

UCLA DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY



MA & PhD Graduates

2019-20

2020-21

Summer 2021



College | Social Sciences
Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology at UCLA acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of **Tovaangar** (the Los Angeles basin and South Channel Islands).

As a land grant institution, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work for the **taraaxotam** (indigenous peoples, in Tongva) in this place. We pay our respects to **Honuukvetam** (ancestors), **'Ahihirom** (Elders), and **'Eyoohiinkem** (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging.

CONGRATS, GRADS!

On June 9, 2021, the Department held a virtual event celebrating our MA and PhD degree recipients. While we would have loved to see everyone and their families and friends in Haines Hall, the virtual celebration does not diminish their achievements and this milestone, and we look forward to celebrating our graduates in person soon.

At the beginning of this strange, sad, and often terrifying year, we had another virtual event where we welcomed our new graduate students. To try to recreate the mood of this yearly in-person celebration the best we could, we constructed a virtual happy hour, sending people randomly, and very briefly, into different breakout rooms to mimic the small groups that form and shift over the course of any informal get together. To give the students who had never been to Haines Hall, campus, or even LA a sense of how these events look, smell, sound, and feel, we described the snacks and types of small talk that one hears in Southern California (so, in other words, a heavy reliance on Trader Joe's hummus and lots of commute talk).

Similarly, the stage was set for the MA and PhD Celebration event: My sewing machine table where I presented the MA and PhD graduates would be a podium and, instead of being subjected to my collection of velvet paintings, attendees would see a backdrop

of the reading room shelves, filled with dusty journal collections with impressive-looking spines. The faculty, the graduates, along with their friends and families and partners and spouses, would be trying to keep our new chairs that too easily roll around in neat rows. A few kids, either along for the ride or already out of school, would be sitting on the floor, placated with coloring books and parental phones. All the while, you would see and enjoy waves to friends across the room, silently mouthed "good to see you" and "how are you" over the tops of people's heads, and mimed applause aimed at the new graduates. During the toasts, there would be champagne (okay, sparkling wine) and lots of shouts and applause.

These last 16 months, we've come together as a community in new spaces: virtual classrooms, webinars, co-writing sessions, and advising groups that often came to resemble group therapy sessions. As anthropologists, one of our central concerns is studying groups—how are publics formed? What is a nation-state? How do audiences hear in a particular way? What I'm getting at, I guess, is that I'd not only like to congratulate the students that are being awarded degrees, but to thank all of you for continuing to come together as a group, over and over again, under very trying circumstances, and absent our usual shared spaces and traditions. We did it, folks.



Erin Debenport
Vice Chair of Graduate Studies
Associate Professor



C. Jason Throop
Department Chair
Professor



MA
Recipients

SARA ISABEL CASTRO FONT, MA

2021

Co-Chairs: Erin Debenport & Paul V. Kroskrity

**HIPSTERS, DRUNKS,
TOURISTS, AND LOCALS:
CALLE LOÍZA AS A SITE OF
IDEOLOGICAL CONTESTATION**

ULISES ESPINOZA, MA

2020

Chair: H. Clark Barrett

**INTUITIONS ON OWNERSHIP
AMONG THE ACHUAR OF
SOUTHEASTERN ECUADOR**

EDEN FRANZ, MA

2020

Chair: Monica L. Smith

**CULTURAL AND
INTERSPECIFIC SYMBIOSIS AT
SALEMI, SICILY: EXPLORING
COLONIAL AND HUMAN-
ANIMAL INTERACTIONS
THROUGH FAUNAL ANALYSIS**

LILIT GHAZARYAN, MA

2020

Chair: Erica Cartmill

**SPEAK BEAUTIFULLY -
LANGUAGE POLICIES AND
PRACTICES IN PUBLIC
KINDERGARTENS IN ARMENIA**

JOELLE JULIEN, MA

2019

Chair: Jemima Pierre

**HAITIAN MIGRATION TO
TIJUANA, MEXICO: BLACK
MIGRANTS AND THE
POLITICAL ECONOMY OF
RACE AND MIGRATION**

**NICCO AMEDEO LA MATTINA,
MA**

2020

Chair: Alessandro Duranti

**"GIVING THE MEANING" AS A
SOCIAL PRACTICE ON
PANTELLERIA: THE
METASEMANTICS OF
ATTUNEMENT**

**ALESSANDRA MAY LAURER
ROSEN, MA**

2021

Co-Chairs: Erin Debenport & Paul V. Kroskrity

**SEMIOTIC LABORS OF
PERSONALIZATION:
MODERNIZATION AND
ACCESS IN AN AMERICAN
YOGA SCHOOL**

ERIC ANDREW SINSKI, MA

2020

Chair: Yunxiang Yan

**IMAGINED COMMUNITIES:
PATRIOTIC SENTIMENT
AMONG CHINESE STUDENTS
ABROAD IN THE ERA OF XI
JINPING**

**DANIELLE LEIGH STEINBERG,
MA**

2021

Chair: Jessica Lynch

**A ROBUST TOOL KIT: FIRST
REPORT OF TOOL USE IN
CRESTED CAPUCHIN
MONKEYS (SAPAJUS
ROBUSTUS)**

"I want to thank everyone who supported me and helped keep me (relatively) sane on this insane journey, especially my BioAnth Cohort; my school wife, Kim; and Jessica, Erica, and Clark and the rest of the faculty and staff!"

JESSIE SERENE STOOLMAN, MA

2020

Chair: Aomar Boum

**WRITING LETTERS AND
READING AGAINST THE GRAIN
OF ANTHROPOLOGY'S PAST**

DONGHYOUN WE, MA

2021

Chair: Akhil Gupta

**FOOD AND RESTAURANTS: A
REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE
AND EXPLORATORY
OBSERVATIONS OF
RESTAURANT PIVOTS IN LA IN
THE TIME OF COVID-19**

SASHA LUTZ WINKLER, MA

2020

Chair: Erica Cartmill

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEX
DIFFERENCES IN PLAY IN
WILD WHITE-FACED
CAPUCHINS**

**MADELEINE LOUISE ZOELLER,
MA**

2020

Chair: Joseph Manson

**EYE SEE YOU: INVESTIGATING
PREDICTORS OF THE EVIL EYE**



PhD Recipients

**FARZAD AMOOZEGAR-FASSAIE,
PHD**

2020

Co-Chairs: Alessandro Duranti & C. Jason Throop

**THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
AND THE OTHER: BEING A
SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILD IN
AMERICA**

THERESA HILL ARRIOLA, PHD

2020

Chair: Jessica Cattelino

**SECURING NATURE:
MILITARISM, INDIGENEITY
AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN
THE NORTHERN MARIANA
ISLANDS**

Yael Assor, PhD

2020

Chair: C. Jason Throop

**OBJECTIVITY AS A
BUREAUCRATIC VIRTUE: THE
LIVED EXPERIENCE OF
OBJECTIVITY IN AN ISRAELI
MEDICAL BUREAUCRACY**

AMANDA JEAN BAILEY, PHD

2021

Co-Chairs: Paul V. Kroskrity & Cheryl Mattingly

**ALLUVIAL HOPE: THE
TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICES
OF PLACEMAKING AT A
MONTANA TRIBAL COLLEGE**

KATELYN JO BISHOP, PHD

2019

Co-Chairs: Richard Lesure & Gregson Schachner

RITUAL PRACTICE, CEREMONIAL ORGANIZATION, AND THE VALUE AND USE OF BIRDS IN PREHISPANIC CHACO CANYON, NEW MEXICO, 800-1150 CE



"I want to extend my deep gratitude to my committee members: Greg Schachner, Richard Lesure, Tom Wake, and Stella Nair. Additional thanks in particular to Monica Smith and Jeanne Arnold, and to my loving and supportive family. Since August 2020, I have been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign."

MOLLY JOSETTE BLOOM, PHD

2020

Chair: Norma Mendoza-Denton

**THICK SOCIALITY:
COMMUNITY, DISABILITY,
AND LANGUAGE IN SPINAL
CORD INJURY
REHABILITATION**

HANNAH ADDALINE CARLAN, PHD

2021

Chair: Alessandro Duranti

PRODUCING PROSPERITY: LANGUAGE AND THE LABOR OF DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA'S WESTERN HIMALAYAS



"This fall, I will be joining the Department of Anthropology at Rollins College as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Linguistic Anthropology. I am grateful to my mentors and peers for their tireless support throughout the PhD, especially during this trying last year. COLA for all!"

**COURTNEY EVELYN CECALÉ,
PHD**

2020

Chair: Jessica Cattelino

**SCIENTIFIC GOVERNANCE
AND THE CULTURAL POLITICS
OF CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION IN THE
PERUVIAN ANDES**

"Congratulations everyone! I'm excited to be graduating with you all — especially after the uncertainties of last year (one helluva year!). Since graduating I have accepted a job in the Department of Anthropology at the University of North Texas, and managed to land on (literally) a dozen graduate student committees. They're doing such exciting work on environmental justice issues across the country. I've had a piece published in *Ethos* (on the connections between ultra running and being high for folks formerly addicted to heroin) and one accepted to the *Journal for Political Ecology* (on labor concerns in the climate change adaption industry). I've begun my own community action research partnership with activists remediating a superfund site in West Dallas. And I have started research on the uneven affects of dangerous heat impacting residents and workers in the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex, with the help of a couple of graduate student researchers. I definitely miss thinking with so many of you, and am really excited to be graduating with you all. Thank you so much to my committee for all their support, and to my friends in the program for the years of solidarity. Honestly, what a wild one."

ALEJANDRO SULEMAN ERUT, PHD

2021

Chair: H. Clark Barrett

LYING: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACH



"I would like to thank Clark Barrett for his constant support, as well as my family, friends, collaborators, the DEI group, and particularly to the Chicham and Wichí communities of South America."

AMY MARIE GAREY, PHD

2020

Chair: Nancy E. Levine

THE PEOPLE'S LAUGHTER: WAR, COMEDY, AND THE SOVIET LEGACY



"Since graduation I have been teaching English as a Foreign Language at Moscow State Pedagogical University and consulting on DuoLingo's Russian curriculum."

NAFIS AZIZ HASAN, PHD

2021

Chair: Akhil Gupta

**TECHNO-POLITICS OF
INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES (ICTS) -
INVESTIGATING PRACTICES
AND SOCIAL RELATIONS IN
INDIAN PUBLIC
BUREAUCRACIES**

KOTRINA KAJOKAITE, PHD

2019

Chair: Susan Perry

**SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN
WILD WHITE-FACED
CAPUCHIN MONKEYS (CEBUS
CAPUCINUS): INSIGHTS FROM
NEW MODELING APPROACHES**

JANANIE KALYANARAMAN, PHD

2021

Chair: Akhil Gupta

**WINDOW SEATS: MAKING
CONNECTION THROUGH
TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY IN
BENGALURU CITY, INDIA**

TANYA RUTH MATTHAN, PHD

2021

Chair: Akhil Gupta

**THE MONSOON AND THE
MARKET: ECONOMIES OF RISK
IN RURAL INDIA**

**MATTHEW RICHARD MCCOY,
PHD**

2020

Chair: C. Jason Throop

**UNSETTLING FUTURES:
MORALITY, TIME, AND DEATH
IN A DIVIDED BELFAST
COMMUNITY**

EVA ROSE MELSTROM, PHD

2021

Co-Chairs: Douglas W. Hollan & C. Jason Throop

**THE GATE OF WEEPING:
ETHIOPIAN WOMEN
RETURNING FROM DOMESTIC
WORK IN THE ARAB STATES
OF THE PERSIAN GULF**

DALILA ISOKE OZIER, PHD

2020

Chair: Sherry B. Ortner

**CITY OF MAGIC: AESTHETIC
VALUE IN THE LOS ANGELES
MAGIC SCENE**

**AGATHA EVANGELINE PALMA,
PHD**

2021

Co-Chairs: Aomar Boum & Laurie Rain Hart

**THE MIGRANT, THE
MEDITERRANEAN, AND THE
TOURIST: FIGURES OF
BELONGING IN POST-
AUSTERITY PALERMO**

SONYA RAO, PHD

2021

Chair: Paul V. Kroskrity

**PRIVATIZING LANGUAGE
WORK: INTERPRETERS AND
ACCESS IN LOS ANGELES
IMMIGRATION COURT**



"Post graduation I'll be the ABF/AccessLex Institute Postdoctoral Fellow at the American Bar Foundation in Chicago."

MINDY GAYLE STEINBERG, PHD

2019

Chair: Thomas S. Weisner

LEGAL STATUS AND THE EVERYDAY LIVES OF MEXICAN-ORIGIN YOUTH IN LOS ANGELES: FAMILY, GRATITUDE, AND THE HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION



"I am incredibly grateful for my training at UCLA and excited to teach the next generation of students. Thank you to the best family, faculty, department, and advisor!"

**CHRISTOPHER SHAWN
STEPHAN, PHD**

2020

Chair: C. Jason Throop

**“FOCUS ON THE USERS”:
EMPATHY, ANTICIPATION,
AND PERSPECTIVE-TAKING IN
HEALTHCARE ARCHITECTURE**

ANOUSH TAMAR SUNI, PHD

2019

Chair: Susan Slyomovics

PALIMPSESTS OF VIOLENCE: RUINATION AND THE POLITICS OF MEMORY IN ANATOLIA



"I received my diploma in September 2019. During the 2019-2020 academic year I was a Manoogian Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Armenian Studies Program and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan. Currently, I am a postdoctoral fellow in the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program and the Department of Anthropology at Northwestern University. I would like to thank my chair, my committee, and the department for their ongoing support! "

GWYNETH URSULA JEAN TALLEY, PHD

2019

Co-Chairs: Nancy E. Levine & Susan Slyomovics

GUNPOWDER WOMEN: GENDER, KINSHIP & HORSES IN MOROCCAN EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCE



"For the past two years I have taught as a lecturer at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Global Integrative Studies. This summer I'm teaching a community based learning course working with Lincoln's Yazidi refugees and their community garden with hopes to continue in the following summers. This fall I will be joining the faculty at the American University in Cairo (Egypt) as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology, Egyptology, and Anthropology. Currently, I'm working on my book manuscript *Gunpowder Women: Playing in Morocco's Traditional Horse Sport* and broadening my research to look at regional multispecies trade and hunting as well as Muslim women in sports in the international arenas.


I want to thank my parents so much for their love, my advisors for their tireless guidance, and to all my research participants and friends in Morocco. I couldn't have done it without you!"

**ALEXANDER MALCOLM
THOMSON, PHD**

2020

Co-Chairs: Laurie Kain Hart & Paul V. Kroskrity

**MESOLOGUES: AN
ETHNOBIBLIOGRAPHIC STUDY
OF CULTURAL AND LINGUAL
POLITICS IN CONTEMPORARY
BRITTANY**



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL
MA & PHD
GRADUATES!**