruitment of particular notions of couplehood, kin, and domesticity. The research found that the knowability of forced marriage is increasingly being refracted through existing frameworks around public health and morality, which are also tethered to a broader politics of multiculturalism. This politics ends up recasting recently resettled Muslim immigrant communities, in particular, as simultaneously victims of and potential resisters to forced marriage. Thus, this study of a policy sector in formation converses with work that interrogates how contemporary liberal settler colonial forms of governance tie gender-based violence to the politics of citizenship.

General/Comparative

DR. GOKCE GUNEL, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, was awarded funding in April 2017 to aid research on “Powerships: Energy Imaginaries, Provisional Infrastructures, Afro-Asian Connections.” This grant supported ethnographic research on powerships—repurposed ships that serve as mobile power generators. Currently, the only commercial producer of powerships is a family-owned Turkish company, which converts second-hand ships into floating power plants, and leases them to various countries for periods ranging from two to twenty years. Powerships attach themselves to national grids, and using heavy fuel oil or natural gas, produce inexpensive electricity for countries such as Lebanon, Iraq, Ghana, Zambia and Indonesia. Through ethnographic analysis, this project interrogated how the producers and users of floating power plants understand current and future energy challenges. More specifically, the project asked: 1) What are possible emergent energy futures in non-Western countries? What are the conditions that facilitate and make contingent systems, such as floating power plants, desirable? 2) How are floating power plants engineered and used? What does the temporariness and contingency of power plants mean to the various actors involved in producing and employing them? How do we compare these provisional infrastructures to state-centric modernist infrastructures, such as hydroelectric dams? And 3) How do recent transformations in social, political and economic relations between Turkey and countries in sub-Saharan Africa impact energy infrastructures and vice versa? Although the initial project proposal for this grant imagined that the project would take place in Turkey, Ghana and Lebanon, limitations with access required the fieldwork to focus only on Turkey and Ghana. Ethnographic research also took place among a Turkish business delegation in Algeria, Mauritania and Senegal during a diplomatic trip in February and March 2018.

ALYSSA PAREDES, then a graduate student at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, received a grant in May 2016 to aid research on “Altering Asia’s Banana Republic? The Making of an ‘Alternative’ Commodity Chain along the Pacific Rim,” supervised by Dr. William W. Kelly. This ethnographic project was conducted for eighteen months between August 2016 and January 2018, and it explored the material and immaterial makings of banana supply chains between the Philippines and Japan. Fieldwork was conducted on two distinct trade networks: the first for conventional plantation Cavendish bananas, and the second for
wild, non-plantation balangon bananas. This project adopted the “commodity chain,” broadly understood, as a methodological heuristic for collecting qualitative and quantitative data. A comparative study of the agro-ecological crop systems and supply chain logistics of the two different varieties revealed how moral and infrastructural networks shaped how communities engaged in local political movements and transnational solidarity. In particular, fieldwork focused on Filipino and Japanese locals’ involvements in issues such as highland plantation expansion, aerial spraying and chemical use, and Fusarium Wilt (a deadly fungal disease) control. This research aspires to contribute to economic and ecological anthropology, and to transregional scholarship on the inter-Asian region.

OSCAR PEDRAZA VARGAS, then a graduate student at City U. of New York, Hunter College, New York, New York, received funding in April 2016 to aid research on “The Measure of Death in Gold: Transnational Negotiations and the Creation of Value of Human Rights Cases,” supervised by Dr. Marc Edelman. What makes some deaths more important than others? What is required for transnational human rights institutions, discourses and practices to consider a particular death important or emblematic? What defines the value of death for aid agencies, NGOs, social movements and human rights? The research investigates human rights violations associated with coal mining and the processes through which events of death become (or fail to become) emblematic. This project will answer these questions by studying, on the one hand, the technical procedures that produce the authority and feasibility of the case, such as the legal knowledge, technical procedures, and the gathering of documentation, forensic evidence and testimonies. On the other hand, it will also follow the cases in the transnational networks of institutions, practices, discourses and affects in which they circulate and are negotiated. The project highlights the conflicts of social movements, human rights and environmental activists with the economies, materialities and epistemologies of environmental law and rights; and the activists’ relations with human rights and extractivists networks. It does this by analyzing the interactions of key actors and institutions, such as human rights activists, grassroots movements, corporations, scholars, courts, documents, mining infrastructure, judges, aid agencies, government representatives and multilateral organizations.

JACOB RINCK, then a graduate student at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, was awarded funding in April 2015 to aid research on “Political Competition in Nepal’s Tarai: Between Regionalism, Labor Migration, and Patronage,” supervised by Dr. Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan. Over the past eighteen years, labor migration to Malaysia and the Gulf states has become a broad-based social phenomenon in Nepal, to the extent that remittances for the past several years have equaled 25-30 per cent of GDP, and have led to a sharp reduction of poverty rates. This dissertation project inquires into the effects that labor migration has had in terms of labor relations, land markets, and changing developmental visions. Research during the eighteen months grant period was conducted both in a set of villages in Nepal’s southeastern Tarai plains and in Kathmandu. In the former, field research centered on the micro-political effects that migration has had in village life, trying to understand these in the context of longer histories of exploitative agrarian relations, developmental interventions and political upheavals, and examining how the social memory of these histories influenced migration and how its effects were understood. In Kathmandu, research focused on public debates on migration, including in news magazines, literary productions, and government and development donor reports. The dissertation based on this research will ask questions about how those adversely included in global economies and inequalities analyze and evaluate these, and form new aspirations and imagine their futures.
DR. JONATHAN H. SHANNON, City University of New York, Hunter College, New York, New York, received funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Sounding Home: Music and Nostalgia among Syrian Refugees in the Eastern Mediterranean.” The study investigated the role of music in negotiating the lived experience of displaced Syrians in Turkey, Italy, and Greece, countries that host significant populations of displaced Syrians, including many musicians. Focusing on Syrian musicians and their audiences, the grantee investigated how musical performance and listening contribute to the production of a sense of belonging, home, and affective community among displaced Syrians. Furthermore, the study inquired about the role of displaced Syrians in the preservation and transformation of their endangered musical traditions. The research revealed many contradictions in the experience of displacement among Syrians in these sites, as well as in the role of music in their affective reconstitution of home in second homelands. Some were able to thrive in Istanbul whereas others sought stability in Europe. Some returned to Istanbul and even to Syria after disappointing experiences in Europe. The project necessity expanded to include the experiences of diasporic Syrians from Turkey to northern Europe. Preliminary findings prove Syrians to be resilient agents in instrumentalizing musical performance to garner material and social capital, and to be active agents in processes of cultural preservation, revival, and innovation.

ANNA WEICHSELBRAUN, Stanford University, Stanford, California, received funding in February 2018 to aid engaged activities on “Designing Effective and Credible Nuclear Safeguards.” Support allowed the grantee to travel to Austria in September 2018, to present research results to former interlocutors. The project allowed the grantee to return to the site of her dissertation research, which explored the production of authoritative knowledge for the International Atomic Energy Agency’s nuclear treaty verification regime. The grantee met individually with eighteen interlocutors, discussing research insights, soliciting feedback, and eliciting what new critical challenges had arisen since the fieldwork was terminated. The grantee is drawing up the ideas generated from these conversations, and will stay in touch with informants about further directions to take the research results and new insights generated from the engaged activities.
CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

“Populism in Theory: Towards an Anthropological Frame”
January 10-12, 2017, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
Organizers: Giacomo Loperfido (U. Barcelona) and Bjorn Bertelsen (U. Bergen)

Participants were asked to depart from approaches established in the literature on populism, and to deal with the current outburst of political phenomena by looking more at their structural underpinnings than at the phenomena themselves. Panels were designed for younger scholars to bring in their research material and analyses, while senior participants put together theory-oriented interventions. This allowed for the creation of a dynamic and innovative debate, based on the interaction between recent empirical studies and experienced scholars established in theory production. Discussions covered a wide range of topics, such as "Ideological genealogies of populism"; "The consolidation of radical right wing formations all over the world"; "Social, cultural and spacial transformations in urban settings"; "Economic crisis and the establishment of new monopoies/new spheres of economic marginalization," and the connections of all these phenomena with the general transformations of contemporary political orders. Geographical areas discussed were Europe, South America, Australia, the far East, and the USA. The discussion also reached a significant level of historical depth, looking at the structural conditions that have produced similar phenomena throughout history.

"Technologies and Assemblages: Retheorizing Contemporary Media in Anthropology"
March 17-18, 2017, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania
Organizers: Damien Stankiewicz (Temple U.) and Christopher Fraga (Swarthmore C.)

The primary aim of the meeting was to bring together a small group of engaged scholars in order to develop a set of innovative theoretical and methodological interventions for the anthropological study of evolving media practices and technologies. Over the course of two days, invited participants engaged in conversations about the following theoretical topics: The "half-lives" of media technologies and the syncopated rhythms of their uptake by different populations in different geographical contexts; the metaphors of media "worlds," "ecologies," and "topologies," especially as they relate to the multiple, partial and overlapping ways in which people engage with different media; and the comparative advantages and disadvantages of the concepts of mediascapes and assemblages. The workshop closed with discussions of how these theories can be incorporated into the discipline's existing methodological repertoire, as well as enrich it with fresh possibilities drawn from ethnographic filmmaking and contemporary artistic practice. An edited volume is planned.

“Taking Nature to the Courtroom in South Asia”
June 15-16, 2017, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK
Organizers: Anthony Good (U. Edinburgh) and Daniela Berti (U. Florence)

This workshop explored three specific legal contexts in which environmental issues, and the relationship between ecology, politics and religion, have come to the fore in contemporary South Asia: 1.) development projects; 2.) the designation of environmentally protected areas; and 3.) animal rights. Such litigation often unites unlikely allies, bringing together not only internationally-inspired ecological campaigners but also politicians from the nationalist right.
In India the judicialization of environmental disputes has been facilitated by the growth of Public Interest Litigation, and the creation in 2010 of a National Green Tribunal (NGT), whose operations and limitations – regarding pollution of the River Ganges, for example – were the focus of several workshop contributions. Both innovations allow environmental activists, including judges, to take up alleged violations of constitutional rights without themselves being directly injured parties. The other principal focus of the workshop was on animal rights, including recent attempts in India and Nepal to introduce legal bans on the practice of animal sacrifice in popular Hinduism; legal prohibitions on the slaughtering of cattle and their problematic enforcement; and the bureaucratic conflict between the need to safeguard citizens from attacks by leopards and monkeys, and the demands of wildlife protection laws.

“Innovative Religiosity in Postwar Sri Lanka”
*July 11-13, 2017, Open University, Colombo, Sri Lanka*
Organizer: Mark Whitaker (U. Kentucky)

A three-day ethnographic workshop gathered 18 anthropologists, local and foreign, to ask why innovative religious practices and institutions in Sri Lanka have achieved a new prominence since the end of an inter-ethnic civil war in 2009. “Innovative” in this context meant practices and institutions located at the borders of world religions, and perhaps there creating new opportunities for either (or both) inter-religious tension and tolerance. Such innovations were particularly apparent at Sri Lankan ritual centers where devotees of various religions mingle. Since Sri Lanka is religiously and ethnically plural, with a history of violent, religiously inflected, ethnic nationalism, the invited scholars worked on all of Sri Lanka’s officially recognized religions – Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity – as well as on associated ‘New religious Movements.’ This broader analytic approach made comparisons across religions possible and allowed scholars to ask whether Sri Lanka’s postwar religious innovations shared a common cause and direction. The workshop concluded that Sri Lanka’s religious innovations are complex: promoting tension where nationalists require unanimity and occasioning tolerance elsewhere. And either case is still driven by socio-political questions left unanswered by the war.

“Migrants and Documents: A View of the Nation-State from Below”
*August 9-11, 2017, University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado*
Organizers: Sarah Horton (U. Colorado – Denver) and Josiah Heyman (U. Colorado - Denver)

The workshop brought together an interdisciplinary group of scholars to consider the role of documentation in processes inscribing immigrants in the nation-state. Taking an ethnographic perspective, this workshop addressed the relationship between migrants and varying scales of government in an era of intensified enforcement. Participating in the workshop were experts in anthropology, geography, sociology, and legal studies, and they presented papers on such topics as "Documentation Strategies among Kichwa Migrating to Europe," "Knowing your Rights in Trump's America: Paper Trails of Community Empowerment," and "In-Between Legal Spaces: Temporary Legal Statuses and Confusions for Street-Level Bureaucrats.” The revised papers will be submitted to Duke University Press.
“Anthropology Within and Without the Secular Condition”
September 5-7, 2017, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY (USA)
Organizers: Khaled Furani (Tel Aviv U.) and Joel Robbins (Cambridge U.)

A group of ten scholars from American, Canadian, Brazilian, British, and Israeli universities met to present papers at a workshop on the secular making of modern. Convened at the Advanced Research Collaborative at CUNY’s Graduate Center, participants addressed the multifaceted entanglement of anthropology with the secular condition. The areas examined included anthropological theory, method, ethics, epistemology and history. The fact that scholars came from various national traditions and different disciplinary backgrounds (most were anthropologists, but two participants came from religious studies), and carried with them various intellectual investments in the secular, contributed to a vigorous conversation about these aspects of anthropology. Each paper presentation was followed by a commentary from a designated respondent and then opened up for group discussion. While paper presentations and commentaries ran for a total of twenty minutes, a subsequent group discussion of each paper ran for a further forty. We dedicated the final session to exploring the various publication possibilities.

“Enhancing a Creative Community for Anthropological Inquiry”
September 15-16, 2017, Afro-Latin American Research Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (USA)
Organizers: Alejandro de la Fuente (Harvard U.) and Katheryn Sampek (Tulane U.)

Twenty participants at different stages in career trajectories from Latin America, Canada, and the United States discussed their current research on Afro-Latin American Archaeology and created a basis for future collaboration. The workshop activities addressed four basic questions: 1.) What are the particular challenges and opportunities of Afro-Latin American archaeology? 2.) What can individual researchers and institutions do to move this focus of inquiry (an academic enterprise) and heritage conservation (efforts of community justice) forward? 3.) How can archaeology contribute to Afro-Latin American Studies? And 4.) How can Afro-Latin American archaeology contribute to archaeological method and practice? The rich discussions looked forward more than back, with a good deal of discussion about setting agendas for enhancing research, heritage preservation, and education initiatives. A long-term outcome of the meeting will be the publication of workshop essays. We plan to submit a volume of co-authored papers to the Cambridge University Press series on Afro-Latin America. This volume will be an archaeological sequel to Afro-Latin American Studies: An Introduction, currently under production at CUP.

“Anthropology of Media in Turkey: Theory, Methodology, and Future Orientations”
September 8-10, 2017, Kadir Has University, Instanbul, Pakistan
Organizers: Suncem Kocer Camurdan (Kadi Has U.) and Mehmet Asik (Uludag U.)

The Turkish context is comprised of a dynamic and complex cultural field, which makes it a challenging task for media anthropologists to define their researcher identity and to designate their theoretical approach. The current media environment, marked by censorship, political pressure, and deepening polarization, further complicates the picture for ethnographers of Turkish media and renders it difficult for them to find safe entry points for participant observation. For three days, eighteen media ethnographers gathered to engage in lively
discussions on ethnography as both a methodological endeavour and a theoretical outlook in studying the social and cultural processes of media. A first in this area, the workshop was a first step in constituting a sustainable platform where media ethnographers working in Turkey would develop channels of conversation to define, refine, and expand the tools of anthropological knowledge on media. “Anthropology of Media in Turkey” has launched a sustainable platform for media ethnographers of Turkey where they delve into critical theoretical issues and pressing methodological discussions that are specific to the Turkish context.

"The Lower to Middle Paleolithic Boundary: A View from the Near East"
November 5-10, 2017, Haifa University, Haifa, Israel
Organizers: Mina Weinstein-Evron (U. Haifa) and Yossi Zaidner (Hebrew U.)

The meeting addressed the LP–MP transition from a range of perspectives and evidence. The transition clearly encompassed far more than merely a shift in prevailing systems of lithic production (from bifacial shaping to Levallois reduction). Central to the emerging discussion are questions of the pace and timing of change in different realms of evolutionary development (biological, behavioral and environmental), and the nature of interactions and synergies among various dimensions. Also of interest are the implications of these evolutionary dynamics for testing alternative hypotheses concerning a widespread shift in hominin species (Homo erectus complex to H. sapiens and the Neanderthal), hominid expansions in, out-of, and outside Africa, and diffusion of ideas and innovations. The developments it embodies had far-reaching consequences for subsequent evolutionary pathways throughout the world. The main themes emerging from the workshop include: 1) high regional variation in behavioral adaptations across Europe; 2) the long drawn-out process of loss of Early Stone Age adaptive features into the Middle Stone Age in both South and East Africa; 3) technological and economic/subsistence discontinuity and probably a population break at the LP–MP boundary in the Levant; and 4) the deep time origins and diversification of the Levallois concept, once closely identified with the Middle Paleolithic and MSA.

“Shifting States”
December 11-17, 2017, University of Adelaide, South Australia
Organizers: Richard Vokes (U. Adelaide) and Alison Dundon (U. Adelaide)

The conference brought together Anthropological Associations from three countries: the Australian Anthropological Society, the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth, and the Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/New Zealand. The conference was hosted by the Department of Anthropology and Development Studies, School of Social Sciences with organizational assistance from NomadIT. The conference sought to contribute to, and expand upon, recent anthropological discussions regarding the nature and lived experience of the state. The goal of the conference was to bring together diverse anthropological perspectives and ethnographic engagements with states, in order to generate an urgent and compelling theoretical and ethnographic debate about the shifting nature and experience of states and statecraft as well as agents and institutions. It brought together over 500 national and international delegates from a wide variety of countries to discuss a wide range of themes and issues, experiences and imaginaries. The conference generated an intensity of anthropological theorising of, and ethnographic engagement with,
shifting states across a global context and produced a substantial engagement with the mutually constitutive processes between people and states.

"The Social Lives of Keywords: Lenses on China"
*January 9-12, 2018, Royal Park Hotel, Hong Kong*
Organizers: Louisa Schein (Rutgers U.) and Yinong Zhang (Cornell U.)

The workshop was in part a hands-on meeting to make progress on the inaugural volume for the Chinese-English Keywords Project (CEKP). The CEKP is a growing global network of scholars interested in tracking the multivalence, conceptual incommensurabilities and generative gaps that emerge when key concepts travel between English and Chinese. The goals are to capture the heterogeneity of keyword meanings as they migrate between sites and social contexts, and to take these "social lives" of keywords as lenses on China. The Hong Kong workshop brought together fourteen scholars in the humanities and social sciences from the United States, Europe, Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Workshopping employed an innovative format: "curators" pre-circulated entry drafts, and the group collectively built them, with respondents offering other meanings, sources, histories, and personal or professional anecdotes. Hong Kong professors were invited to offer insights on the theoretical framework, publishing strategies, and potential readership of the keywords project.

"Ten Years of Crisis: The Ethnography of Austerity,"
*January 10-12, 2018, University Institute, Lisbon, Portugal*
Organizers: Maria Pedroso de Lima (U. Institute) and Joao de Pina-Cabral (U. Kent)

The meeting was designed to bring together and contrast analytically the ethnographic material from Southern Europe gathered by three large anthropological projects and compare it with evidence from Northern and Central-Eastern Europe and Latin America. Organizers and participants sought to demonstrate that the anthropological conceptual toolkit is essential to understand what is happening on the ground in the world of ‘austerity’. The comparative debate went beyond the already familiar claims of increased socioeconomic inequality by confronting it with such classic anthropological topics as household economics, intergenerational relations, gender differentiation, approaches to the meaning of work, family and kinship networks, forms of socio-cultural belonging, regimes of indebtedness, and modes of personhood. The group achieved its goals of presenting a broad comparative view of national responses to austerity and generating new methodological, conceptual and theoretical frameworks.

“Emergence of Societal Complexity through Human Environment Relations (ESCHER)"
*February 5-9, 2018, Delft University of Technology, Delft, Netherlands*
Organizers: Joel Gunn (U. North Carolina, Greensboro) and Maurits Ertsen (Delft U.)

The means by which humans came to possess urbanized, adaptable civilizations is a constant fascination for anthropologists, historians, sociologists, statisticians, and water management engineers. A workshop brought together 19 specialists in these disciplines to discuss new
research on how social complexity emerged from continuous interactions between humans, human agency and material properties within landscapes. A special effort was made to design a framework in which the development of complex societies grow with one of history’s most enduring artifacts, water management systems. With the oldest systems dating to around 6,000 years ago, of special interest was recent evidence in multiple areas of the world (including Mesopotamia, China and Peru) that such systems appeared in advance of complex architecture reflecting multi-tiered societies, such as palaces. The workshop makes it increasingly apparent that an expanded conceptual package needs to include both Earth and human systems and their dynamic interactions. One of the goals of the workshop was to evaluate whether simulations formulated for agent-based modeling could be relied on for this task if human and Earth parameters were given equal opportunity at local scales.

“Race, Politics, and Reproductivity”

**February 15-16, 2018, Fordham University, New York, NY (USA)**

Organizers: Daisy Deomampo (Fordham U.) and Natali Valdez (UC-Irvine)

Twelve authors and four discussants were gathered for a workshop entitled “Interrogating the Intersections of Race and Reproduction in Medicine, Science, and Technology.” The primary goal was to convene a group of junior and senior scholars who have been working in diverse sites—such as the neonatal intensive care unit, clinical trials, or prenatal care programs in NYC public hospitals—to incorporate theoretical insights of critical race studies into recent anthropological work on reproduction. The two-day meeting presented cutting-edge research that focused on three main questions: What are the intersections of race and reproduction in global contexts? How do race and reproduction intersect in the context of family making and health care? How does epigenetic science relate to, shape, or change conversations of race and reproduction? Authors presented papers on a wide range of topics based on fieldwork in diverse geographic sites, including Brazil, Mexico, the US, India, and South Africa. Together these papers represent an international engagement with reproduction that places race at the center of analytical and theoretical examination. Plans to publish the papers in a special journal issue are underway.

“Degrowth, Buen Vivir, and other Paths toward Human-Environment Well-Being”

**April 7-10, 2018, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida**

Organizers: Susan Paulson (U. Florida) and Lisa Gezon (U. West Georgia)

The meeting rallied ethnographic research and anthropological theory to widen horizons for thought and action in response to global environmental challenges. It joins growing efforts to shift emphasis from technical adaptation toward transformation of sociocultural systems. With empirical focus on a set of radically diverse efforts to recuperate, adapt, and forge paths toward human-environment well-being, participants explored concepts and frameworks that support us to think holistically about each phenomenon and comparatively within a common field. Understandings built across profoundly different ways of knowing and being—expressed in the ethnographic phenomena studied and embodied by workshop participants themselves—pushed us to recognize and imagine more diverse modes of human-environment existence and well-being. In response to American Anthropological Association calls for research and theory engaging climate change, our collaborations have brought long-evolving ideas of holism and cultural relativism into dialogue with intellectual currents including ecological economics, political ecology, and sustainability science. This workshop helped to
build solidarity among participants, and to nourish our ongoing efforts to develop cross-cultural research and theory that influence environmental science and policy, to date largely circumscribed by modern/western ways of knowing and being that have come to seem universal.

“Temporal Frontiers and the Excessivity of Time in Africa”
June 29-July 1, 2018, British Institute of Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya
Organizers: Joost Fontein (British Institute) and Samuel Derbyshire (U. Oxford)

This workshop brought together scholars from across the sciences and humanities to engage with current debates around temporality and forge new trajectories of interdisciplinary research and discussion. With the tension between Einstein’s empiricist notion of relativity and Bergson’s experiential approach to duration as a backdrop, the workshop examined how human perceptions of transformation, continuity, disjuncture and stability both engender and challenge the temporalities we create to make sense of the universe we live in. It fostered lively conversations across regional and disciplinary boundaries to explore some of the fundamental, and perhaps irreconcilable, differences between conceptions and descriptions of time’s structure and function. However, it also stimulated explorations of how these different perceptions reverberate in our lives in startlingly similar ways, emphasizing the common humanity of those engaged in disparate research fields and scales of analysis, and the centrality of the human experience of the passage of time to broader perspectives and understandings. As Africa has the deepest time depth of human inhabitation it was uniquely placed to address these issues. The questions, ideas and themes raised during the workshop will be outlined in a theoretically and methodologically innovative interdisciplinary publication, offering new benchmarks for understanding time and temporality.

“8th Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies”
July 4-8, 2018, U. Cape Town, U. Stellenbosch, U. Western Cape, South Africa
Organizers: Heather J. Brookes (U. Cape Town) and Olivier Le Guen (CIESAS)

The theme of the conference was Gesture and Diversity. The main aim of this conference was to examine the wide range of linguistic and cultural phenomena and other factors that influence and shape gestural diversity. The conference hosted a special focus on the anthropology of gesture, bodily action and their relationship to the communicative ecology of different social groups focusing on, but not limited to, work in the African context and the global south. The aim of the special focus on the Anthropology of Gesture was to: 1) Promote the importance of studying gesture from anthropological perspectives; 2) Increase participation of anthropologists in gesture studies; 3) Promote the study of gesture especially from anthropological perspectives in the global south; 4) Promote anthropological research on gesture in diverse and understudied social groups; and 5) Highlight the value of research on gesture for anthropology.
“Coastal Connections: Pacific Coastal Links from Mexico to Ecuador”
January – August 2018, Multiple Sites
Organizers: Christopher Beekman (U. Colorado) and Colin McEwan (Dumbarton Oaks)

From January through August 2018, the organizers carried out four linked international workshops on the art and archaeology of Pacific coastal Mexico through Ecuador, to provide a fresh assessment of trade, warfare, and interaction among coastal cultures. Participants met at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC, the Museo de Colima in Colima (Mexico), the Museo Nacional in San José (Costa Rica), and the Museos de Arqueología e Arte Contemporaneo in Guayaquil (Ecuador). The longstanding question of coastal interaction has defied serious analysis partly because entrenched culture areas discourage scholarship that must necessarily cross those boundaries. A constellation of leading regional and international scholars was brought together to expose them to the archaeological sequence of materials at the four workshop locales. The workshops helped develop more specific models of coastal interaction and supported the development of a cadre of experts in the broader Pacific coastal littoral. Finally, by holding three workshops in the countries of origin, the organizers successfully facilitated the attendance and participation of more local scholars than if they had all been brought to a USA-based workshop. Based on the meetings, a session at the 2019 Society for American Archaeology meetings as well as at a 2019 symposium at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC.

“New Methods in Skeletal Age Estimation for Diverse Populations”
August 5-11, 2018, Stanford University, Stanford, CA (USA)
Organizers: Bridget F.B. Algee-Hewitt (Stanford U.) and Jieun Kim (U. Tennessee)

The reliable estimation of age-at-death from the human skeleton is of fundamental importance to biological anthropology, as it contributes to the study of morphological variation and the senescent process in modern population biology, the personal identity parameters used in medico-legal case identification in forensic anthropology, and the paleodemographic reconstruction of mortality profiles for skeletal assemblages in bioarcheology. Achieving accurate, precise, and repeatable estimation nevertheless continues to be a challenge, as several unresolved theoretical and methodological problems actively constrain the optimal inference of skeletal age for both juveniles and adults. The week-long workshop invited experts in the field of age-at-death estimation to participate in an intensive period of discussion, debate, and, ideally, resolution on age estimation practice in the context of forensic casework, modern skeletal research, and the determination of age distributions for diverse populations. Through public talks and intensive small-group discussion periods, it has provided a forum for dialogue on the future of age-at-death estimation and a dedicated opportunity to present the new and corrective approaches represented by each invited scholar. Accordingly, it has motivated the participants, as a mix of emerging scholars in the field, well-known pioneers in age estimation methods, and leaders in unique areas of research specialty, to define a path forward for theory, method, and practice. The two-day series of presentations and keynote talks, open to Stanford University, virtual guests and the public, offered a glimpse into the exciting research that is driving change within the field of skeletal age estimation by distinguished international researchers in the areas of biological and forensic anthropology. The three days of intimate and intensive discussion has generated the outline for a critical volume that aims, for the first time, to bridge the gap between cutting-edge research, the start of the art in theory and the needs of practice in the current global casework context.
“The Regimes of the Classic Maya: Toward an Archaeology of Political Communities”
*August 31-September 4, 2017, Tulane U., New Orleans, LA (USA)*
Organizers: Marcello Canuto (Tulane U.) and Maxime Lamoureux-St-Hilaire (Trent U.)

A workshop on "What is a Relation? Ethnographic Perspectives from Indigenous South America," aimed to start a discussion on the ontology of relations within Indigenous South American lived worlds. For three days, ethnographers based in South American countries, working with indigenous peoples from different geographic areas in the region, came together to work towards composing a comparative perspective. The meeting's main focus was what the organizers deemed as a blind spot in the specialized literature: although relations had a central place in it, what they were was usually taken for granted. As a preliminary conclusion, participants agreed that in order to answer what relations were, they should explore what were the effects relations had. From there, the group envisioned that relations were both a constitutive and transformative force. They were the key component of indigenous worlds, and at the same time what made them fluid and unstable, as much as they changed each time a relation was established.

“Humans and Other Animals: Relations in Transformation from Herding to Predation in Southern South America”
*September 3-7, 2018, Instituto Interdisciplinario Tilcara, Jujuy, Argentina*
Organizers: Lucila Bugallo (U. Nacional de Jujuy) and Francisco Pazzarelli (U. Nacional de Cordoba, Argentina)

The goal of this workshop was to discuss ways in which different anthropological approaches analyze human-animal relations, based on specific ethnographies of highland and lowland South America. Importance was given to comparative bridges between the different ethnographic regions, concentrating on similarities and continuities between them. These can be thought of as practical schemas or cosmologies, allowing participants to consider broader aspects of thinking. The comparative anthropological project was thus recovered as one that can account for transitions, transformations and translations between regions and problems. Taking relationships between herding and predation into account, participants reflected on the ways in which humans and other animals mutually transform their positions. The workshop indicated the instability of human and animal positions in different contexts and considered how they unfold into other categories such as “person,” “non-human persons,” “non-human beings.” This instability causes humans and animals to mark out relationships of continuity and discontinuity, constituting broad categories of beings, which may include other “beings” of the landscape, spirits or climatic phenomena. An anthropology capable of richly describing and analysing these relationships must imagine new ways of thinking and experiencing the links between different beings, and the consequences for ideas of “species” and “life” as concepts.
“4th AIBR International Conference of Anthropology”
*September 4-8, 2018, University of Granada, Granada, Spain*
Organizers: Sergio Lopez (SUNY-Potsdam) and Lydia Rodriguez (SUNY-Potsdam)

Once again, this event became the meeting point of scholars coming from all corners of the extensive community of Iberoamerican anthropology. The Network of Iberoamerican Anthropologists (AIBR), together with the Institute of Migrations and the Department of Social Anthropology of the University of Granada, organized the conference. Under the theme “Dialogues, encounters, and stories from the souths,” over 800 scholars discussed the main topics of Spanish and Latin American anthropology in 144 panels. Thanks to the support of the Wenner-Gren Foundation, participants had the opportunity to meet outstanding keynote speakers such as Nigel Barley, Paul Stoller, Teresa del Valle, Monica Tarducci, and Maria Paula Meneses. The conference also afforded participants the opportunity to create initiatives and express solidarity with our Brazilian colleagues after the destruction of Brazil’s National Museum by fire. A short video of the conference can be watched at: [https://youtu.be/7zxPsWA3Ff4](https://youtu.be/7zxPsWA3Ff4)

"(In)Security in Everyday Life: Perspectives from the Middle East"
*September 7-8, 2018, Beirut, Lebanon*
Organizers: Sami Hermez (Northwestern U., Qatar) and Giulia El Dardiry (McGill U.)

This meeting brought an international group of scholars working across the Middle East (Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Yemen, Palestine, Iran, Turkey and Syria) to the Arab Council for the Social Sciences in Beirut, Lebanon. The workshop explored and critically unpacked the micro-relations embedded in questions of security and insecurity in the Middle East. Euro-American models and geopolitical concerns dominate the security discourse in the Middle East, despite studies of regional security having proliferated in the past several decades. In contrast, the workshop privileged people’s everyday lives, taking their experiences, understandings, and terminologies as starting points for what it means to feel (in)secure and explored the strategies that people employ to live with insecurity. The meeting aimed to contribute to a subfield around the Anthropology of Security that can offer a radical critique of dominant modes of understanding security. By focusing on everyday life in the Middle East, the workshop also hoped to contribute to a regionally emergent critical security studies. We investigated how fear, risk, precarity, and instability operate in people’s daily manoeuvrings, and how aspiration, hope, and well-being are achieved and sustained. Among some of our conceptual concerns were temporality, refugees, borders, emotion, gender, and the body—all of which are fundamentally tied to questions of security.

“8th Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)”
*September 13-16, 2018, University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal*
Organizers: Jean-Jacques Hublin (Max Plank Inst. For Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig) and Nuno Bicho (U. Algarve)

A total of 300 participants registered for the conference, in which 208 research presentations occurred (45 Podiums, 25Pecha Kucha, 138 Posters). With the support of a Wenner-Gren Grant, ESHE 2018 launched two new initiatives towards equitable access to conference participation: 1) on and off-site childcare support; and 2) travel grants for scholars and students affiliated with African institutions. The response was a tremendous success,
evidenced by nine families who received funds to subsidize the financial burden of balancing care and attendance in addition to thirteen recipients of African travel grants, eight of whom were students and three postdocs at the time of attendance. ESHE, as a society, is excited by the potential to build upon the 2018 success of these initiatives at future meetings, in addition to seeking out additional ways of reducing disproportionately experienced barriers to attendance.

"21st Congress of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association (IPPA)"

*September 23-30, 2018, Hue, Vietnam*

Organizers: Ian A. Lilley (U. Queensland, Brisbane) and Giang Hai Nguyen (Royal Academy of Cambodia)

The Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association has its origins in the Fourth Pacific Science Congress in Java in 1929, and adopted its current name in 1976. Held every four years, the IPPA Congress is unique because it draws more than half its delegates from the Indo-Pacific region, with the remainder attracted from institutions across Europe and the Americas. This year over 600 delegates participated. The Congress affords an unsurpassed opportunity for colleagues to exchange ideas and attend presentations on the diverse range of research being undertaken across IPPA’s wide region of interest. Participation of delegates from within the region, especially student-presenters, was generously supported by the Wenner-Gren Foundation and the Granucci Fund.

The 2018 Congress highlighted the breadth and depth of research undertaken by members of the IPPA community. The main themes focused on human origins and hominin diversity, early modern human behaviour and mobility, Late Pleistocene-Holocene social development and interaction, the emergence and spread of agriculture and the rise of states and complex societies. Important matters such as heritage management, the role of indigenous communities in archaeological research and the mismanagement and theft of cultural heritage were also canvassed.

“Care at the Nexus of Power and Praxis: Ethnographic Engagements with Caring Otherwise”

*October 11-14, 2018, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri*

Organizer: Lauren Cubellis (Washington U.) and Rebecca Lester (UC-San Diego)

This workshop focused on theoretical and ethnographic engagements with the concept of care: considering care as object of study, caring as practice, relationships through which we come to feel or experience care, and questions and tensions that are provoked in the work of caring or being careful/full. We came to understand care as an inherently ambiguous process, one that must grapple with ambivalence and uncertainty. Our overarching theoretical conclusion tethers to what we have termed “Traces of Care,” drawing on the work of Benjamin and Barthes, among others, to understand how it is that the things we care for and care with linger, are preserved, are enacted, and can be recalled, sustained, or abandoned. We have organized “Traces of Care” into three broad themes: “Material Traces” – in which the work of objects and physical materials become loaded with caring attentions and transformative potential; “Haunting as Trace” – in which memory and mourning as care processes extend into the present, shaping future imaginaries and caring relationships; “Vital Traces” – in which being
a person in the world, caught up in relationships of care, is a fundamental part of social and cultural experience. These three sections will compose the edited volume, *Traces of Care*.

**Cultural heritage Crime and Forensic Sedimentology: Gliobal Responses to Thwart and Prosecute Heritage Destruction and Theft*”

*October 16-19, 2018, Fort Apache, White Mountain Apache Tribe Lands, Arizona*

*Organizers: John R. Welch (Simon Fraser U.) and Ramon Riley (Nohwike Bagowa Museum)*

*Cultural heritage crime* (CHC, also "looting," "graverobbing") refers to unauthorized alteration, damage, removal, or trafficking in materials possessing blends of communal, aesthetic, and scientific values. CHC has evolved from an antiquarian pastime into a tentacle of transnational criminality and colonialist injury known to be complicit in drug and weapon trafficking, cultural genocide, and terrorism. Damage to and removal from graves and heritage sites undermines scholarly pursuits, national sovereignties, and local senses of place, identity, and security. Thus framed as a “glocal” phenomenon, CHC invites global-scale theorizing in concert with local action and broad collaborations to curb CHC. The Fort Apache workshop integrated three previously partitioned domains of expertise: 1) theories of CHC perpetrators’ motivations and methods; 2) tactics for thwarting, prosecuting, and sustaining community opposition to CHC; and 3) archaeology and cultural heritage stewardship. Forensic sedimentology—applications of biophysical science to trace sediments from implicated persons and objects back to crime scenes—served as the touchstone for dialogues among experts in criminology, archaeological sediment sciences, law enforcement, and heritage stewardship. Field visits to CHC crime scenes and workshop deliberations identified pathways toward the integration of CHC theory and practice with forensic sedimentology’s potent battery of analytic methods.
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