Dear Friends of the Harvard Department of Anthropology:

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of the Department of Anthropology, I extend to one and all season’s greetings and wishes for a Happy New Year!

The department had a fine and busy Fall semester, with major advances and accomplishments in all areas of the life of the department. Most notably, we celebrated several signal developments in securing, promoting, and seeking new department faculty members.

In terms of promotions, we are extremely pleased to report that our colleague Matthew Liebmann was promoted to full professor with tenure this semester! Matt’s research focuses on the archaeology of the Southwest U.S., with a specialization in the contact period and the historic-era Pueblos of New Mexico. Matt’s tenure and promotion ensures for the department not only the future research accomplishments of this extraordinary archaeologist of the southwest U.S., but also the exceptional teaching and advising commitments of a fellow who was named one of Harvard Crimson’s 15 “Professors of the Year,” in 2016.

We were also extremely pleased at the promotion to associate professor of Anya Bernstein, the John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences (in a joint appointment with the Committee on Degrees in Social Studies). Anya is an anthropologist and documentary filmmaker, whose recent work has focused on the changing geopolitical imaginaries of mobile religious communities across Eurasia. In addition, our archaeology colleague, Christian Tryon, was promoted and named John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences. Christian studies the archaeological, evolutionary, environmental and geological contexts of early Homo sapiens.

A notable addition to the department staff was the appointment of Dr. Philip Kao as Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies and Head Tutor, Social Anthropology. Philip received his B.A. in Economics from the University of Chicago (1999), his MSc in Social Anthropology and Development from the London School of Economics (2005), and his PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland (2014). Philip comes to us directly from a position as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh.

On the teaching side of things, we were joined for the 2017-2018 academic year by Dr. Kaya Williams, who was appointed as a College Fellow in Social Anthropology. Kaya, who earned her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, in 2017, studies anthropologies of the U.S., criminal justice, race, law and affect, among other topics.

The department is deeply engaged this year in searches for two new faculty members. In Archaeology, we are currently conducting a search for a specialist in Archaeological Sciences at the Assistant Professor level. The search got off to an excellent start with a large number of applications in what will be a new position in this burgeoning field of archaeological research. In Social Anthropology, we are searching for a new junior-level position in Thai Studies. This new line came to the
department following the long and ultimately successful efforts of faculty members Michael Herzfeld and Arthur Kleinman to establish a position in this important area of research and teaching. We look forward to success in these two searches and to welcoming two new faculty members to the department next year.

Toward the end of the Fall semester, 2017, the department launched a new digital resource for teaching and pedagogical training in the discipline. This new resource, known as Anthro Writes, has been in development over the last year and is a disciplinarily focused version of the more general, university-wide digital resource, Harvard Writes. Modeled after but innovating on the latter, the department website includes text and videos highlighting department faculty and undergraduate concentrators discussing theory and practice in reading, writing and analyzing anthropological texts. Anthro Writes will serve as an important resource for both undergraduates taking courses in the department as well as for graduate students serving as teaching fellows in those courses. The development of Anthro Writes was funded by a grant from the Dean of Harvard College and is the product of the efforts of former Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Ramyar Rossoukh, as well as numerous students, staff and faculty.

The Office of Undergraduate Studies, under the direction of Ms. Monique Rivera, initiated a new program this year to attract concentrators, dubbed “Breakfast at Tozzer.” Students were invited over several mornings to come to the Atrium of the Tozzer Anthropology Building to share breakfast and conversation with department faculty members. The program was a great success, with many conversations lasting well past the allotted time!

And finally, on the topic of commensality (!), the department chair hosted a faculty dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club at the end of the Fall semester, 2017. The faculty enjoyed an excellent dinner, along with wine and lively conversation. Each of the assembled faculty members was asked in turn to outline briefly a central issue or problem in his/her research, an assignment which stimulated much discussion and sharing of ideas and experiences. The result was a highly informative and lively discussion – a true ‘symposium’!

On that note, I end this letter and wish all of our friends and colleagues a healthy, happy and peaceful 2018!

Sincerely,

Gary Urton, Chair
Student Achievements

Samantha Hawkins

Samantha Hawkins received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant for her research project entitled “Violent Death and the Social Regulation of Memory in Baltimore”.

Alice Huang

Alice Huang ‘18 had two articles published recently on Vice Magazine’s global website entitled 1.) “Why Birth Control Remains Just Out of Reach for Most Indonesian Women” and 2.) “Hypnosis Hysteria: We Get to the Bottom of Indonesia’s Mind-Control Robberies”. Huang is currently producing a documentary on debt collecting industry in Jakarta with Vice.

Manny Medrano

Manny Medrano ’19 is publishing a paper in the journal Ethnohistory in January 2018 about the set of 17th century khipus he successfully decoded during his freshman year. Medrano is first author on the paper, a rare accomplishment for an undergraduate student.

Matthew Magnani


Rachel Thompson

Faculty News

ANYA BERNSTEIN
Anya Bernstein was appointed John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences in August 2017. She is a 2017-2018 Luce/ACLS Fellows in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs for her project and is currently in residence at Columbia University’s Center for Religion, Culture and Public Life.

THEODORE BESTOR
Theodore Bestor received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, from the Japanese Government in November 2017. The Order of the Rising Sun is one of Japan’s highest distinctions. He also received the inaugural Senior Scholar award from the Society of Urban, National, and Transnational Anthropology (SUNTA) section of the American Anthropological Association.

DAVÍD CARRASCO
The inaugural lecture of the Eduardo Matos Moctezuma Lecture Series, an initiative by David Carrasco, kicked off in October 2017 with a presentation by pre-eminent Mexican archaeologist Eduardo Matos Moctezuma. The five-year series celebrates the 40-year collaboration between Carrasco and Moctezuma.

PETER DER MANUELIAN
Peter Der Manuelian received several grants during Fall 2017: 1.) a grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities for his project “Digital Giza”, an immersive website exploring the history, culture, and archaeology of the Giza plateau; 2.) a grant from the Dean’s Competitive Fund for Promising Scholarship for his project “Educational Telepresence: The Virtual “Classroom””; 3.) a grant from the Committee for the Provostial Fund for the Arts and Humanities for his proposal entitled “The Jebel Barkal Stela of Thutmose I”; and 4.) a grant from the Committee for the Anne and Jim Rothenberg Fund for Humanities Research to support “Research in 3D: The Harvard Semitic Museum’s Egyptian Collection project”. Finally, the Harvard Semitic Museum, where Der Manuelian acts as Director, received a grant from the Mass Cultural Council to assist with renovations to its third-floor Mesopotamian gallery. The renovated gallery reopened with an exhibition entitled “From Stone to Silicone: Recasting Mesopotamian Monuments” in December 2017.
ROWAN FLAD
Rowan Flad’s recent publications include: 1.) Andrew Womack, Yitzchak Jaffe, Lingyu Hung, Zhou Jing, Wang Hui, Li Shuicheng, Pochan Chen, Rowan Flad, “Mapping Qijiaping: New work on the type site of the Qijia Culture” in the Journal of Field Archaeology; 2.) Jianping Zhang, Houyuan Lu, Peter Weiming Jia, Rowan Flad, Naiqin Wu, and Alison Betts, “Cultivation strategies at the ancient Luanzaganzi settlement on the easternmost Eurasian steppe during the Late Bronze Age”; and 3.) Rowan Flad, “Urbanism as Technology in Ancient China” in Archaeological Research in Asia. He also gave several talks in Fall 2017, including: 1.) an invited talk entitled “Technology and Culture Change Along the Early Silk Roads” at the Denver Art Museum in December 2017 and 2.) a talk entitled “Investigating Technological Changes Along the Proto Silk Road in Northwest China” at the University of Albany in October 2017.

NICHOLAS HARKNESS
Nicholas Harkness has one recent publication: “Glossolalia and Cacophony in South Korea: Cultural Semiosis at the Limits of Language”. American Ethnologist” in American Ethnologist. He also chaired the SBS Distinguished Lecture in the Social Sciences in September 2017.

MICHAEL HERZFELD
Brown University held a conference in honor of Michael Herzfeld entitled Crypto-Colonialism and the Global South in October 2017. He gave a talk called “Greece Between Imperial Rivals: The Crypto-Colonial Chimera”. He also took part in a conference on food and heritage in Paris, where he gave the keynote address entitled “Manger les traces du «matri-moine» matériel: repenser le ménagement conceptuel de la cuisine” in November 2017. Additionally, he conducted a seminar entitled “Serendipity and Sociality: Conversations with Michael Herzfeld” at the Max Planck Institute in Goettingen, Germany in November 2017. Finally, Herzfeld published an article on anthropological realism in Anthropological Theory.
IEVA JUSIONYTE

Ieva Jusionyte received funding through the Dean’s Competitive Fund for Promising Scholarship Award for her project “Firepower: Social Biography of Guns and Political Economy of Violence in Mexico” in Fall 2017. She was also awarded an Academic Writing Fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, Italy, for a 1-month-long residency in 2018. Finally, Jusionyte has one recent publication: “The Wall and the Wash: Security, Infrastructure, and Rescue on the U.S.-Mexico Border” in *Anthropology Today*.

MATTHEW LIEBmann

Matt Liebmann was awarded tenure and promoted to full Professor of Anthropology in December 2017. He will also serve as Director of the Archaeology Program in Spring 2018. Liebmann gave invited talks at Brown University (Department of Anthropology) and Wellesley College (Art History Department) in Fall 2017. He also published an article in *American Antiquity* entitled “From Landscapes of Meaning to Landscapes of Signification in the American Southwest” that lays out a semiotic argument for Jemez Pueblo’s land claim on the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Finally, he published a chapter entitled “At the Mouth of the Wolf: The Archaeology of 17th Century Franciscans in the Jemez Valley of New Mexico” in an edited volume, *Franciscans and American Indians in Pan-Borderlands Perspective: Adaptation, Negotiation, and Resistance*.

GEORGE PAUL MEIu

JEFFREY QUILTER
Jeffrey Quilter gave a talk entitled “Tales of the Moche Kings and Queens: Elite Burials from the North Coast of Peru” at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology in September 2017.

CHRISTIAN TRYON
Christian Tryon was appointed John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences in August 2017. Tryon was awarded a grant through the National Science Foundation’s Archaeometry Program for his project entitled “Improved dating of archaeological materials with coordinated stable isotope studies”. This grant is to develop the use of U-series dating on ostrich eggshell fragments in concert with other dating methods and paleoenvironmental proxies for application to sites across Africa and Eurasia.

JASON UR
Jason Ur spent August and September 2017 conducting an archaeological field survey in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. He was interviewed about his archaeological research in the Kurdish areas of Iraq, Turkey and Syria, including the Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey (EPAS) by the Kurdistan-based Rudaw News Agency in 2017.

GARY URTON
Gary Urton was honored with an ‘honoris causa’ ceremony in July 2017, where he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the National University of Trujillo. In May 2017, Gary and Eduardo Neves, from the University of São Paulo were awarded a grant from the Lemann Brazil Research Fund at Harvard for research and a field school.
### Anthropology Day

Speakers included: Nicholas Carter, Michael Herzfeld, Ieva Jusionyte, Jeffrey Quilter, Aylin Yildirim Tschoepe, Sadie Weber; with undergraduate panel: Amanda Flores ’18 and Caroline Rakus-Wojciechowski ’18

- **“Everyday Ethics and the Possibility of Critique”**  
  a talk by Webb Keane, University of Michigan

- **“Experimenting in Somalia: The New Security Empire”**  
  a talk by Catherine Besteman, Colby College

- **“Cultural Transmission and Lithic Technology in Middle Stone Age Eastern Africa”**  
  a talk by Kathryn Ranhorn, Harvard University

- **“The Mountain’s Slant: Gold Mining and Making Politics in Marmato, Colombia”**  
  a talk by Elizabeth Ferry, Brandeis University

- **“An Archaeology of Food Choice during the Columbian Exchange in Banda, Ghana”**  
  a talk by Amanda Logan, Northwestern University

### Prospective Concentrator & Faculty Breakfast

Meet-and-Greet Anthropology faculty

- **“The Will to Security: Populism, the Press, and the Politics of Crime”**  
  a talk by Robert Samet, Union College

- **“The Border Wall: Life and Injury on the Front Lines”**  
  a talk by Ieva Jusionyte, Harvard University

- **“Modern Science and the Pre-Disciplinary Development of Indian Colonial Anthropology”**  
  a talk by Chris Fuller, London School of Economics

### Nightmare on Divinity Avenue

Trick-or-Treat/Meet-and-Greet Anthropology faculty and students

- **“Jomon Food Diversity, Climate Change and Long-term Sustainability: Lessons from Prehistoric Japan”**  
  a talk by Junko Habu, University of California, Berkeley

- **“The Survival State: Mathematical Models, Political Depression, and the Sense of History in Putin’s Russia”**  
  a talk by Adam Leeds, Columbia University
“Posting While Palestinian: Colonialism & the Internet in Israel and the West Bank”
a talk by Amahl Bishara, Tufts University

“Fort Center’s Iconographic Bestiary: Notes from a Reanalysis of the Site’s Wood Assemblage”
a talk by Margaret Spivey, Harvard University

a talk by Omar Dewachi, American University of Beirut

“Drawing Back the Dust: Goldsmiths and the Ethos of Relatedness in Bangkok”
a talk by Michael Herzfeld, Harvard University

“Government of Time: Israeli Policy of Shmitah of the Land and the Palestinian Citizens’ Agriculture”
a talk by Natalia Gutkowski, Harvard University

“Exploring Processes of Racialization in Nineteenth Century Nantucket, Massachusetts”
a talk by Nedra Lee, University of Massachusetts, Boston
Anthro 98a: Junior Tutorial in Archaeology
Philip Kao

Anthro 99a: Senior Tutorial in Archaeology
Philip Kao

Anthro 1010: The Fundamentals of Archaeological Methods & Reasoning
Matthew Liebmann

Anthro 1040: Origins of the Food We Eat
Richard Meadow

Anthro 1095: Urban Revolutions
Jason Ur and Jeffrey Quilter

Anthro 1210: Archaeology of Ancient China
Rowan Flad

Anthro 1400: Quests for Wisdom: Religious, Moral and Aesthetic Experiences in the Art of Living
Arthur Kleinman, Michael Puett, David Carrasco and Stephanie Paulsell

Anthro 1450: Water, Infrastructure, and Meaning
Steven Caton and Jason Ur

Anthro 1610: Ethnographic Research Methods
Kaya Williams

Anthro 1661/ HSEMR-LE 75: (Mis)Understanding Islam Today
Bilal Malik

Anthro 1683: The City Jail: Race and Incarceration in the United States
Kaya Williams

Anthro 1742: Housing and Heritage: Conflicts over Urban Space
Michael Herzfeld

Anthro 1761/ VES 176W: The Cinema of Frederick Wiseman I: Towards a Visual Anthropology of Institutions and Power
Lucian Castaing-Taylor

Anthro 2010ar: Materials in Ancient Societies: Ceramics
Richard Meadow
Anthro 2026: Foundation Stones: Archaeological and Evolutionary Approaches to Lithic Technology
Christian Tryon

Anthro 2059/ History 2059: Deep History (Graduate Seminar in Undergraduate Education)
Matthew Liebmann and Daniel Smail

Anthro 2070a: Archaeological Method and Theory
Rowan Flad

Anthro 2250b: Proseminar in Archaeology II
Gary Urton

Anthro 2626/ AAAS 262: Political Economy
Jean Comaroff and John Comaroff

Anthro 2635: Image/Media/Publics
Mary Steedly

Anthro 2646: Infrastructure and its Imaginaries
Stephen Scott

Anthro 2650a: History and Theory of Social Anthropology: Proseminar I
Steven Caton and Ieva Jusionyte

Anthro 2704: Linguistic Pragmatics and Cultural Analysis in Anthropology
Nicholas Harkness

Anthro 2748: The History and Future of Psychological Anthropology
Byron Good, Alasdair Donald, and Robert LeVine

Anthro 2751: Biocapital: Ethnographies of Knowledge and Value
Stephen Scott

Anthro 2812: Space and Power
Ajantha Subramanian

Anthro 2920: Probing the Polity: Alternatives to the State
Michael Herzfeld

Anthro 3200: Dissertation Writing Workshop
Mary Steedly

FRSEMR 44J: Clash of Titans, Seats of Empire: the Aztecs, Toltecs, and Race of Giants in Ancient Mexico
William Fash

FRSEMR 70E: Discovering Cultures and the Sea: Navigation, Exploration, Conquest, and Trade
Ted Bestor

FRSEMR 70N: Finding Your Inner Neanderthal
Christian Tryon

AAAS 209a: Africa Rising? New African Encounters
Jean Comaroff and John Comaroff

CULTBLF 58: Case Studies in Medical Humanities: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Experience of Illness
Arthur Kleinman, David Shumway Jones, and Karen Thornber

CULTBLF 62: Language and Culture
Nicholas Harkness

SOCWORLD 25: Case Studies in Global Health: Biosocial Perspectives
Arthur Kleinman, Anne Becker, Paul Farmer, and Salmaan Keshavjee

SOCWORLD 30: Moctezuma’s Mexico: Then and Now
David Carrasco and William Fash

SOCWORLD 51: Politics of Nature
Ajantha Subramanian

Egyptian AA: The Language of the Pharaohs: Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs I
Peter Der Manuelian