Faculty + Staff

FACULTY

Anya Bernstein
Associate Professor

Theodore C. Bestor
Professor

David Carrasco
Professor

Lucien Castaing-Taylor
Professor

Steve Caton*
Professor

Jean Comaroff*
Professor

John Comaroff*
Professor

Peter Der Manuelian
Professor

Paul Farmer
Professor

William L. Fash
Professor

Rowan Flad
Professor

Joseph P. Gone
Professor

Byron Good
Professor

Nicholas Harkness*
Professor

Michael Herzfeld
Professor

Ieva Jusionyte*
Assistant Professor

Arthur Kleinman
Professor

Matthew Liebmann
Professor

Richard H. Meadow
Senior Lecturer

George Paul Mei
Associate Professor

Michael Puett
Professor

Jeffrey Quilter
Senior Lecturer

Ajantha Subramanian
Professor

Christian Tryon
Associate Professor

Jason Ur
Professor

Gary Urton*
Professor

*On leave Spring 2019

VISITING FACULTY

Patricia Capone
Lecturer

Ari Caramanica
Lecturer

Nicholas Carter
Lecturer

Youssef J. Carter
Lecturer

Philip Kao
Lecturer

Veronika Kusumaryati
Lecturer

Diana Loren
Lecturer

Bilal Malik
Lecturer

Ronald Niezen
Visiting Professor

Stephen Kingsley Scott
Lecturer

Kaya Williams
Lecturer

EMERITUS FACULTY

Ofer Bar-Yosef

Sally Falk Moore

Susan Greenhalgh

C.C. Lamberg-Karlovsky

James Watson

Nur Yalman

STAFF

Robert Ackert
Lab Manager

Judith Butler-Vincent
Staff Assistant

Andrew Cepeda
Staff Assistant

Angeline Della Fera
Communications Coordinator

Marianne Fritz
Graduate Program Administrator

Monica Munson
Director of Administration

Cris Paul
Staff Assistant

Monique Rivera
Undergraduate Program Coordinator

Gilmore Tamny
Administrative Coordinator

Linda Thomas
Faculty Assistant
Chair’s Letter

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Harvard Department of Anthropology:

We have come to the end of a very busy and stimulating year. I am grateful to the staff, students, and faculty for organizing and participating in the events that make the department such a vibrant space.

Some of the spring programming carried over from the fall. The Archaeology and Social Anthropology speaker series continued this semester with a steady stream of excellent visitors working on some of the most important issues of the day. The series was well attended by both department members and others from outside Harvard anthropology.

We also had two more sessions of our new Anthro Debates series. The first on “Iconography at Tozzer and in Anthropology” was led by graduate students in Kaya Williams’ seminar on whiteness as part of a podcast for the course. They posed provocative questions about how colonialism continues to shape the ethnographic gaze and what it would mean to work with, through, and beyond this colonial legacy to rethink anthropology’s visual repertoire and render the material space of Tozzer more visually dynamic. The second session on “Decolonizing the Discipline” led by George Paul Meiu, Joseph Gone, and Matthew Liebmann generated a spirited discussion on what we mean by decolonization and how to enact it concretely within the discipline and in our department. All in all, Anthro Debates has been very successful at providing a more informal space to debate pressing concerns and address issues that are not easily tackled. The series will renew in 2019-20 with a fresh crop of topics.

We continue to grapple with how to make the department an equitable and welcoming space for all of its members. Thanks to the efforts of G1 Social Anthropology student, Xitlalli Alvarez, we benefited from a workshop on Gender and Access led by Noelle Lopez, the Bok Center’s Assistant Director for Equity and Inclusion, and Eleanor Craig, Director of the Program in Ethnicity, Migration, and Rights. Noelle and Eleanor led us through a set of thought provoking exercises and conversations about how inequality is encoded within the social and built environment of institutions and ways to unsettle patterns of inherited privilege and disadvantage. We also started a new Gender Imbalance in Academia working group headed this year by 2018 PhD and current College Fellow, Ari Caramanica. I am grateful to the participants for their extremely valuable report on the experiences of our women graduate students and on the overall state of gender imbalance in the discipline.

As we do at the end of every year, we had a Senior Thesis Colloquium where we heard from sophisticated analyses of important topics from our wonderful honors thesis writers. Five of them garnered Hoopes prizes: Martin Berger, Victoria Bolaños, Brittany Ellis, Norman Storer and Esme Trahair. Martin also won the Bowdoin Prize for Best Undergraduate Essay in the Natural Sciences and Brittany, Victoria, Norman and Dan Wood were awarded departmental thesis prizes. Congratulations to all of our thesis writers and their dedicated advisors! We also held a Junior Research Colloquium for the first time where our junior thesis writers were able to workshop their ideas before embarking on
summer research. We intend to make this an annual event and further strengthen our concentration’s advising structure.

Last but certainly not least, we had a wonderfully generative day-long workshop organized by Kaya Williams and titled “Takes On Whiteness: Experiments in Collaborative Ethnography.” The workshop asked how working in predominantly and historically white colleges and universities condition the possibilities of research and pedagogy and how forms of rehearsal, experimentation, and play might help to illuminate and disrupt the structuring force of whiteness. It began with a powerful presentation by Kaya and her three collaborators followed by two ethnographic labs and topped off by a dance party in the Tozzer atrium.

None of these events would have been possible without our wonderful departmental staff. Thanks so much to Monica Munson, Gilmore Tamny, Angeline Della Fera, Monique Rivera, Marianne Fritz, Cris Paul, Linda Thomas, Andrew Cepeda, and Judith Butler-Vincent for all of their work over the year.

Apart from events, we also had a fair amount of staff turnover. We said goodbye to two dear staff members. Judith Butler-Vincent retired after 45 years at Harvard and 14 in our department, a truly epic tenure that was honored by a large gathering of friends, colleagues, students, and family. Marianne Fritz also retired after 20 years at Harvard and 14 in our department and was given a fitting farewell by her colleagues and beloved graduate students. We will sorely miss them both and wish them the very best in the next phase of their lives.

There have also been changes to the undergraduate program. Phil Kao is leaving his position as Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies (ADUS) to accompany his wife, Aixa Aleman, to Copenhagen. We are grateful for Phil’s commitment to our undergraduates and hope that Europe has wonderful new adventures in store for them. We will be welcoming a new ADUS to the department who will have big shoes to fill. Monique Rivera will be leaving her current position as the Undergraduate Program Coordinator to take Marianne’s place as the Graduate Program Administrator. Monique’s years of experience in the department and close interaction with Marianne will thankfully ensure some continuity in the midst of these changes.

Let me thank all of the non-ladder faculty who have contributed so much to the department and are now moving on to new appointments. We wish the best of luck to Stephen Scott (3-year Lecturer), Ari Caramanica (1-year College Fellow), and Ron Niezen (1-year Visiting Professor).

I am delighted to announce that Kaya Williams, who has been with us for the past two years as a College Fellow, has accepted a faculty position starting in Fall 2020. We are so glad that she will be with us for the long term!

Finally, I am grateful to Rowan Flad for agreeing to serve as interim chair during my 2019-20 sabbatical. I will be embarking on new research knowing that Harvard Anthropology is in excellent hands and look forward to following departmental news from a distance.

Have a wonderful, rejuvenating summer!

Sincerely,

Ajantha Subramanian, Chair
2019 Degree Recipients

PH.D. IN ANTHROPOLOGY

MARTY ALEXANDER
(In)commensurable: Transnationalism, Ethnicity, and the Politics of Difference in Chinese Chronic Disease Science

JON CLINDANIEL
Toward a Grammar of the Inka Khipu: Investigating the Production of Non-Numerical Signs

ZOE ANTOINTETTE EDDY
When God was a Keychain: Reflections on Indigeneity and Commodity in Hokkaido, Japan

A.B. IN ANTHROPOLOGY

ALICE M. MARTY BERGER
MARTY BERGER
VICTORIA BOLAÑOS w/ Government
BRITTANY ELLIS
KRISTEN HONG
VERA JIN
ISA LAPUERTA w/ Music
LIAM MCGILL
EUNICE MWABE

IFEOLUWA OBAYAN w/ Biomedical Engineering
ANGELA ORTIZ
JULIAN RAUTER
NICHOLAS SEYMOUR
NORMAN STORER w/ Romance Lang. and Lit.
ESMÉ TRAHAIR
WAVERLY WENTWORTH
ADAM WONG
DANIEL WOOD
ANYA BERNSTEIN
Anya Bernstein’s new project entitled “Pleistocene Park: Mitigating the Effects of Climate Change in the Russian Arctic” was one of the seven selected for Harvard’s Climate Change Creative Solutions Fund. She also gave an invited talk at Colgate University and participated in a conference on Posthumanism at NYU during Spring 2019.

DAVID CARRASCO
David Carrasco delivered the Alfonso Reyes Lecture “The Life and Three Voices of Carlos Fuentes” at Tecnologia de Monterrey University in March 2019.

NICHOLAS CARTER
Nicholas Carter co-authored an article entitled “Knowledge of magnetism in ancient Mesoamerica: Precision measurements of the pot-belly sculptures from Monte Alto, Guatemala” that was published in the Journal of Archaeological Science.

PETER DER MANUELIAN
Rowan Flad gave three talks during Spring 2019: “Transitions in Agricultural Technology at the Start of the Meghalayan in the Tao River Valley of NW China” at the symposium Environments and Adaptations in Ancient China: Recent Advanced in Global Context at the University of Michigan in February 2019; “The Tao River Archaeological Project (TRAP): Technological Changes Along the Proto Silk Roads in Northwest China” at Sichuan University in March 2019; and “Brine Processing Pits at Zhongba, China” in the organized session “Salt Roads: Rethinking the Place of Salt in Prehistory: Towards a Global Dialogue” at the Society for American Archaeology Conference in April 2019.

Joseph P. Gone gave two invited lectures in Spring 2019: “The thing happened as he wished: Recovering an American Indiandustrial psychology” for the Native Cultures of the Americas Seminar at the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University in February 2019 and “Historical Trauma: Racial Dispossession & Native Populations” as part of the RacismLab Speaker Series at the University of Michigan in March 2019.

MICHAEL HERZFELD

Michael Herzfeld has been fully occupied since his retirement at the end of 2018. After a further period of research on goldsmiths in Bangkok, he took part in four different workshop-conferences in May 2019. His topics were “Cultural Stuff: Populism, Reification, Solidarity,” at a workshop organized at the University of Oslo to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Fredrik Barth’s Ethnic Groups and Boundaries; a keynote lecture titled “Seductions of the Bouzouki and the Brass Band: Irreverent Reflections on Theodorakis and Verdi” at a conference on Greek popular music at the British School at Athens; a paper on “Purity and Substance: Reflections on the Religiosity of Food Nationalism” given at a conference on food and religion at the Royal Dutch Institute in Rome/ and “Avoidances of Many Kinds: Religious Observances and Other Moralisms,” at a workshop on “Eating Religiously” at Ben-Gurion University, Be’er Sheva, Israel. Finally, he was a panelist at the Palazzo Merulana on the current political situation in the U.S.A. and its broader significance.

IEVA JUSIONYTE

Ieva Jusionyte gave three invited talks based on her new book, Threshold: Emergency Responders on the U.S.-Mexico Border, at the University of Texas at El Paso, Rice University, and Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in Spring 2019. She was also an invited speaker for the 2019 Anne and Sandy Dolowitz Lecture in Human Rights at the University of Utah. Finally, Ieva assumed the editorship of the California Series in Public Anthropology at the University of California Press.

VERONIKA KUSUMARYATI

MATTHEW LIEBMANN
Matthew Liebmann gave a keynote speech at University of Pennsylvania’s Center for Ancient Studies entitled “A little rebellion now and then is a good thing: An archaeology of alternative American Revolutions” in January 2019. He also had one recent publication: “Movement Encased in Tradition and Stone: Hemish Migration, Land Use, and Identity” in The Continuous Path: Pueblo Movement and the Archaeology of Becoming, edited by Sam Duwe and Robert Preucel, University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

JASON UR
Jason Ur is co-author of a study published in the journal Advances in Archaeological Practice entitled “Near Eastern Landscapes and Declassified U2 Aerial Imagery” that used the black-and-white images to get a look at Bronze Age villages and 3,000-year-old irrigation canals in southern Iraq, and prehistoric walled structures known as “desert kites” that were used as hunting traps in eastern Jordan.
March 2019/Spring Break/
Anthropology concentrators research archaeological sites in Chengdu, Sichuan province, China.
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS*

MARTY BERGER
Marty Berger received a Bowdoin Prize for Undergraduate Essay in the Natural Sciences for his essay entitled “Within and Beyond Kinship: The Surveillance of People Convicted of Sex Crimes.”

GABRIELLE PRESTON
Gabrielle Preston received the Alan Symonds Award for the 2018-2019 academic year for her contribution to the arts at Harvard.

*Award recipients as of May 28, 2019

GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

BRONWYN ISAACS

ERIC JOHNSON
Eric Johnson was awarded a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant and a Wenner Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant for his research entitled “Indigeniety and Industrialization: Wampum Factories and Settler-Capitalist Entanglements between New Jersey and the Plains 1750-1900.”

YOOKYEONG IM
Yookyong Im received two awards for dissertational fieldwork in Spring 2019: a Wenner-Gren Foundation’s Dissertation Fieldwork Grant and a Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF) from the Social Sciences Research Council. She also co-organized and participated in a roundtable discussion on gender studies in the field of Korean studies at the Harvard Korean Studies Working Group in April 2019.

DARIA SAVCHENKO

MELINA SEABROOK
Melina Seabrook received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program grant and a Digital Hammurabi H.A.P.S. grant during Spring 2019.

SUSAN PAIGE TAYLOR
Susan Paige Taylor was selected to receive a Japan Foundation Fellowship to fund her dissertation fieldwork for the 2019-2020 academic year. She also received the Akiyama Award during the 2018-19 academic year. The Akiyama Award is given annually to an outstanding graduate student in a social science discipline, who is pursuing the most intellectually promising project related to contemporary Japan.
Spring Lectures + Events

JANUARY

“Housing and the Use of Space in a Byzantine Village”
a talk by Mark Pawlowski, University of California, Los Angeles

“A Vital Frontier: Water Insurgencies in Europe”
a talk by Andrea Muehlebach, University of Toronto

“From documentation to restoration, what role for new technologies in the protection of cultural heritage”
a talk by Yves Ubelmann and Bastien Varoutsikos, Iconem

“Roots of Resilience. Shifting Agricultural Practices at Late Chalcolithic Çadır Höyük, Turkey”
a talk by Madelynn von Baeyer, Harvard University

“Image-Events and the Politics of Visibility in Post-Authoritarian Indonesia”
a talk by Karen Strassler, Queens College

“Investigating the Food Production Revolution East of the Fertile Crescent. New Data from Recent Field Research in Eastern Iran”
a talk by Benjamin Mutin, Harvard University

MARCH

“The Emergent Planetary: The Politics of Exposure”
a talk by Joseph P. Masco, University of Chicago

“The New Oasis: Climate Change and Human Populations in East Asia”
a talk by Lisa Janz, Trent University

Anthro Debates!
Iconography & Anthropology: The Tozzer Building as a Case Study

“Problems of Ethnography and Imperialism: Some Notes on West Africa”
a talk by Jemima Pierre, University of Los Angeles

Undergraduate Event: Senior Thesis Reception

“Soevereignty After Slavery: An Archaeology of Liberty and Authority in Post-Revolutionary Haiti”
a talk by J. Cameron Monroe, UC Santa Cruz

“Insurgent Suburbia: Race, Place, and History in the New South”
a talk by Elisa Lanari, Northwestern University

Newly Admitted Graduate Students Visiting Day and Reception

“Politics of Identity in Ancient Nubia: A Mortuary Landscape Perspective”
a talk by Kate Rose, Harvard University

“Naturalizing Inequality: Race, Genetics, and the American Technological Imagination”
a talk by Anna Jabloner, Columbia University

“Colonial intimacy: captivity, violence, and the self in 16th-18th centuries Chile”
a talk by Beatriz Marin-Aguilera, University of Cambridge

“Cultivating a Therapeutic Self in Anxious China”
a talk by Li Zhang, University of California, Davis

APRIL
“(In)commensurable: Transnationalism, Ethnicity, and the Politics of Difference in Chinese Chronic Disease Science”  
da dissertation defense by Marty Alexander

“The Spectacular Generic: Access politics as Simipolitics”  
a talk by Cori Hayden, University of California, Berkeley

“Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Afghanistan”  
a talk by Gil Stein, University of Chicago

Anthro Debates!  
Decolonizing Anthropology

Social Seminar Series: “Caring for Militarism: Knowing and Judging in a Time of War”  
a talk by Nadia Abu El-Haj, Barnard College

“Digging Veritas: Archaeology of Harvard Yard”  
a talk by Patricia Capone & Diana Loren, Harvard University

“Anonymous vs. the Reactionary Right: The Anti-Algorithmic Subjects of Anonymous Image Boards”  
a talk by Gabriella Coleman, McGill University

Senior Thesis Colloquium

“Reconstructing settlement landscapes in the Indus River Basin: insights from the Land, Water and Settlement and Two Rains projects”  
a talk by Dr. Cameron A. Petrie, University of Cambridge

Junior Thesis Colloquium

“When God was a Keychain: Reflections on Indigeneity and Commodity in Hokkaido, Japan”  
a dissertation defense by Zoe Antoinette Eddy

“Toward a Grammar of the Inka Khipu: Investigating the Production of Non-Numerical Signs”  
a dissertation defense by Jon Clindaniel

Anthropology Commencement Reception
SENIOR THESIS WRITERS
+ COLLOQUIUM EVENT
05.2.19 / TOZZER ANTHROPOLOGY BUILDING

FIRST ROW L TO R: MARTY BERGER, VICTORIA BOLAÑOS, BRITTANY ELLIS, ISA LAPUERTA
SECOND ROW L TO R: IFEOLUWA OBAYAN, NORMAN STORER, ESMÉ TRAHAIR, DANIEL WOOD
THESIS WRITERS + PRIZES

MARTY BERGER “Beyond “Sex Offenders”: Deconstructing the Spacetime of Surveillance”
Advisor: George Paul Meiu
HOOPES PRIZE RECIPIENT

VICTORIA BOLAÑOS “God Save Their Souls: An Analysis of Core Constituencies, Churches, and Gang Violence in El Salvador”
Advisors: Ieva Jusionyte, Damina Khaira, Frances Hagopian, and Manuel Melendez
HOOPES PRIZE + CLYDE KLUCKHOHN AWARD RECIPIENT

BRITTANY ELLIS “Excavating Ethics: Community-Based Archaeological Research in Theory and Practice”
Advisors: Matthew Liebmann
HOOPES PRIZE + GLYNN LL. ISAAC AWARD RECIPIENT

ISA LAPUERTA “‘Cantar Mis Versos del Alma’: How Musicians Navigate Identity, Commodification, and Personhood in Cuba’s Tourism Industry”
Advisors: Philip Kao and Yosvany Terry

IFEOLUWA OBAYAN “Assisted Reproductive Technology: Ethical and Economic Inquiries within the Laboratory”
Advisors: Arthur Kleinman, Omar Sultan Haque, and Daniel Needleman

NORMAN STORER “‘L’ago e ’l fusio e l’arcolaio’: A Literary Archaeology of Gendered Objects in the ‘Decameron’”
Advisors: Diana Loren and Ambrogio Camozzi Pistoja
HOOPES PRIZE + GLYNN LL. ISAAC AWARD RECIPIENT

ESMÉ TRAH AIR “The Sons of all Australia”: Masculinities, Mental Health, and the ‘Aussie bloke’”
Advisor: Arthur Kleinman
HOOPES PRIZE RECIPIENT

DANIEL WOOD “Writing Against the ‘Bengali Crisis’ Tracing the Reproduction of Precarity and Rohingya Bare Life in Myanmar Language Mediascapes”
Advisors: Philip Kao and Courtney Wittekind
EVON Z. VO GT AWARD RECIPIENT