Reports on Completed Research for 2022
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The following research projects, supported by Foundation grants, were reported as complete during 2022. The reports are listed by subdiscipline, then 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

OLANREWAJU ALASISI, then a graduate student at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, was awarded a grant in October 2019 to aid research on "Landscapes of Valor: Investigating Power and Social Space of a pre-Atlantic aged kingdom in the shaping of the Global commerce, AD 1300-1900," supervised by Dr. Neil Norman. This research was carried out in the ancient palace of Ijebu-Ode, the capital of Ijebu kingdom. The grantee excavated fifteen units at the King's quarters, Queen's quarters, background forest, and Palace courtyards. These series of excavations yielded a diverse range of artifacts of royalty including beads, bronze bell anklets, knife blades, etc. Of great importance is the discovery of the first evidence of ceramic pavement in Ijebu kingdom. Two pavements were found at the palace complex; one is a carved pavement that is an effigy of a local deity, the other is a geometric pavement with astronomical alignments which might have been used as a sundial in ancient times. Overall, my research showed how the spatial layout within the palace complex is a reflection of the spatial layout of the Ijebu kingdom itself. The King's palace complex was designed to reflect cosmic worldviews by paying attention to astronomy, and symbolically placing gardens, ritual spaces etc. in specific cardinal points on the landscape. The entire city on the other hand also follows suit with surrounding towns deliberately designed spirally around the capital while paying homage to the palace complex during the time of the year when the sun is just beginning its movement on the horizon. This research showed that behind the organization of a landscape of valor lies a well-designed and integrated architecture, ritual/religion, astronomy, politics, governance, and commerce, all of which functioned as a system.

GORDON ROBERTSON AMBROSINO, then a graduate student at Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia, received a grant in April 2016 to aid research on “Rock Art, Ancestors and Water: The Semiotic Construction of Landscapes in the PreHispanic, Central Andes,” supervised by Dr. Alexander Herrera. As landscape art, the rock art of the Central Andes offers clues regarding relationships between ancestor veneration and the negotiation of water rights at strategic places of power. To evaluate this, the present thesis focuses on 192 previously undocumented rock art places on the Fortaleza Ignimbrite (FI), a distinct geological formation, at the headwaters of the Fortaleza and Santa rivers (Ancash, Peru), which display a long temporal span of production and specific relationships between rock art types and images, within specific ecological settings. To analyze these relationships, archaeological stratigraphy from four of these places (three highland caves located above 14,000 f.a.s.l and the historically documented tomb of Pallauta 11,200 f.a.s.l.) is paired with the stratigraphy of carved and painted rock art to develop a typological sequence, and a spatiotemporal map of image types for the rock art of the FI, spanning 3,500 years. More specifically, these methods revealed that rock art production at the caves occurred during two main periods, the first between 1500-200 B.C.E. and the second between 600- 1824 A.D., while results from Pallauta indicate that this art panel was produced in one event, approximately around 1350 A.D., confirming 16th century historic accounts.
JONAH AUGUSTINE, an independent scholar, Madison, Wisconsin, was awarded funding in April 2021 to aid research on “The Aesthetic Production of Tiwanaku, AD 500-1100.” This project analyzed the physical characteristics of polychrome ceramics in order to identify and characterize various forms of “aesthetic production” within the pre-Columbian Andean polity of Tiwanaku. “Aesthetic production” encompasses both the production of aesthetically compelling ceramic vessels as well as the pleasure of ceramic production itself. The central empirical question was “Were the distinct ceramic assemblages found at Tiwanaku produced by different potters under different conditions?” The evidence indicates that there were three general scales of ceramic production at Tiwanaku: elite crafting, centrally organized mass production, and household-level production, each with its own aesthetic and political stakes. For example, Tiwanaku elites’ capacity to produce and/or acquire exquisite art objects would have been an important index of social power within the city and polity. Alternatively, that people from various social positions within the Tiwanaku polity were actively (re)producing and playing with Tiwanaku ceramic style reveals how these potters took pleasure in Tiwanaku’s visual culture. Ultimately, Tiwanaku’s political community was predicated on both the consumption and production of a shared and aesthetically pleasing material culture.

JOAO CASCALHEIRA, University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal, was awarded funding in October 2018 to aid research on “Neanderthals and Early Modern Humans at Escoural Cave (Southern Portugal).” This project focused on the study of Neanderthal extinction and their replacement by Anatomically Modern Humans (AMH) in southwestern Iberia. In September 2020, archaeological work was conducted at the cave of Escoural (Southern Portugal) to provide new absolute data on the timing of the transition and new archaeological data on Neanderthal and early AMH adaptations. Data was gathered from two different sections of the cave, recovering close to 500 archaeological remains, and a set of sediment samples that allowed to date and evaluate the integrity of the sequence. The overall goals were fulfilled, and the data collected shows that the archaeological sequence is composed of upper and middle paleolithic deposits. The first being dated to 35-46 thousand years ago, although further absolute dating results are pending. From the Middle Paleolithic sequence, it was attested that the sediments are most likely not in their original position but were redeposited in the inner part of the cave. However, the presence of thin carbonated crusts (only visible in the micromorphology thin sections) indicates that we can clearly separate different depositional moments and thus subdivide human occupations into separate timeframes.

CRAIG N. CIPOLLA, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, was awarded a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “Remaking Archaeology: Decolonizing Indigenous-Colonial Histories through Mohegan Collaborative Indigenous Archaeology.” The Mohegan Archaeology Project is a collaboration between the Mohegan Tribe—including Mohegan archaeologists, tribal historical preservationists, elders, students and docents—and non-Mohegan archaeologists and anthropology students. The project trains the next generation of students in collaborative Indigenous archaeology while collecting and studying new archaeological information on life on the Mohegan Reservation (Uncasville, Connecticut) during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. From 2017-2022, Wenner-Gren funding help support: 1) excavation and analysis of eighteenth and nineteenth century Mohegan sites; and 2) videography of the Mohegan Archaeological Project, focusing specifically on how the collaborative process works and how it changes standard archaeological practices to better fit Mohegan interests, needs, and sensitivities. The project sheds new light on eighteenth and nineteenth reservation life, contributing to a more fulsome
understanding of regional histories and broader patterns of Indigenous-colonial interaction in North America. The project also offers new perspectives on how collaborative Indigenous archaeology works and how it reshapes the discipline of archaeology by incorporating perspectives that were traditionally left out of archaeological method and theory, namely the perspectives and expertise of Indigenous peoples.

MAIA DEDRICK, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, received an Engaged Anthropology Grant in October 2019 to aid collaborative research on “Collaboratively Designed Archaeological Exhibit for the Community Museum of Tahcabo, Yucatán, Mexico.” This project involved the co-creation of new exhibits based on the grantee’s dissertation for the community museum located in Tahcabo, Yucatán, Mexico. It began in the summer of 2020 when researchers and students from the Universidad de Oriente (UNO) in Valladolid, Yucatán, Mexico, and from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, began to gather community input on the future of the museum and its exhibits. Major exhibit themes and community member interests were identified at that time. During the fall semester of 2021, two students in a Community Engagement in Archaeology course at Cornell University furthered the development of exhibit design through their term projects. Finally, in December of 2021 and summer of 2022, travel was possible, and in-person conversations between the researchers and community members took place. Over the course of four formal meetings and ongoing exhibit development conversations, the grantee worked with Tahcabo residents, UNO students, and collaborators to update the museum and heritage trail installations and finalize new exhibit text and images. The project concluded with an event celebrating the seventh anniversary of the Tahcabo Community Museum, during which the new exhibits were launched and attendees enjoyed a presentation of traditional *jarana* dancing by the Ballet Folclórico Tzimin Kah.

ANIL DEVARA, then a graduate student at Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, India, received funding in August 2020 to aid research on “Archaeological Remains from Pre- and Post-Youngest Toba Tuff Deposits, Manneru River Basin, Andhra Pradesh,” supervised by Dr. Ajit Prasad. The project aims to construct a chronological and technological framework for the material remains from deposits underlying and overlying the Youngest Toba Tuff (YTT) deposits at Motravulapadu, in the Manneru river basin, Andhra Pradesh, India. Large scale excavations were conducted at the site by excavating six trenches of varying sizes (ranging from 2x2 m to 4.5x3.5 m) in an area of 600x500m. Excavations identified two flake-based horizons: one blade-based horizon, four horizons of microlithic assemblages, and one horizon of animal fossil remains. Optically Stimulated Luminescence ages of these flake and blade-based artefacts and fossil remains range from 60 to 29 ka. YTT beds from the site dated between 33 and 29 ka indicate the beds are of secondary fluvial deposits and highlight the hazards of using YTT as a chronological marker in palaeoenvironmental constructions and understanding modern human dispersals in South Asia. The lithic assemblages and associated OSL ages generated through the current project denote the predominance of Levallois technology in South Asia from 59 to 49 ka and gradual preference towards the blade-based artefact production at 41 ka, which became predominant around 30ka, indicating the blade technology as distinct temporal behavior. Technologically these blade-based assemblages are different from the Middle Palaeolithic, and microlithic technologies and the presence of such assemblages poses significant questions on the currently understood linear framework of Palaeolithic cultural developments in South Asia. In addition, oxygen and carbon isotopic analysis of animal fossil teeth and soil carbonate indicates a shift towards a drier climate associated with the abundance of C4 plants post 40 ka and connected with the emergence of blade technology. The project successfully generated crucial evidence
to understand the MIS 3 archaeological record of South Asia that can throw significant light on the hominin behavioral evolution and dispersals.

HARPER DINE, then a graduate student at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, received a grant in August 2020 to aid research on “Agriculture and Community Food Security at Bohe, Yucatán, Mexico,” supervised by Dr. Andrew Scherer. Retitled “Agricultural Strategies and Household Food Security in the Yaxuna-Coba Region,” this dissertation research involved laboratory work and archaeological fieldwork with the goal of investigating ancient Maya agricultural practice and household foodways at the sites of Yaxuna, Joya, and Coba in relation to the Late Classic (600-800 AD) construction of a monumental causeway that spanned the region. This research was conducted as part of the Proyecto de Interacción Política del Centro de Yucatán, directed by Travis Stanton and Traci Ardren. From October 2020 to December 2021, artifact extractions from previously excavated materials recovered at Yaxuna and Coba were conducted and analyzed in Providence, Rhode Island, while the COVID-19 pandemic made travel unsafe. From January 2022 to April 2022, research was relocated to Mérida, Yucatán in order to process plaster floor samples from Coba and Yaxuna and perform paleoethnobotanical reference collection work with local plants. In April 2022 through June 2022, archaeological fieldwork in agricultural features and outer household contexts was carried out at Yaxuna and Joya. This research was coupled with paleoethnobotanical sampling and sample processing, resulting in a total of 88 samples collected (25 artifact extractions conducted, 15 flotation samples processed, 48 phytolith samples collected) during the field season. This is in addition to the 50 samples whose analysis are still in progress.

STEVEN DORLAND, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, was awarded funding in April 2021 to aid research on "Learning about Learning: A Community-based Approach to Childhood Pottery Making in Partnership with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation." This community-based project was hosted by the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and in partnership with Mississauga Nation, University of Toronto, and Dalhousie University. The project goals focused on bringing together archaeology and Indigenous Knowledge in a way that centered Mississauga ways of knowing and doing to learn about community ways of learning. Although COVID-19 made research working with Indigenous communities very challenging due to high health risks, the flexible and adaptable nature of this project allowed for a successfully developed online archaeology training program in July 2021 that combined pottery making, archaeology, and the training of transferable skills. The foundation of this program allowed for the further development of a strong foundation for an in-person training program in 2022. Through online interactions with knowledge keepers and community experts in Indigenous knowledge and land-based learning, youth participants had the opportunity to connect to community members and learn about archaeology and methods of applying Indigenous knowledge and Indigenous ways of knowing, doing, and being into archaeological practice. At the end of this project, youth participants were introduced to ways of learning about past ancestors and developed skills that will contribute to the development of community-led heritage preservation initiatives.

KATE FRANKLIN, University of London, Birbeck, London, United Kingdom, received funding in April 2019 to aid research on "Seismic Precarity and Maintenance of the Inner Tian Shan Passages: Iron Age and Medieval Memoryscapes." This international, interdisciplinary collaborative project set out to reconfigure archaeological and geoscientific approaches to time-deep landscapes in the mountain passages of the Tian Shan range, in the eastern region of Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan. This region is marked by the confluence of narrow mountain passes around the shores of the lake and is characterized as well by the seismicity of the region's geology: the Tian Shan range to the south rises above the plain faster than it can
be eroded by the precipitation that feeds the rivers, carves canyons and waters fields and pastures. The project explored these intersecting timescales of human and more-than-human movement, which have created complex affordances for Iron Age, medieval (Karakhanid) and later occupation, transhumance, and situated memory. Through collaborative work among archaeologists and seismologists, the project documented Iron Age mortuary landscapes interlayered with medieval infrastructure, the lenticular accumulations of artifacts and ecofacts left by seasonal occupation, and corridor landscapes constructed over millions of years of seismic time and millennia of human-animal iterative movements. These complexly interleaved traces and erasures illuminate the ancient and medieval past and raise challenging questions about how archaeologists write history of place, and how landscapes hold memory in deep time.

FRANCISCO GARCIA-ALBARIDO, then a graduate student at University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, received funding in August 2020 to aid research on “Archaeology of the Early-Modern Market Expansion into the Andes: Ports, Hunter-Gatherers, and Emerging Global Markets,” supervised by Dr. Marc Bermann. Archaeological study of early colonial Andean society is revealing the complex interplay of Spanish policies, native agency, and contesting cultural logics that followed the meeting of two worlds. This meeting saw indigenous economics practices, supposedly based on self-sufficiency, reciprocity and redistribution, confront the mercantile commodification of labor and nature. For examining the initial negotiating of these worlds, where the local met the global, few settings can match that of the port. This research investigates how early modern market expansion changed the economy and habitat of the native fishermen of Puerto Loa (Atacama, Chile) as their fishing village developed into an early colonial port (16th century). A one-year excavation project is comparing the indigenous use of maritime resources from pre-Columbian to early-modern times. This work examines: how native seafood production shifted and commodified under the Spanish; concomitant socioeconomic and consumption changes; and the potential effects of commodification on local resources. After excavation and analysis, the project provides a picture of an understudied settlement type, the early colonial port, as a revealing, diverse workforce community, produced by new alliances and traditional practices. The results are refining our understanding of early commercial nodes and the hybrid nature of the Andean colonial market.

ALICIA GORMAN, then a graduate student at University of California, Santa Barbara, California, received funding in April 2018 to aid research on “Religion and Politics from a Household Perspective on the South Coast of Peru,” supervised by Dr. Katharina Schreiber. In this project the relationship between religion and social differentiation is explored at Cerro Tortolita (~AD 250-450), located in the Ica Valley on the south coast of Peru. The site consists of a Ceremonial Zone containing religious architecture and a Primary Residential Zone. Religious specialists likely performed rituals, both private and public, in the former area, while a majority of the population lived in the latter. Excavations were undertaken in the Primary Residential Zone in order to compare religious life, power, and authority between the Zones. Religion is viewed as a pervasive part of life, with the ability to actively shape society. The presence of some differences between Zones, in terms of architecture, special commensal events, and religious items, indicates that the primary distinction between religious specialists and commoners lies in the religious authority of the former, rather than other politico-economic distinctions. However, commoners participated in ritual life in public areas of the Ceremonial Zone as well as in their own homes, demonstrating the maintenance of their own sophisticated body of religious knowledge. Religious
authority is found to be the primary driver of social differentiation at Cerro Tortolita, and the result of constant negotiation between specialists and commoners.

ANNA GRAHAM, then a graduate student at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, was awarded funding in October 2019 to aid research on “Lower Mississippi Valley (LMV) Cuisine and the Transition to Maize Agriculture (AD 900-1350),” supervised by Dr. C. Margaret Scarry. This project investigated the relationship between food and social identity for native groups in the LMV during the transition to maize agriculture. The intensification of maize agriculture in the LMV is notable because it occurred several hundred years after surrounding regions. Previous studies have focused on why LMV communities adopted maize, ignoring how maize was added to existing foodways. This project examined ceramics and plant remains from communal gathering spaces dating to three major periods surrounding this transition. Plant and ceramic evidence demonstrate a consistent cuisine through time, as communities made use of similar types of ingredients and cooking styles despite the addition of maize. However, contextual data indicate that the performance of community meals shifted from humble and integrative to fancy and prestige building. These findings demonstrate that a shared cuisine tradition remained important to LMV communities, despite shifting social relationships. Overall, this project demonstrates the dynamic relationship between continuity and change within cuisine practices through time.

ÖMÜR HARMANŞAH, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago IL, USA, was awarded a grant in October 2018 to aid research on “Holocene and Anthropocene Landscapes in Anatolia: The Political Ecology of Water in the Hittite Borderlands.” Investigating the political ecology of water in the southern borderlands of the Hittite Empire (central Turkey), this landscape archaeology project used systematic fieldwalking, GIS-based mapping of surface architecture, geophysical prospection (GPR), and geomorphology, to document the diachronic history of land use in the vicinity of two inscribed monuments of the Hittite king Tudhaliya IV (1237-1209 BCE): the Sacred Pool of Yalburt Yaylası and the Earthen Dam of Köylütolu Yayla. The field season supported by the grant (2021) focused on the survey of two major Hittite cities: the 16th century BCE fortress, citadel, and lower town settlement of Kale Tepesi in the Bulusan River Valley, and the 13th century BCE settlement of Uzun Pınar in the Kurğöl Basin. Documentation of architecture and surface ceramics at Kale Tepesi has shown that this early Hittite settlement served as the seat of power in the survey region, whereas the terraced structures and water management system at Uzun Pınar, dating to Late Hittite Empire suggest a military establishment associated with Tudhaliya’s campaigns recounted in the Yalburt Inscription.

LAURA HEATH-STOUT, University of Massachusetts, Boston, Massachusetts, was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship to aid research and writing on "Career Arcs: Identity, Oppression, and Diversity in Archaeology." Archaeologists study people of all identities, yet we are relatively homogeneous. How can a nondiverse group of scholars understand the whole of human history? How do our demographics shape the knowledge that we produce? Although marginalized groups have critiqued the structural oppressions that shape archaeological practice, there are few qualitative studies demonstrating how our demographics shape our knowledge production on a disciplinary (rather than individual) scale. Identity, Oppression, and Diversity in Archaeology: Career Arcs examines precisely this question, using a corpus of approximately 100 in-depth interviews with U.S.-based academic archaeologists who hold a variety of identities. The book argues that from a student’s first dream of becoming an archaeologist through the rest of their career, intersecting systems of privilege oppression shape their experiences of education, research, and professional work. Furthermore, disciplinary cultural norms shape which
archaeologists are encouraged to develop which research specializations, and which are forced to change specializations in order to avoid mistreatment. Inequities among archaeologists not only maintain our demographic homogeneity, but undermine the rigor of our research. The book manuscript was under contract to, was submitted to, and is under review for Routledge’s Archaeology of Gender and Sexuality series, edited by Pamela Geller.

JAMIE M. 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 Neandertals) disappeared. Recent data indicate that processes underlying “modern human origins” were complex and varied by region. Italy’s Pleistocene record includes remains of pre-Neandertals 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 Neandertal disappearance, and permitted robust sampling for radiocarbon analysis and cryptotephra (volcanic glass) that will refine the chronology of populations 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.

ERIC JOHNSON, then a graduate student at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, received a grant in April 2019 to aid research on “Indigeneity and Industrialization: Assessing Style, Production, and Consumption of Shell Beads between New Jersey and the Plains, 1750-1900 CE,” supervised by Dr. Matthew Liebmann. How do changes in consumption on a colonial frontier structure affect changes in production in an industrial context? To answer this question, this project analyzed production debris from settler-owned shell bead production sites (or wampum workshops) in northern New Jersey, USA from 1770-1900 CE. By the mid-18th century, Euro-American colonists had appropriated the production of wampum and other Indigenous shell beads for export as trade goods and treaty technologies. Bead manufacturers and distributors in northern New Jersey exported shell beads for Native American consumers as far west as the northern and southern Plains. Archaeological surveys in Bergen County, NJ were successful in locating a previously undiscovered wampum workshop — the David Campbell House. Combining analysis of previously excavated museum collections with new David Campbell House collections, this project reconstructed sequences of production, efficiencies and waste, variation in bead styles, and degrees of standardization and compared these variables to Indigenous bead use in the context of settler colonialism. The framework of “settler capitalism” was developed to help bridge material culture of capitalist industrialization in New Jersey (production) and Indigenous responses to settler colonial expansion on the frontier (consumption).

PAMELA JORDAN, then a graduate student at University of Amsterdam, was awarded funding in April 2022 to aid research on ”Site Sound: Using Acoustics to Analyze Mount Lykaion’s Ancient Sanctuary to Zeus,” supervised by Dr. Vladimir Stissi. Funding assisted research on Mount Lykaion, Greece that was successfully carried out in August and September 2022. The work investigated the relationship of sound
and architecture within the context of current sound-based practices and dynamics at the ancient sanctuary to Zeus. The primary data collected was a series of over 1600 coordinated audio field recordings of test sounds between specific positions in the sanctuary. In addition, recreations of ancient athletic competitions at the site were documented via sound and video, while informal conversations with villagers shed additional contextual light on how the sanctuary is perceived and valued by local residents beyond static architectural ruins.

BRYN LETHAM, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, Canada, was awarded a grant in October 2019 to aid research on “Bridging Past and Present at Gitga’at Cultural Keystone Places on the Pacific Northwest Coast.” This project explores how ancient occupants of the Northwest Coast developed strong attachments to places through the management and modification of coastal landscapes. Through community-partnered research with the Gitga’at First Nation of the northern coast of British Columbia, Canada, we collected archaeological data from three ancient villages that are important seasonal resource gathering locations for the modern Gitga’at, and which have oral histories extending to the deep past. These data include core samples to date village occupation and quantify and reconstruct how people modified living areas with massive terraces of shell. We also collected shellfish and animal bone remains to explore resource harvesting and management, and to compare to harvesting practices today. We found as much as 7000 years of persistent occupation at some villages; that during that time people adapted to falling sea levels by building outwards with substantial amounts of shell; and that there is evidence for sustainably harvesting the same resources at these sites in the past as today. We propose that physical investment into landscape modification combined with intimate human-animal relationships helped generate connections to place that have endured from the deep past that shape the cultural identity of the Gitga’at today.

JOHN MILLHAUSER, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2020 to aid research on “The Other Mesoamerica: The Archaeology of Poverty and Precarity in Central Mexico under Aztec Rule.” How can we eradicate poverty without understanding its origins, dynamics, and variations? Poverty, Power, and Prehistory will argue that a historical perspective based on cross-cultural comparisons can help and archaeology can play a significant role in understanding the dynamics of poverty in the past. The book will present a deep history of poverty in pre-capitalist and non-Western societies: one that highlights non-monetary and non-wage-based contributions of household and community members in strategies to make do and buffer risk, accounts for variability, and underscores socially embedded constraints on the poor—stigma, structural violence, and uneven development. The manuscript will integrate new archaeological and ethnohistoric evidence with novel interpretations of existing data sets to understand the meaning and reality of poverty in Aztec culture and provide a generalizable framework for cross-cultural and historic comparison. Poverty, Power, and Prehistory will establish the validity of an archaeology of poverty, outside of the West and before capitalism, in support of the archaeologists, historians, and other scholars who use knowledge of the past to improve the present. With the support Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, a sample chapter and book prospectus were drafted, circulated for comment, and submitted to an academic press for review.

DILPREET SINGH, then a graduate student at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, was awarded a grant in October 2018 to aid research on “Producing Death, Producing Persons: Ancestors and Social Inequality in Ancient Aksum, Ethiopia (50 - 400 AD),” supervised by Dr. Amanda Logan. This project investigates the cultural production of death at three cemeteries in ancient Tigray, Ethiopia (980 BC –
1400 AD). In Western history, the rise of individualism is often associated with increasing alienation from the dead. In contrast, early ethnographies on post-mortem ritual previously emphasized the importance of group personhoods that extend beyond the life-death boundary. Death is then partially culturally produced, so that the death of the person does not always coincide with the death of the body. Yet “group” and “individual” personhoods often exist in dynamic interplays and are impacted by processes such as globalization. Interrogating these issues, this project uses micro-CT histology and stable isotope analysis to help investigate the changing nature “ancestors” and social dynamics across three successive cemeteries in northern Ethiopia (980 BC -1400 AD). Data supports the association of community “grouphood” to varied productions of “general ancestors”. Data also show a dramatic intensification in the production of ancestors just as Aksum’s increasing globalization with the ancient Indian Ocean led to greater social differentiation between Aksumite family groups (50-400 AD). Ultimately, this research then highlights how ancient Ethiopians innovated new traditions to retain connections with departed loved ones through periods of acute social change.

LUCY TIMBRELL, then a graduate student at University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom, was awarded a grant in April 2021 to aid research on “Structured African Metapopulations: Building a Climatically Driven Model of Early Human Interaction Using a Multiproxy Approach,” supervised by Dr. Matt Grove. The emergence of our species, Homo sapiens, has been increasingly associated with the Middle Stone Age (MSA), which appears around 300,000 years ago across Africa. Coalescence and fragmentation of populations across Africa, mediated by asynchronous climatic changes through time and space, was argued to have generated some of the complex patterns of diversity observed in MSA archaeology. Lithic points have been suggested to be the single artefact class most likely to be a vector for social information during the MSA, and thus understanding their variability both within and between regions is imperative for understanding the extent and structure of MSA population networks. This project uses specialist shape analysis techniques to establish how point typologies varied through space, time, and in relation to environments, using a large sample of MSA points from across Africa. Despite the clear potential for MSA points as a proxy for social interactions, few studies have attempted to conduct inter-regional analyses to test population structure during the African MSA.

PAULA UGALDE, then a graduate student at University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, was awarded funding in April 2021 to aid research on "Envisioning a Paleoindian Communal Space: Living Under the Trees in the Atacama Desert, Chile," supervised by Dr. Vance Holliday. About 11,600 to 10,800 years ago, the Atacama Desert in northern Chile was witnessing its last wetter period before the drought conditions of most of the Holocene. The hunter-gatherer groups that populated this area took advantage of this and made this place their home. Ethnographic research shows us that hunter-gatherers value trees as members of their social and spiritual world, not only using them as fuel but incorporating them in their camps as part of the habitational structures and creating social norms to preserve them. With the exceptional record of tree stumps in the Atacama we can observe the relationship that its first human inhabitants had with trees. With this research’s intensive radiocarbon dating and mapping of trees, now we can say that these hunter-gatherers were living among and under them. Quebrada Maní 35, was likely a confluence place for larger groups of hunter-gatherers, since it offered many resources concentrated in one place, including potable water, a variety of fauna, and the benefits of a small forest of Prosopis tamarugo and Schinus molle. We know that they were not only using the trees as fuel, but likely as shade, protection, tools, and even as part of their living structures.
ROBERT VIGAR, then a graduate student at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received funding in October 2019 to aid research on “My World, My Earth is a Ruin: Dispossession, Repossession and Archaeological Practice in Egyptian Nubia,” supervised by Dr. Robert Leventhal. This project considers how archaeological site looting is conditioned by processes of dispossession, which continue to endure for the Nubian population of Egypt, and the role that archaeological practice has in furthering Nubian dispossession. Through an investigation of the relationship between Nubian communities and archaeological fieldwork over the course of 130 years, this project will demonstrate the ways in which archaeology has been implicated in the project of dispossession in Nubia. Archival data gathered from Egypt, Germany, and the UK, as well as 19 semi-structured interviews with archaeologists and local community members, provide evidence for the development of a regime of archaeological knowledge production which has insisted upon Nubia as a liminal space of difference, as an archaeological, military, and racialized frontier zone. Ultimately, this project argues that archaeology is an infrastructure of dispossession for indigenous people.

PHYSICAL-BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

RAMIRO BARBERENA, CONICET, Buenos Aires, Argentina, was awarded funding in April 2021 to aid research on "Drivers and Consequences of Past Human Migrations: Life-history Approach for the Southern Andes." Migrations are an intrinsic aspect of human societies, past and present. This global character can be used to build a comparative perspective seeking to understand when, how, and why do human groups abandon their territories, whether voluntarily or by coercion. In this project we developed a bottom-up approach to human life-histories linking the micro-scale of the individual with the level of households, communities, and larger social groups from the southern Andes of Argentina. Our approach is based on an interdisciplinary bioarchaeological study of burial sites from the last 1000 years in the Uspallata Valley, combining isotopic studies of human diet past territories, and migrations, demographic profiles of the sites with migrants and locals, causes of the death, and biological distances and kinship organization as revealed by ancient DNA. This project actively integrates at all stages the indigenous Huarpe descendants of past human societies from Uspallata, aiming at a multi-vocal perspective where scientific studies and indigenous voices complement each other, making archaeology relevant not only to understand the past, but to forge stronger social connections.

WILLIAM CALLISON, then a graduate student at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, was awarded funding in April 2019 to aid research on "Ventilatory Adaptations in Peru: How Does Thoracic Ventilation Change in Response to High Altitude?", supervised by Dr. Daniel Lieberman. Despite aerobic activity requiring up to tenfold increases in air intake, human populations in high-altitude hypoxic environments can sustain high levels of endurance physical activity. While these populations generally have relatively larger chest and lung volumes, how thoracic motions actively increase ventilation is unknown. This project shows that rib movements, in conjunction with chest shape, contribute to ventilation by assessing how adulthood acclimatization, developmental adaptation, and population-level adaptation to high-altitude affect sustained aerobic activity. We measured tidal volume, heart rate, and rib-motion during walking and running in lowland individuals from Boston (~35m) and in Quechua populations born and living at sea-level (~150m) and at high altitude (>4000m) in Peru. We found that Quechua participants, regardless of birth or testing altitudes, increase thoracic volume 2.0–2.2 times more than lowland participants (p<0.05). Further, Quechua individuals from hypoxic environments have deeper
chests resulting in 1.3 times greater increases in thoracic ventilation compared to age-matched, sea-level Quechua (p<0.05). Thus, increased thoracic ventilation derives from a combination of acclimatization, developmental adaptation, and population-level adaptation to aerobic demand in different oxygen environments, demonstrating that ventilatory demand due to environment and activity has helped shape the form and function of the human thorax.

ALEJANDRO FIGUEROA, then a graduate student at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, received funding in April 2016 to aid research on “The Faunal Dimension of Human-Environment Relationships in the Tropical Highlands of Southwestern Honduras,” supervised by Dr. Christopher Roos. This research evaluated how Mesoamerican foraging societies interacted with their surroundings during the Preceramic period (ca. 11000-7400 cal B.P.) by examining the largest collection of animal bones dated to this time recovered from the El Gigante rockshelter in Honduras. This period was characterized by major climatic and ecological changes following the end of the last ice age, and culminated with a transformed landscape, sedentism, agriculture, and domestication. Analyses of these animal bones show foragers began intensively using the shelter and its landscape long before environmental deterioration and demographic pressures affected this area as a result of a changing global climate. This is likely because this landscape remained stable and productive during most of this time. However, despite the important role animals played in the diet of these inhabitants, it seems people returned to this area for its abundant plant resources. This created landscapes of abundance that were inherited by future populations, and affected both human and non-human populations in many ways. Changes in mobility and subsistence were thus purposeful and highly successful strategies that relied on accumulated traditional ecological knowledge of particular environments and resources, and shaped broader economic and social behaviors over time in Mesoamerica and beyond.

KATHLEEN GROGAN, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, was awarded funding in April 2018 to aid research on “Functional Epigenomics of Growth and Development in Human Hunter-gatherers and Agriculturalists.” The epigenome is one mechanism through which sociocultural processes and environmental variation may influence human biology and even evolution. Because epigenetic marks can modify gene expression, they are an important contributor to human phenotypic variation. Epigenetic patterns are affected by inherited genetic variation and dynamically responsive to the ecological or social environment. By studying patterns of epigenomic variation among human populations, we can contextualize human variation and evolution within the framework of major differences in environmental factors and/or lifestyles. For example, subsistence strategy differences, e.g. between hunting and gathering versus agricultural societies, result in major habitat, activity level, and nutritional intake differences that could affect phenotypic variation. Compared to neighboring agriculturalist (AGR) populations, rainforest hunter-gatherers (R HGs) have significantly shorter mean adult stature. Although the environment plays a role, this height difference has a major heritable component. Furthermore, RHG and AGR populations have epigenetic differences near genes involved in growth. To study the interaction between the genome, epigenome, and environment, the project will quantify how gene expression and methylation patterns of cells from Batwa RHG and Bakiga AGR from southwest Uganda: 1) differ at baseline; and 2) change in response to growth hormones. By describing baseline epigenomic variation and its response to growth hormone treatment, we may better understand gene expression differences play a role in stature differences between populations. This project represents a unique opportunity to investigate evolutionary and ecological influences on epigenetic regulation of growth and development as well as the flexibility of the mechanisms regulating these pathways.
ERIN HECHT, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, was awarded funding in October 2016 to aid research on “Neural Adaptations in Response to Selection for Reduced or Increased Aggression.” For over 100 years, anthropologists have theorized that some of the selection pressures experienced by our ancestors during the emergence of human society paralleled those experienced by animals during adaptation to life within human society, or domestication. However, direct tests of the human “self-domestication” hypothesis have been limited, especially in the context of brain evolution. Moreover, an alternative to the “self-domestication” hypothesis is that humans and chimpanzees have evolved increased aggression relative to a more peaceful, bonobo-like ancestor. This project uses neuroimaging to address these issues with a highly specific experimental model, foxes selectively bred for either reduced or increased aggression, to pinpoint neural systems that respond to these pressures. The project then tests whether those specific systems show differences in a bonobo/chimpanzee comparison, and finally, parallel analyses are carried out in humans. Preliminary results indicate that selection both increased and reduced aggression produces shifts in the morphology of gray matter regions within cortico‐limbic circuits. However, the connectivity within these networks differs in response to selection for increased versus reduced aggression. Together, this research experimentally tests long‐standing anthropological hypotheses about evolutionary pressures that may have shaped human ancestors’ behavior and brain organization.

TINA LASISI, then a graduate student at University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, was awarded funding in October 2019 to aid research on “Investigating the thermoregulatory function, genetic architecture, and evolutionary history of human scalp hair morphology,” supervised by Dr. Nina Grace Jablonski. The goal of the study was to better understand how and why human scalp hair varies in form. This work included the creation of new quantitative methods for phenotyping hair, analyses of genetic variation linked with hair form, and experimental research on heat transfer in relation to scalp hair. This research developed a Python package for the automated analysis of hair fiber images and laboratory protocols for preparing hair samples. These newly developed hair phenotyping methods were used to analyze previously collected hair samples in order to study the genetic loci related to hair. Lastly, this project carried out a novel experimental study on the effect of scalp hair morphology on heat transfer. The study found that hair on the scalp helps to reduce heat gain from solar radiation, in particular, if it is tightly curled. This grant‐funded research has allowed the grantee to explore an understudied and often racialized aspect of human biology. This work has shaped many of her science communication efforts, and she continues to share her findings and knowledge of human evolutionary biology through various public and social media outlets.

JAIN LOCHLANN, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, was awarded funding in October 2019 to aid research on “The Hepatitis B Vaccine: Gay Men and Experimentality in the 1970s.” This project analyzed an understudied component of the history of hepatitis B: the testing of the first vaccine on gay male subjects in New York from 1973‐1979. Hepatitis B, a highly infectious virus, spreads through contact with human blood and other body fluids. Although the majority of cases resolve naturally or can be treated, ten percent of people exposed will develop chronic infection or liver cancer. Unlike previous vaccines, the hepatitis B vaccine used neither a killed nor an attenuated virus, but DNA isolated from the blood plasma of infected people. Merck’s Heptavax‐B has been touted as the first human cancer vaccine. Selected after a pilot trial of 13,000 men, gay men were chosen specifically for their high prevalence of STDs and risk of hepatitis B. A large multi‐pronged recruitment campaign lasting over a year in an effort to gather over 1100 men to join the trial and a further group of hepatitis B positive men to donate blood for vaccine
Alexandra Niclou, then a graduate student at University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, was awarded funding in August 2020 to aid research on “Cold Adaptation in a Tropical sample? Measuring the Metabolic Cost of BAT Rhermogenesis and Its Association with Blood Glucose in Samoa,” supervised by Dr. Cara Ocobock. This dissertation project investigated the metabolic effects of brown adipose tissue (BAT), a heat-producing tissue activated at cold exposure in 100 adults (59 women, 41 men) between 31-54 years old from Apia, Samoa, a warm climate area with little temperature fluctuations year-round. The study inferred BAT activity by comparing metabolic rate or the numbers of calories burned and body heat dissipation between room temperature and cold exposure. Despite no changes in metabolic rate between exposure, BAT was inferred as changes in temperature at the supraclavicular area (BAT location) were significantly smaller compared to changes at the sternum (non-BAT location) between room temperature and cold exposure. Furthermore, substrate metabolism, fasting glucose, and cholesterol levels were compared before and after the cooling phase. While cholesterol levels did not change upon inferred BAT activation, fasting glucose levels and the substrate metabolism index decreased after cooling. These results suggest that when activated BAT relies on both glucose and lipids for fuel. This project’s findings demonstrate that BAT may be found across all populations, independent of climate and adds to the increased understanding of the potential beneficial effects of BAT on type II diabetes and other metabolic syndrome risks.

Rachel Petersen, then a graduate student at New York University, New York, New York, received a grant in October 2019 to aid research on “Mechanisms of Pre- and Post-copulatory Choice in Female Olive Baboons, A Model for Human Evolution,” supervised by Dr. James Higham. Throughout much of human and primate evolution, large male body size and sexual coercion may have restricted females’ ability to directly choose their mating partners, and instead, females may engage in indirect or cryptic processes of male choice. This study explored vaginal gene expression as a means to better understand how females might engage in cryptic post-copulatory mate choice by physiologically discriminating between sperm from different males within their reproductive tract. This study was conducted in olive baboons, which are a particularly suitable model for human evolution due to their high degree of body size dimorphism (similar to early hominins), and sperm competition. Female baboons were trained to present their hindquarters for vaginal swabbing, and vaginal gene expression was characterized across the ovarian cycle in the absence of copulation, and in response to mating with different males. Genes relevant to immune function were highly expressed following copulation, and post-copulatory expression of two genes were found to be influenced by the genetic makeup of the mating male. These results suggest that the female reproductive tract may respond differently to sperm from different males, and that cryptic processes of female mate choice could be an important evolutionary mechanism operating throughout human evolution.

Lauren Springs, then a graduate student at University of Texas, Austin, Texas, was awarded a grant in April 2018 to aid research on “Negotiating Identity and Change in Colonial Belize: An Evaluation of Genomic Signatures of British Colonialism,” supervised by Dr. Maria Franklin. When European colonization of the Bay of Honduras (in the area now known as Belize) began in the 16th century, local communities...
were remade as European governments sought to capitalize on the riches of the region. This research explores the impacts of colonization by examining genetic data from an 18th century British colonial site and from contemporary Belizeans whose ancestors lived in the Bay during colonization. Using these new data, this project has brought genetic analysis into conversation with historical and cultural research in Belize to investigate how different types of research recognize identity in the past, and how expressions of identity and genetic relatedness have changed over time. It has shown that archaeological, genetic, and archival research often yield conflicting interpretations of historic identity, and demonstrated that multiple forms of knowledge production are needed to fully understand humanity’s past. This project also shows that different patterns of genetic variation existed in the colonial and contemporary populations, suggesting that they are related but that significant migration has occurred since the 18th century. This is reflected in contemporary research participants’ understandings of their own identities and their ancestors’ heritage, which suggests a disconnect between colonial and contemporary assertions of identity.

VICTORIA A. TOBOLSKY, then a graduate student at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, received funding in April 2019 to aid research on “Investigating Energetic Contributions to Adolescent Growth Among Kalenjin Children,” supervised by Dr. Daniel Lieberman. Insulin may regulate energetic trade-offs during life history. The adolescent growth spurt precedes the onset of menstruation and is accompanied by a period of insulin resistance that may help divert energy towards skeletal growth. We compared adolescent girls who had not yet menstruated in a rural community in western Kenya (n = 40) with girls from the same population in an urban context (n = 44; total, n = 84) to test four broad hypotheses: 1) rural and urban children occupy different energetic niches, 2) a urinarily-excreted proxy of insulin, c-peptide, predicts biomarkers of bone growth, 3) insulin, as measured by c-peptide, predicts hormonal biomarkers of gonadal maturation, and 4) insulin, as measured by c-peptide, mediates a trade-off between bone growth and remodeling and reproductive maturation. We collected urine samples, dried blood spots, body composition, 24-hour dietary recalls, and used the doubly labelled water method to calculate total energy expenditure (TEE) in a subset of children (n = 24). Average c-peptide was significantly different between communities (Rural: 11.62 ± 5.43, Urban: 20.91 ± 7.90, p < 0.001), suggesting energy constraints in the rural area. Results from the DLW tentatively support this insight, finding that children in the rural area have higher TEEs but spend fewer kilocalories per kilogram of fat free mass daily. C-peptide moderately predicts one biomarker of bone growth, NTX-1 (β = 0.05, p = 0.008) when controlling for age, tri-ponderal index (TPI), IGF-1, GH, and estradiol. C-peptide also predicts estradiol when controlling for age, TPI, IGF-1 and GH (β = 0.12, p < 0.001), but this relationship merits further scrutiny. This study provides evidence that c-peptide is responsive to the local environment, and that it supports skeletal growth. We do not find conclusive evidence of energetic trade-offs during adolescence in pre-menarcheal children, but future studies should explore the potential role of insulin in mediating trade-offs in the peri/post-menarcheal period.
SONIA N. DAS, New York University, New York, New York, was awarded funding in October 2018 to aid research on “Fighting Words or Speech Rights? A Linguistic Ethnography of Police Discretion in the U.S. South.” Research was conducted between June and August 2019 and July and August 2021. This project investigated how police discretion might lead to the violation of free speech rights in police-civilian encounters in Richland County, South Carolina. Also examined were the interactional achievements of escalation and de-escalation, training protocols that teach police officers which verbal or gestural practices count as evidence of the intent to incite harm, and audio and video recordings impacting the determination of guilt and attributions of what counts as unprotected speech. The methodologies followed during this research were participant-observation, interviews, and media analysis. Evidence collected included personal narratives from officers in the Columbia Police Department, fieldnotes of traffic stops during “ride- alongs” with officers, video recordings of training sessions in de-escalation at the South Carolina Justice Academy, interviews with judges, attorneys, and criminal defendants involved in DUI and other criminal cases, and newspaper articles discussing bodycams. Research findings indicate that officers and civilians predict aggression against themselves based on their social identities and language ideologies; also, officers rely extensively on their discretion to determine what speech, gestures, and movement count as escalation.

JAVIER DOMINGO, then a graduate student at University of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, was awarded a grant in April 2019 to aid “Language Incarnate: The Social Construction of ‘Last Speakers’ in South America,” supervised by Dr. Luke Flemming. This research is centered on the social construction of the so-called “last speakers” in contexts of indigenous languages by focusing on five cases in Latin America (Tehuelche in Argentina, Yagan in Chile, Chana in Uruguay and Argentina, Ayapano in Mexico, Tingua in Colombia), where one single speaker is said to have competence on the language. The project studies their processes of “sociolinguistic investment,” their mediatization and representation, and the role that these individuals play in community projects of cultural and linguistic revitalization. Fieldwork in this comparative study was carried out in the form of a multisite ethnography on multiple scales. It consisted, in the first place, in observing the linguistic behaviors of the people or the social groups in question — in particular those occasions in which the indigenous language was actually used or was the subject of discussion. It also included a series of interviews with the different actors involved in the “last-speakers” network (government bureaucrats, local activists, artists and journalists, professional linguists and other anthropologists, amateurs in general). Finally, the evidence on the materialization of these languages was collected, which includes bibliography like dictionaries, grammars and ethnographies, but also other types of linguistic objects.

ALICIA WRIGHT, University of California - San Diego, La Jolla, California, was awarded a grant in October 2021 to aid research on “Identity, Interpreting, and Ideology: Negotiations between Black Deaf signers and hearing American Sign Language – English Interpreters in the US.” Deaf people of color in the United States have repeatedly called for more racial and gender diversity among hearing interpreters, most of whom are white women. Finding appropriate interpreters for Black Deaf people, specifically, can be challenging due to a lack of widespread understanding of how sociocultural factors affect interpreting interactions. To understand these aforementioned relations, the researcher spent one year in Rochester, New York examining the sociocultural and linguistic relationships between Black Deaf signers and hearing American Sign Language-English interpreters. This hybrid, in-person and remote, project utilized engaged watching and listening, semi-structured interviews, and observations of interpreting encounters.
Interviews with deaf signers and interpreters focused on their educational and linguistic journeys, their general experience with interpreting, and how they believe their identities impact deaf client-interpreter interactions. The observational data centers on wider matters related to living in a multilingual society such as issues of language access, language barriers, and how to meet different language needs through community organizing, research, and legal changes. In general, increasing the understanding of how sociocultural and linguistic factors influence deaf client-interpreter interactions will help inform educators who train interpreters and future sign language interpreting research.

SOCIAL-CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

ASHLEY NGOZI AGBASOGA, then a graduate student at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, was awarded a grant in May 2018 to aid research on Citizenship and Belonging: Blackness, the State, and Geography in Afro-Mexico, supervised by Dr. Aida Benton. This dissertation, retitled “We Dance with Existence: Black-Indigenous Placemaking in the Land Known as México and Beyond,” illuminates how Black, Indigenous, and Black-Indigenous women engage in placemaking practices that reveal and unsettle notions of race, place, and (nation-) statehood in México. Merging ethnographic and archival research conducted in 2019-2020 in Guerrero, Oaxaca, Veracruz and Mexico City with theories and methodologies from Anthropology, History, Black Studies, and Native/Indigenous Studies, Agbasoga argues that Black-Indigenous placemaking practices create two critical ruptures: first, in the (re)produced bifurcation of blackness and indigeneity, and second, in the Mexican state’s racialization of its territory as mestizo. These ruptures generate space to think about alternatives for Black, Indigenous, and Black-Indigenous communities throughout what is known as “The Americas.”

HADIA AKHTAR KHAN, then a graduate student at University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, was awarded funding in October 2018 to aid research on “The Social Life of Remittances: Revaluations of Social Reproduction in Rural Pakistan,” supervised by Dr. Tania Li. Migrant joint families have amassed significant amounts of wealth through the ownership of convenience stores in Malaysia and “temporary” marriages to Malaysian women. Men are able to migrate and still uphold honor in the village by leaving their Pashtun wives and children under the patriarchal protection of a brother within the joint family, which the migrant supports with remittances. This transnational “joint” family enterprise, comprised of the convenience store and Malaysian family headed by the migrant in Malaysia, and the farm and family headed by the brother in Pakistan, is able to become upwardly mobile because of fraternal solidarity and multiple wives. On one hand, this mutuality, care and compromise within the joint family allows it to accumulate assets under culturally and morally appropriate conditions. On the other, hierarchies, conflicts and extractions between family members animate the everyday and more eventful conflicts over who does what (labor) and who is owed what (entitlement) share in the fruits of family labor. This dissertation analyses family practices, meanings and sentiments of solidarity that generate and sustain upward mobility, and the fierce moral and social conflicts over labor, value and entitlements that divide families.

CHINONYE ALMA OTUONYE, then a graduate student at City University of New York Graduate Center, New York, New York, was awarded a grant in April 2021 to aid research on “Beyond Nigeria: Race, Ethnicity and Modernity in Biafran Political Imaginaries,” supervised by Dr. Gary Wilder. During the Nigerian Civil War, the creation of a Biafra as a separatist state in the southeast signified that the people were willing to establish a new territorial and political reality for themselves in order to achieve freedom. Though the secessionist state would fail, 50 years later pro-Biafra sentiment is still strong. IPOB (Indigenous Peoples
of Biafra), as a major voice within the pro-Biafra movement, have both expanded their territorial claim and reformulated their cause through strong identification with a Jewish heritage linking themselves politically to Israel and an Igbo ethnic affiliation. In centralizing the lives of Jewish Biafrans in the wake of the Nigerian Civil War, this project explores the racialized narratives around a Jewish, Igbo, and Black identity in the claims to territorial sovereignty by IPOB members and other self-identified Jewish Biafrans. In studying the simultaneous diasporic and indigenous subjectivities, that roots and unroots peoples to land, this project examines the paradoxical place that Jewish Biafrans take up in their claim for territorial sovereignty that simultaneously undoes and redoes colonial dispossession in Nigeria’s southeastern region. Through a combination of archival, ethnographic, and digital ethnographic at two former Biafran capitals (Enugu and Umuahia), this project seeks to understand the ways in which a Jewish Biafran identity recasts understandings of sovereignty and territorial productions.

ROXANA M. ARAS, then a graduate student at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was awarded funding in October 2018 to aid research on “Everyday Confessionalism and Olfactory Aesthetics: The Case of the Rum Orthodox in Beirut,” supervised by Dr. Paul C. Johnson. This project applies a complex nexus of sensorial aesthetics, social networks, and lived religion on the case of the Rum Orthodox in Lebanon. Here the researcher asks how members of this Arab Christian minority negotiate their identity through sensory codes, discursive representations, and urban material culture. With archival and ethnographic research conducted between 2019 and 2020, the researcher locates the work within the multi-confessional environment of Beirut, disrupted by sectarian conflicts, nationwide uprisings, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Using a grand narrative of Orthodoxy as a “way of life,” it focuses on two intertwined dimensions of religion as lived experience. First, it investigates how Rum Orthodox authentic their identity through religious practice that combines particular sensorial aesthetics, ethical sensibilities, and scripted traditions. Second, it explores Rum Orthodoxy as a dynamic, everyday social practice that engenders and reflects specific sensory registers, affective dispositions, and cultural categories. Here, the Rum Orthodox sensorially negotiate their status as a religious minority in everyday social interactions, within the urban topography of Beirut, and through regimes of precarity and uncertainty.

EMMA LOUISE BACKE, then a graduate student at George Washington University, Washington, DC, was awarded a grant in August 2020 to aid research on “Caring Through Crisis: The Temporalities of Recovery and Survival in South Africa’s Gender-Based Violence Epidemic,” supervised by Dr. Ilana Feldman. In 2018, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa declared gender-based violence (GBV) a national emergency. In 2020, this crisis was redefined by the COVID-19 pandemic, trapping citizens in their homes with abusers, promoting what UN Women called a “shadow pandemic.” Responding to this epistemic of crisis, research was carried out over a year (April 2021-April 2022) through a hybrid model of remote and in-person fieldwork to investigate how ideas of emergency across different scales—international donors, government, service providers, and activists—inform the politics of survival, and the therapeutics and temporalities of care for survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Cape Town. Care amongst international donors and government institutions placed a heavy emphasis on statistics, an enumerative strategy activists pushed back against as impersonal and insufficient to capturing the lived crisis of IPV. Political patience amongst grassroots activists is waning, leading to NGO interventions which attempt to improve services for survivors seeking Protection Orders, while promoting more localized solutions to addressing violence in the home. Research revealed conflicting visions of what justice means within the courts, how survivors’ access and operationalize justice in their day-to-day lives, and the perilous outcomes of waiting on the criminal justice system to intervene.
SHANNON BAE, then a graduate student at University of California, Irvine, California, received funding in April 2021 to aid research on "Reconciling DNA: Making Kin and Nation through Genetic Testing in South Korea," supervised by Dr. Eleana Kim. This project investigates how DNA is being imagined, constructed, and deployed to produce personal and public knowledge of identity, kinship, citizenship, belonging, and (trans)national memory in South Korea. Between 1956 and 2000, South Korea sent more children for international adoption than any other country in the world. Previously, adoptees had to rely on (often falsified) records held by adoption agencies, but now, sidestepping gatekeeping institutions, DNA testing is often one of the first steps in birth family search. As part of a larger state effort to recognize adoptees as part of the Korean diaspora, the South Korean government began enabling adoptees to submit their DNA at its diplomatic missions worldwide. Based on 13 months of fieldwork research within a network of social actors and institutions that provide birth family search support and services, this research argues that DNA testing is disrupting longstanding constructions of kinship knowledge and practice by broadening the kinds of relations being produced at individual, familial, national, and transnational levels. Furthermore, the prevalence of DNA testing is raising significant social, legal, and moral questions, with the ethics of adoption practice coming under greater scrutiny, generating counternarratives that challenge hegemonic adoption frameworks and state-sponsored nationalist narratives.

MONICA PATRICE BARRA, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, received a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship to aid research and writing on “Good Sediment: Race, Geology, and the Politics of Land Loss.” Retitled Good Sediment: Race, Science, and the Politics of Coastal Restoration, this manuscript examines how coastal science and engineering intersect with racial inequalities in the context of Louisiana’s “losing a football field per hour” land loss crisis, and the state's unprecedented efforts to restore its disappearing coastline. Drawing from ethnographic research among coastal scientists and Black communities brought together by land loss and restoration, the manuscript attends to the power of science to reproduce racial inequalities in the era of climate change, and the ways multigenerational frontline communities challenge our collective imaginaries of science, environmental change, and restoration to sustain, not abandon, their communities. In this regard, the manuscript considers the tensions circulating around coastal restoration in Louisiana as evidence of the ways racial inequalities are built into the science and practice of restoration. The book analyzes "good sediment" (and coastal ecologies more broadly) as a politically fraught entity that is at once central to scientific ideologies of restoration, and a key co-conspirator in the efforts of Black communities challenging the logics of loss baked into restoration science and policy. With this in mind, the manuscript foregrounds how Black ecological practices and expertise challenge restoration science and state planning efforts to center values of self-reliance, community care, and autonomy in their efforts to restore Louisiana's coast.

LAUREN BAUMGARDT, then a graduate student at Rice University, Houston, Texas, was awarded funding in April 2021 to aid research on “Declarations of Home: Housing Developments and Infrastructural Temporalities in Cape Town,” supervised by Dr. Cymene Howe. This research project explores the multiple and constantly changing meanings and practices of “homemaking” in Cape Town. While Cape Town is one of the most segregated cities in the world, it is also among the most innovative global cities and has been declared “the first African World Design Capital.” This project examines the ways people cope with, and react to, the rise of housing demands and new infrastructural requirements in an era of intersecting crises, scarce urban land, and continuous socio-spatial segregations. Drawing upon anthropological literatures of development, infrastructure, design and housing, this research asks two interrelated questions: how do resident communities, design professionals, as well as government
initiatives seek new solutions to mass-scale housing and infrastructure demands? And how might residents turn the provision of basic service infrastructure and housing development into a sense of home and urban belonging? Researching the economic, social, and affective investments of both residents and professionals, this project will help to surface core values associated with new urban housing solutions. Extended field research will be critical to understanding residents’ limits and opportunities for economic stability and urban belonging through their efforts and persistent claims for affordable housing and infrastructural development.

LINDSAY BELL, Western University, London, Ontario, was awarded a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “Transparency: An Ethnography of a Global Social Value.” In the first decade of this century, diamonds and other conflict-laden gemstones spearheaded a global trend toward transparency. Despite the growing pervasiveness of transparency in business strategies and political discourses across political and economic spectrum, it remains a theoretically nebulous and ethnographically elusive category that occludes more than it purports to reveal. Rather than assuming that the category of transparency is itself transparent, this research interrogates the technological practices, material qualities, linguistic interactions, and institutional standards which produce transparency in the diamond sector. Funding is supporting ongoing anthropological research on how diamonds’ transparency is constituted in the interconnections between people, institutions, words and things. The primary field site for the research is Gemological Institute of America (GIA), in Carlsbad California. Through participation in courses in diamond evaluation and grading, the initial research describes how people in the gemstone industry learn to evaluate and standardize transparent stones, companies, and producing countries.

SOPHIE BJORK-JAMES, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, was awarded funding in April 2019 to aid research on “When the Nazis Move Next Door: Forty Years of Fighting Organized Racism in the Pacific Northwest.” By 2042, racial minorities are projected to become a majority of the population in the United States and various anti-democratic movements have emerged to respond to this change. White nationalism was and is a political movement struggling for (rather than against) the Balkanization of an existing multiracial society and has leveraged demographic change to broaden their movement. Since the 1980s, the movement sought to use the disproportionately white demographics of the Pacific Northwest as the foundational space for an ethnically homogenous state, encouraging supporters to move to the region and organizing groups there. Their opponents, self-identified antiracist and civil rights advocates, worked to consolidate cross-racial coalitions. Both white nationalist and civil rights groups sought to influence democratic institutions, either to limit or expand their scope. Through interviews and participant observation, this project investigates a forty-year history of opposition to white nationalism in the northwestern United States to analyze and generalize how advocates of multi-racial democracy employ democratic means to counter authoritarianism and extremism. While many efforts to counter extremism focus on either counter-recruitment strategies or encourage individuals to leave extremist movements, this research uncovers an approach that mobilizes democratic institutions to protect communities from the effects of extremist, anti-democratic movements. This project also investigates what role religion plays in these politics.

HANNAH BORENSTEIN, then a graduate student at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, received a grant in October 2019 to aid research on “A New Running Economy: Ethiopian Female Distance Runners In Networks of Capital,” supervised by Dr. Orin Starn. Perhaps second only to coffee, Ethiopia is best known worldwide for its long-distance runners. Since the 1960s, the country has indeed won countless Olympic medals and major marathons. However, the persisting explanatory rhetoric for East African
running dominance relies on deterministic understandings of race, genetics, and environment. Little attention has been paid to the dimensions of labor, culture, and gender at work. This project is the first in-depth ethnographic study of young Ethiopian women seeking a career in long distance running. Based on two years of fieldwork in Addis Ababa and surrounding areas, domestic trips to competitions and training camps around Ethiopia, an internship at an international sports agency based in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and travel to competitions around the world, the dissertation investigates the transnational networks of people and corporations that female runners move within and across as they navigate a global athletics market. Foregrounding gender, body politics, and global capitalism, my project revises the biology-centered concept of “running economy” into a multi-faceted sociocultural analytic for exploring how aspiring runners strive to make monetary value. How, the grantee asks, can we look at running economy more holistically? In underlining the social and cultural dimensions of running economy and centering the perspectives of women who exist within the transnational economy of running, we can see how Ethiopian women contest commonsense understandings of how this global athletics economy functions – and make their own moral judgements about what a more just economy would look like. Even as some of them drastically improve their lives by running, and remain hopeful while reaching for success, they find ways to cause frictions and disrupt hegemonic flows of ideas and money. By listening to how they politicize their training as labor, and by hearing their demands and desires, this research argues that Ethiopian women runners expose many of the failed opportunities that capitalist structures and ideology espouse and urge us to rethink how we could better structure transnational economies.

BINA BRODY, then a graduate student at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received a grant in October 2019 to aid research on “Competing Voices: Subversive Songs and the Unraveling of Traditional Gender Hierarchies in Senegalese Wrestling Competitions,” supervised by Dr. Asif Agha. This project studies the interrelation of language and music in Senegal’s national wrestling competitions, asking how performers employ music creatively to comment on social transformations and shifting gender norms in the country. To answer this question, three musical/performative practices have been explored, that form the core of wrestling music: Sabar drumming, singing, and self-praise poetry. Fieldwork among musicians and wrestlers has uncovered processes of erosion in musical repertoires, alongside substantial simplification of song texts. At the same time, new performative practices are emerging, such as dance choreographies and complex rhythmic compositions. This research argues that changing musical practices in Làmb are emblematic of greater societal shifts in Senegal. The emphasis on spectacle and simplification of the musical repertoire are tied to the recent commercialization of the sport; the transition from localized practices to a homogenous, professional industry reflects attempts to formulate a unified national narrative. Furthermore, this project seeks to situate the sport within contemporary debates about gender roles. It shows how performative strategies of singers and wrestlers promote conceptual shifts regarding gender. Finally, it argues that the ‘playful’ discourse in Làmb music has become a productive site for exploring traditional gender roles, commentating on them, and at times unsettling them.

LUCILA BUGALLO, University of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina, was awarded funding in October 2019 to aid research on “Circulation and Incorporation of Ritual Products in South American Highlands (Bolivia and Argentina).” This project focuses on the incorporation of external ritual products and the way they catalyze local processes related to fertility, growth, and renovation in the Andean highlands of Jujuy, northern Argentina. It was developed through an ethnographic strategy that combined: 1) participant observation in two fairs of medical-ritual products, during the dry season (in Argentina) and the wet season (in Bolivia); 2) participant observation in stable (non-seasonal) markets on the Argentinean-
Bolivian border (Villazón); and 3) open interviews with vendors in both fairs and markets. The work included: product inventories (including raw materials, origins, uses); systematization of discourses and terms associated with sales; reconstruction of the trajectories of people and products; and the formation of a collection of ritual/medicinal products. The research highlighted the importance of “external” products traded at fairs and markets for buyers from the highlands of northern Argentina and southern Bolivia. It showed the centrality of frontier women vendors in the circulation of these products throughout the year, and identified the prominent place of a type of ritual assemblage prepared by these women: the “mesas” that are burned in most of the rituals of the highlands of Jujuy.

DILARA CALISKAN, then a graduate student at University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, was awarded a grant in May 2019 to aid research on “World-making: Family and Memory among Trans Mothers and Daughters in Turkey,” supervised by Dr. Jessica Greenber. In Turkey, the history of state-building carefully assembles time, memory, and language, and creates spaces of relatedness by defining the nation as one big family (ulus) in which the land is the mother (ana vatan), and the government is the father (devlet baba). The everyday experience of family becomes a tool to define possibilities of citizenship, controlled by gendered systems of authoritarianism that regulates how we relate to time, language, memory, and history. Within this context, identities that are not fitting to the ideals of Turkish citizenship are scrutinized, regulated, and destroyed by the state for decades as inner threats to the family and the nation. Through an ethnography of trans women who do sex work in Turkey, this dissertation, renamed “World-Making: Kin, Memory and Language among Trans Sew Worker Women in Instabul,” reveals that trans women who are criminalized and unrecognized in so many ways offer new ways to theorize politics of kinship and relating within state-imposed definitions of citizenship and explore alternative social and material worlds while navigating within gendered and sexualized histories of women. How do gendered and sexualized forms of violence that target social and material lives of identities and languages that are outside of the ideals of the Turkish state can be studied through everyday practices of kin making within the lives of trans women who do sex work in contemporary Turkey? Through these questions, this dissertation explores the broader impacts of kin-making to investigate the entanglements among time, language, and memory in which authoritarian politics of identity live and thrive in Turkey, Middle East, and beyond.

BASAK CAN, Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey, received a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2020 to aid research and writing on “Forensic Fantasies: Doctors, Documents, and the Limits of Truth in Turkey.” Forensic Fantasies draws upon an ethnography of doctors specialized in torture documentation, and archival research on forensic documents of torture in Turkey. The book traces the parallel and intersecting formations of official and alternative forensic institutions and practices in Turkey against the backdrop of political transformations ensuing the 1980 coup. Mapping out the relationship between forensic documentation, state violence, and political imagination, the book maintains that forensic documentation works through a fantasy – namely the belief that medical witnessing to violence produces scientific and objective truth, puts an end to undue state violence, and subsequently holds the possibility of delivering justice. With these premises, the book demonstrates that forensic fantasies founded the field of human rights in Turkey as the politics of veracity. Rather than opposing facts and fantasies or truths and emotions, the book suggests that finding facts about human rights violations is a fantasy-induced political project. These fantasies of forensic documentation, I further argued, have been pivotal to the formation of human rights system in Turkey and the state’s imagining and projection of itself in public life as a state respectful of human rights and democracy until very recently.
CHELSEY CARTER, then a graduate student at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, was awarded a grant in April 2019 to aid research on “It’s a ‘White Disease’: ALS, Race, and Suffering in a Divided City,” supervised by Dr. Rebecca Lester. Our understanding of ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) in conjunction with race is unclear. This ethnography asks: how does race affect the experience of living with ALS, a purportedly “white disease” whose causes, social correlates, and cure are unknown? To engage this question, this research investigates how Black Americans living with ALS in St. Louis, Missouri engage with racialized care landscapes. Black people with ALS often go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed, leading in some cases, to years of increased suffering and premature death. The study also found that Black patients with ALS have more extended diagnostic periods, more negative experiences with clinicians, are less likely to participate in ALS care spaces and clinical trials, and die from ALS faster after symptom onset. Rather than deploying racial science suggesting Black bodies are different from white bodies, this study establishes how anti-Black racism and the logics of white supremacy have deleterious effects on Black people. This ethnography speaks to more significant anthropological concerns about how local biologies are generated and their effects on everyday experiences of illness. This study develops a racialized local biology as a new analytic by bringing together critical race studies, Black feminist discourse, and medical anthropological theory.

CHRISTOPHER CHAN, then a graduate student at University of California, Berkeley, California, received a grant in April 2021 to aid research on “Crafting for the Enemy to Come: The Politics and Poetics of “Green” Infrastructures as Techno-Aesthetic Strategies of Ecological Futures in Taiwan,” supervised by Dr. Daniel Fisher. “Russia is the storm, China is climate change,” Thomas Haldenwang, the German Intelligence Chief declared ominously in 2022, “So we are going to have to brace for this climate change in the coming years.” As the world tries to figure out how to deal with the changing environment, this research examines how environment and politics become conflated through the work of art that both constructs and contends with social imaginations of ecological and geopolitical futures. This study explores how techno-aesthetic strategies are employed in Taiwan and Hong Kong to construct such a transition by examining the politics and poetics of environmental artists. The project situates the socially engaged environmental artist as the new subject of power and possibility within the strategic production of green urban ecologies as infrastructural sites that operate with the new logics of a contemporary existential struggle: one that is simultaneously political, technological, and ecological.

KERRY CHANCE, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway, was awarded a grant in April 2018 to aid research on “Habitable Air: Race, Gender, and Poverty in the Time of Climate Change.” The project investigates how the urban poor, living in the shadows of a jointly owned petrochemical company in South Africa and the United States manage the cultural and corporeal dynamics of air chemical pollution. Long-standing struggles over industrial toxicity are newly shaping and being shaped, as climate science becomes increasingly integral to contemporary politics in transnational sites. The project’s central research question is: What political life is possible for – and created by – the world’s most environmentally precarious communities in emerging orders of climate governance? Modern democratic theory rests on the foundational principle that all citizens have an equal share in political life. In contemporary South Africa and the United States, legacies of colonialism and segregation, along with neoliberalism and climate change, test that very foundation. Political life is not merely defined by the laws, policies, and decisions of state-sanctioned agents, but by everyday practices among ordinary citizens and their interactions with the environment. Drawing from ethnographic and historical research in South Africa and Louisiana’s “cancer alley,” the project offers a critical examination of how the urban poor, living on the precarious
margins, come to inhabit political roles and practice climate politics in twenty-first century liberal democracies.

ABDUL HAQUE CHANG, Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, Pakistan, received funding in August 2020 to aid research on “The Making of Shah Jo Raag: An Ethnographic Study of Sufi Musical Tradition in Sindh, Pakistan Sindh, Pakistan.” This research aimed to understand the making of Shah Jo Rag through historical and ethnographic methods. The major question for inquiry was how social change has been taking place in this tradition and how traditional musicians’ ideas about what is Shah Jo Rag and how it needs to be performed and conceptualized have changed over the last 30 years. Before, Shah Jo Rag was strictly controlled and regulated. At present, the sacred aspect has also been impacted due to social change and the market economy's predominance in the sacred sphere of Shah Jo Rag. The increasing demand for the Shah Jo Rag in society has shaped its current counters. This research studied 12 groups performing at the shrine. The everyday practices of these groups have been considered. Based on these practices and the approach of phenomenology, generalization has been made regarding the continuation, social change, and current practices regarding the musical and socio-musical aspects of Shah Jo Rag. This study suggests that tradition is undergoing a drastic change in terms of its musical quality, and the centrality of the musical aspect is changing.

MIKAELA O. CHASE, then a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, received a grant in October 2018 to aid research on “Confronting Asceticism: Law, Ethics, and the Right to Life in the Jain Fast to Death,” supervised by Dr. Veena Das. This research examines Jains’ legal and moral positions as “ascetic persons” within the Indian secular milieu. Asceticism and its inscription on the body form the central ideal of Jainism and saturate the texture of lay life and practice. Its ethical practices, enacted mostly by women, include a fast until death called santhara. Santhara is the ultimate expression of an ascetic ethic in which the ideal relation to the world is realized through complete withdrawal from it. Public interest litigation claimed that this expression of the ascetic mode is incommensurable with the right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, constituting illegal suicide. Jains deny that santhara is suicide and claim the practice is protected under the right to religious freedom in Article 25. This project entailed ethnographic field research in Delhi and Jaipur with Jains undertaking santhara as well as actors in the realm of legal recognition and adjudication, including scholars, community leaders, and advocates involved in preparing amicus briefs. This research culminated in a dissertation titled Ideality and Impossibility in the Contemporary Practice of the Jain Fast Until Death, engaging questions around Indian law and religion, gender and the body, and ethics and politics of life.

RISA CROMER, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, received a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship to aid research and writing on "Ex Utero: Frozen Embryo Politics in the United States." This fellowship supported development of a book manuscript draft for initial review with a university press. Conceiving Christian America: Embryo Adoption and Reproductive Politics of Saving is based on ethnographic research spanning 2008-2018 and will be published in the Anthropologies of American Medicine series with NYU Press in Fall 2023. This book examines how the U.S. Christian Right advances nationalist ambitions by strategically interfacing with assisted reproduction through the practice of embryo adoption. At the turn of the twenty-first century, when a countless number of human embryos created using in vitro fertilization and frozen in fertility clinic freezers became the subject debate focused on one question—what should happen with them? —a group of white pro-life evangelical Christians developed embryo adoption as a proposed solution that “saves” embryos. Embryo adoption is a family-making practice that facilitates the donation of unused embryos through an adoption-like process to recipients who plan to gestate and
parent any children born. This book provides the first ethnographic look inside the practice and reveals its connection to a powerful social movement aimed at transforming the nation’s moral order. Rooted in feminist anthropology, it draws critical attention to the seductions and harms of white saviorism that animate embryo adoption and argues why and how saviorism ought to be a topic of more sustained anthropological concern. In tracing how embryo adoption became part of the religious right-wing’s political playbook for conceiving a Christian nation, it provides timely insights into what lies behind polarizations of the contemporary political moment and broadens considerations of how U.S. reproductive politics shape global geopolitics.

ANGELA CRUMDY, then a graduate student at City University of New York, Graduate Center, New York, New York, was awarded funding in April 2018 to aid research on “Education from the Margins: Black Women Educators in 20th and 21st Century Cuba,” supervised by Dr. Dana-Ain Davis This study, is a feminist analysis of labor and uses social reproduction theory to better understand the lived experiences of women primary school educators in Cuba during the contemporary teacher shortage. Using a mixed method approach, the researcher argues that the experiences of Black women teachers in Cuba today are in many ways shaped by the colonial legacies of slavery and gender inequality, which the 1959 Revolution failed to rectify. Interlocutors expressed discontent in knowing that they performed essential (re)productive work for the sake of the nation while their capacities to fully participate were curtailed by long work hours and low pay. Teacher shortages are not specific to Cuba, however, this case is unique in that the 1990’s Special Period, a term used to refer to the economic turmoil triggered by the demise of the Soviet trading bloc, intensified race and class-based cleavages reminiscent of times prior to 1959 when racial segregation was common and social mobility was limited. Research findings will contribute to the anthropology of education and broaden scholars’ understanding of women’s labor practices in Latin America and the Caribbean.

SANGHAMITRA DAS, then a graduate student at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, was awarded funding in April 2021 to aid research on “Ordering Subaltern Disorders: Gene therapy and the politics of sickle cell management in India,” supervised by Dr. Lindsay Adams Smith. This project investigates the convergence of the nation-state, biomedicine and (bio)capital around the construction of sickle cell disease as a subaltern disorder in the caste-based society of India. It inquires how experiences of living with and treating sickle cell disease, a rare genetic condition that is biomedically mapped onto marginalized communities in India, can be impacted through state investments in emerging pharmaceuticals and biotechnological innovations like gene therapy at the expense of strengthening existing health systems. Documenting expert and lay perspectives as well as the life histories of the sickle cell affected, this project explores the possibilities and limitations of pharmaceutical research and drug development for sickle cell management in India. These are epistemic and market processes that in the case of sickle cell disease draw upon notions of caste-based biological difference. In ethnographically centering narratives of suffering among doubly (socially/genetically) marginalized communities, this project seeks to illuminate the contradictions between the promises of novel therapies—unlikely to be immediately accessible to these communities—and the material conditions of sickle cell sufferers deprived of basic medical care. Furthermore, this project is also a contribution towards generating decolonial and digital ethnographic methods that are attentive to the precarity of marginalized communities arising both from regnant structural inequalities and the uncertainties of a global pandemic.

NOMI DAVE, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, was awarded a grant in October 2021 to aid research on "Amplified Feminism: Justice, Sound, and Ways of Hearing in Guinea." This project explores
the role of voice in responses to sexual violence to consider how vocal practices, sound technologies, and ways of hearing shape legal and extra-legal processes. Approaching the voice as a material and social phenomenon, it examines histories and contemporary practices of vocal exclusion, participation, amplification, and refusal around sexual violence in the Republic of Guinea. According to longstanding ways of hearing in Guinea, the female voice conveys a lack of authority and, at times, poses a danger for male listeners. Women do not have command of authoritative speech, and yet their voices are capable of shaming and disciplining men. This ambiguity between power and its absence is at the heart of recent debates around voice, activism, and gender justice in Guinea. Through ethnographic research and close listening, this project considers how various actors in Guinea try to claim or retrain the public listening ear in debates around sexual violence. Moving beyond prevalent metaphors of voice and silence in relation to sexual violence, it aims to show how and why justice claims are made audible and vocal, and to what effect.

NILE DAVIES, then a graduate student at Columbia University, New York, New York, was awarded a grant in April 2018 to aid research on “Becoming Natives: Place and the Politics of Belonging in Sierra Leone,” supervised by Dr. Rosalind Morris. Fieldwork and archival research conducted in the Western Area of Sierra Leone investigated the effects of speculative capital on the built environment through the political economy of land and the construction of vast mansions for the newly wealthy. The research sought to understand the conditions that facilitated an increasing concentration of esoteric wealth at the expanding urban frontier of Freetown, spurred by the false dawn of a transformative mineral “boom” and a rush of foreign loans, accompanied by prophesies of miraculous growth. Studying the layered material history of the region in the wake of rapid post-war reconstruction, the research shows how the experiences of migrant workers in the community of IMAT index the values and social relations that structure an administratively volatile and “disaster-prone” landscape. This landscape, the investigation finds, is host to a precarious class that subsists by its proximity to the capital of dangerous construction work, its attendant ecological harms and bodily burdens. Ethnographic attention towards the vernacular architectures of an ambiguous “development” reveals the effects of new money as it circulates through and refigures the city, presenting a crisis of relation between ends and means, and the anxieties of “community” – the moral problem space of yawning material disparities.

DAISY DEOMAMPO, Fordham University, Brooklyn, New York, was awarded a grant in October 2018 to aid research on “Gamete Donation and the Meanings of Race in Asian America.” This project examined how ideas about race influence decision-making around reproductive technologies such as egg and sperm donation. The project’s focus on Asian Americans, the fastest-growing minority group in the country and the group most likely to seek third-party eggs in their own pregnancies in the United States, offers a critical perspective on the intersections of race and reproduction. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork conducted with diverse Asian American communities, study findings reveal that race is a primary trait used to select gamete providers and that demand for “Asian” eggs and sperm as a commodity reaffirms notions of racial purity. At the same time, the project illustrates how actors construct race along a spectrum in often contradictory ways, at times attributing biogenetic status to racial categories and at other times denying it. By analyzing how actors understand gamete donation, the study illuminates how racialized substances such as human gametes acquire meaning and value. In doing so, the study highlights the comparative aspects of gamete markets in order to demonstrate hierarchies of value and differentiation among humans. More broadly, this project advances anthropological theories of race and reproduction by situating them in relation to racial capitalism, commodification, and social stratification.
KRISTIN DOUGHTY, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2020 to aid research and writing on "Threats to Power." This book project uses ethnographic research with a methane extraction project on a potentially explosive lake in Rwanda, brought into conversation with ethnographic work with landfill gas projects in upstate New York, to examine the relationships between energy, waste, and capture in the first decades of the 21st century. The Lake Kivu methane extraction project, which has garnered international acclaim, aims to reduce dangerous levels of unstable gasses dissolved in the lake to prevent it from exploding, while providing much-needed power to meet increasing local demand. This manuscript uses participant observation and interviews with people living alongside Lake Kivu, methane plant operators, Rwandan and international scientists, and political authorities to consider the production and experience of "energopower" (Boyer) through methane in a post-conflict environment. The book argues that thinking energy and power (both electric and political) alongside capture and waste is essential to identifying the colonial and carceral logics of existing power projects, and to imagining truly transformative energy solutions. The book engages with energy humanities, environmental anthropology (specifically anthropologies of energy) and political anthropology (specifically carceral studies and waste studies), shaped by feminist and Black and African studies.

NADJA EISENBERG-GUYOT, then a graduate student at City University of New York, New York, New York, was awarded funding in October 2018 to aid research on “Gendering Intervention: Geographies of Addiction, Recovery, and Reform in New York City,” supervised by Dr. Jeff Maskovsky. During an historic re-articulation of incarceration in New York City, this project explored how gender, race, and class have been transformed at the intersection of criminal legal system reform and the overdose crisis. Focusing on women’s experiences with court-coerced drug treatment, this research exposed how “alternatives to incarceration” programs trap working-class women who use drugs in complex webs of surveillance and punishment concealed by talk of decarceration, racial justice, and recovery. Through ethnographic research in NY drug courts and a residential drug treatment program in Queens, archival research, and correspondence with currently incarcerated people, this project argues that practices and ideologies of “rehabilitation” simultaneously secure a racialized class available for perpetual carceral-therapeutic capture and secure whiteness as magnanimous, civilizing, intervening force, always overcoming the (past) violence of its instantiation. Traveling across sites of state violence, the research reveals how medical and criminological, therapeutic and punitive approaches to the management of “substance use” as a social problem are deeply intertwined in the “carceral-therapeutic state.” Countering the individualizing mandate of rehabilitation, women in rehab articulate visions of healing grounded in interdependence, collective safety, and an end to structural violence, not individual responsibility. Thus, the lives of criminalized women reveal durable practices refuting the liberal project of reform, which seeks to violently subjugate and domesticate those it purports to transform.

ZOHAR ELMAKIAS, then a graduate student at Columbia University, New York, New York, received a grant in April 2019 to aid research on "Between a Minefield and the Temple: National, Theological, and Military Powers and Site-Making in Israel," supervised by Dr. Nadia Abu El-Haj. The project explored three sites in Israel/Palestine which have been home to militarily charged events and projects of theological practice, and have been repeatedly transformed, both materially and ideologically, over the past century-and-a-half. These sites have been transformed and perceived through and under different forms of power -- national, theological, and military. Political violence, projects of nation-building, and religious aspirations and sensitivities have all been crucial in their palimpsest of past, present, and future imaginaries. This
project asked: How do sites accumulate and execute power? Who are their agents? And specifically, what are the diverse forces involved in site-making in Israel? How do these initiatives and imaginaries enacted upon the physical territory of the land resist, hinder, utilize, or encourage the state as a political project? The ethnographic aspect of the research used public formal and informal events, and interviews with a diverse range of persons, to explore the multiple imaginaries informing and transforming the sites, their narratives of the past, and the visions for their futures. It showed how specific sites bring together messianic and mythic national vision, settler-colonial history, and a neoliberal merger of security, war, and capital.

BRIAN FAIRLEY, then a graduate student at New York University, New York, New York, was awarded a grant in August 2020 to aid research on "Dissected Listening: An Ethnographic Media History of Georgian Polyphonic Recording," supervised by Dr. Martin Daughtry. This research project concerns the history of sound recordings of traditional music from the South Caucasus region of Georgia, with attention to their role in discourses of “world music” and larger media narratives regarding the evolution of multichannel sound technology. The period of remote research funded by the dissertation fieldwork grant dealt with three chief moments in this history: recording experiments from 1916, 1930/35, and 1966. Without in-person access to the relevant archives in Vienna, St. Petersburg, and Tbilisi, research was undertaken using digitized primary and secondary sources—for instance, archival material from the Austrian Academy of Sciences—along with virtual interviews with interlocutors in Georgia. Most significantly, a research assistant in St. Petersburg made major discoveries at the Phonogram Archive of the Russian Institute of Literature, which holds material related to E. V. Gippius’s 1930s recordings of Georgian music, including a substantial, unpublished manuscript. In-person archival research was limited to a visit to the University of Georgia in Athens, where documents in the Guido Adler Papers provided crucial context for the 1916 recordings of Georgian prisoners of war, attesting to their significance in the development of “polyphony” as a concept both within and beyond music studies.

ROSA FICEK, University of Puerto Rico, Cayey, Puerto Rico, was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2019 to aid research and writing on "More Than Modern: Mobility and Difference on the Pan American Highway." Modern roads are closely tied to Eurocentric ideas of progress and development. This study of the Pan American Highway explores the power relations built into Latin America’s highway system through a decolonial framework that complicates assumptions about the political and economic benefits of roads. Through the analysis of archival documents, travel narratives, and ethnographic observations—at the scale of region, nation, and borderland—this book project demonstrates how modern roads are informed by, and reproduce, colonial logics and hierarchies. From engineers debating highway standards at regional conferences, to long-distance motorists on epic road trips, to the colonization and deforestation of tropical areas opened up by road construction, the practices that make up the Pan American Highway reorganize landscapes in ways that concentrate power in forms of whiteness that are imagined existing outside of nature. An intervention in environmental anthropology and science and technology studies, this research contributes a decolonial approach to the study of the connections between infrastructure, capitalism and colonialism.

MARGAUX FITOUSSI, then a graduate student at Columbia University, New York, New York, was awarded funding in August 2020 to aid research on "The Lives of Quartier Lafayette: A Historical Anthropology of French Colonial-Era Architecture in the Tunisian Present," supervised by Dr. Nadia Abu El-Haj. Renamed “The White Wolf: Jews and Jewishness in Tunis, Tunisia,” this project in Tunis, Tunisia examines people, places, and things that are not Jewish or may be Jewish and explores their relation to Jews and Jewishness.
Jewish heritage, a fundamental category of cultural and religious belonging, is often considered to have a hard semiotic and material boundary. It’s an either/or, yes/no question. However, the adjective Jewish has become attached to a variety of people, ideas, people, and things in Tunisia. The lines of distinction between Jew and Muslim, Arab and Jew are more scrambled than we would expect. If the historical Jew has come to index a past Tunisian El Dorado, then the contemporary Jew is perceived as an anachronism, a relic of a bygone era, someone to be suspicious of but also, for some, a subject of fascination. This dissertation examines the suspicions, appropriations, and fantasies of Jews and Jewishness among the non-Jews, the maybe Jews, and the Jews themselves. This work examines a spectrum of embodiments and attitudes that range from the non-Jewish students of the Tunisian-Israeli artist Rafram Haddad’s Hebrew class who actively seek out someone who can teach them about Jewish history in Tunis to the boxers in the Turki Team boxing gym who are largely indifferent to the gym’s Jewish history despite being surrounded by what may be considered signs of Tunis’ Jewish past: photographs and posters of former Tunisian Jewish boxers. Even in a context where institutions like the Chief Rabbinate of Tunisia determine who can receive a “certificate of Jewishness” and the Tunisian police monitor who can enter Jewish synagogues and cemeteries, the religious boundaries of Jewishness are not as cemented or exclusionary as one would expect. This is a dissertation about uncertain identities, continuing identities, transferring identities, exploring identities, and mistaken identities. What are the doubts, concerns, and hopes linked to the Jewish presence in Tunisia? In the absence of a visible local Tunisian Jewish community, what does the Jew and Jewishness stand for today? The Jew or Jewishness as spectral?

BRONWYN FREY, then a graduate student at University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, received a grant in October 2019 to aid research on "The Datafication of Courier Labour: App-Based Food Delivery in Berlin," supervised by Dr. Andrea Muehlebach. The fieldwork sponsored by the Wenner-Gren Foundation focusses on app-based food delivery couriers and management. The app-based last-mile delivery industry is one of the most distinctive developments in capitalism in the last decade. Twenty-one months of fieldwork reveal that Fleatz, a composite app-based food delivery company operating in Berlin, represents a new iteration of capitalism in that the role of riders is not only, or even primarily, to create profits for the company through the surplus value of their labor. Instead, they are also subject to regimes of speculative data accumulation and of beta capitalism, an organizationally, politically, and financially volatile form of high-tech accumulation that emphasizes constant optimization, speed, and market growth, underpinned by a reliance on financial capital instead of profits to be economically viable. Subjecting rider labor to multiple forms of value accumulation results in a confusing, paradoxical, yet highly quantified work experience for riders and office workers alike, but the consequences are most serious for riders.

NATAYA FRIEDAN, then a graduate student at Stanford University, Stanford, California, was awarded funding in April 2019 to aid research on “Oil and Water; Flood-craft and Taboo in Houston,” supervised by Dr. Sylvia Yanagisako. From 2019-2020, twelve months of ethnographic and archival research were conducted in Houston, Texas on the political life of scientific evidence during the intensified flood infrastructure planning process post-Hurricane Harvey. The researcher spent six months embedded at the Harris County Flood Control offices doing observations and interviews as well as archival research. The researcher attended city, county and state government meetings on the flooding problem as well as private sector convenings amongst the development, finance and oil and gas communities. The researcher conducted 46 semi-structured interviews on climate change evidence with engineers, lawyers and business professionals involved or evoked in flood infrastructure planning and compared their public speech with their personal interviews. Through ethnographic observations and interviews, the researcher
documented the use of language and rhetorical strategy developed and disseminated during decades of industry funded misinformation campaigns. The researcher also conducted extensive visual ethnography across Texas documenting the landscapes of an energy transition well under way. The researcher followed the enactment and dissolution of a taboo around causal claims attributing more and worse flooding to climate change to understand the perceivability of climate change in the context of public lies.

CAMILA GALAN DE PAULA, then a graduate student at University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil, was awarded a grant in April 2021 to aid research on “Indigenous Blood: A Study of Indigeneity and Family in Northeast Brazil,” supervised by Dr. Ana Claudia Duarte Rocha Marques. How can we make sense of a form of indigeneity not linked to the transnational category “Indigenous peoples”? What are the limits imposed by a state-mediated form of indigeneity? This project responds to these questions through an investigation of people in Brazil’s rural Northeast who have known indigenous ancestry (“indigenous blood”) but do not classify themselves as Indigenous. Through fieldwork and archival research, this project investigates the local semantics of indigeneity and associated temporalities. In local narratives, Indigenous individuals and groups are placed into an a-historical and pre-civilizational past before the Portuguese descendants considered as local “founders” established themselves in the region; as a result, indigeneity invokes a remote past. But indigeneity manifests itself in the present, in the form of racialized bodies. By investigating the local processes of indigenous racialization, this research focuses on the contextual interchangeability of race and family. More specifically, this study expands scholarship on indigeneity by addressing the processual and contextual dimensions through which indigeneity exists, linking the interconnected processes of historicization, racialization, and producing relatedness. This project consequently extends the literature that questions the limits of legal categories for alterity coding in (pluri)national states.

MIRANDA M. GARCIA, then a graduate student at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was awarded funding in August 2020 to aid research on “Independent Advertising in Cuba: A Lens on Economic and Social Change,” supervised by Dr. Krisztina Fehervary. This project examines Cuba ten years after the legalization of small-scale, private enterprise on the island, and analyzes how everyday Cubans are embodying, projecting, and debating new subjectivities and visions of change through new media. Since 2010, there has been an explosion in the number of small businesses across the island, a sea-change that has occurred alongside increased and unprecedented access to new media – from well-known social media platforms and messaging apps to home-grown alternatives like “el paquete,” an offline, USB-based network for domestic and foreign media. This research looks at how new identities, like “entrepreneur,” “influencer,” and “consumer,” are displayed and debated in these digital spaces and in commercial media, and how they are and are not reconciled with the Cuban revolution’s past and professed values. Finally, this project explores the implications for a new public sphere as Cuba slowly moves away from a planned economy, and potentially, the State-controlled media landscape.

KONSTANTIN GEORGEV, then a graduate student at Rice University, Houston, Texas, was awarded a grant in October 2021 to aid research on “Environmental Science after Socialism: Sociopolitical Change and Environmental Science in Post-Soviet Siberia,” supervised by Dr. Andrea Ballestero. This project seeks to understand how the people formerly employed at a former Soviet environmental research institute adapted their skills and practices to the post-Soviet context. Looking at the labor of scientists and other personnel, the research traces new labor practices and the establishment of different vernacular institutions and organizations. Through these new organizations, the scientists seek to continue their
conservationist and research efforts and retain control over narratives of the institute’s work, history, and achievements. This project is based on ethnographic and archival research in Eastern Siberia.

CHRIS GREEN, then a graduate student at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received a grant in August 2020 to aid research on “Re-collecting Kanak Pasts: Indigenous Identities and Sovereignty in New Caledonia,” supervised by Dr. Deborah Thomas. This dissertation is an attempt to understand what Indigenous independence leader, Jean-Marie Tjibaou, recognized about the power of the museum to self-determine Kanak identity. Moreover, this tool for self-determination thus became an important instrument of Indigenous sovereignty as the Kanak sought their independence from France. The grantee wanted to answer the question: What can the Kanak, and Tjibaou in particular, tell us about the political work that museums do for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders? The research points toward a heritage-based strategy of self-determination that might yet be useful for local Kanak to accomplish their sovereignty goals. The project’s aim is to demonstrate to Kanak activists, leaders, and museum professionals the power that their ancestor, Tjibaou, saw in museums to help their cause, a power that has now been widely co-opted in non-Kanak communities. It’s hope is that this clarity will empower Kanak communities to use heritage in ways that advance their own aspirations ultimately towards self-determination.

XINYU GUAN, then a graduate student at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, was awarded a grant in August 2020 to aid research on “Singapore’s State-Constructed Housing Estates: The Material Lives of State Power, Citizenship and Subjectivity,” supervised by Dr. Viranjini Munasinghe. Fieldwork in Singapore investigated how state-constructed housing shaped understandings of citizenship in Singapore, particularly with respect to sexuality and migration histories. Through interviews, digital participant observation and archival research, the grantee reflected on how state-constructed housing estates embody different kinds of temporalities, as they are constructed and later demolished, and explored how these temporalities are caught up with life trajectories of the inhabitants, with familial and national timelines of progress. In particular, The project considered how queer and migrant subjects, who are deprioritized for access to state-constructed housing, relate to these intertwined temporalities of the housing estates. Moreover, this research examined how caring and/or antagonistic relationships form within the dense housing estates, in communal spaces and apartment sublets, and how these relationships provoke other ways of thinking about sexuality, migration histories and citizenship in Singapore.

EMANUELA GUANO, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia, was awarded a grant in October 2018 to aid research on “Aesthetics and the Resistance to Redevelopment in a Postindustrial Neighborhood.” At least since the late 1980s, scholarship in anthropology and related social sciences has devoted close attention to the aestheticization of cities. However, to date much literature on this topic still approaches urban aestheticization exclusively as a commodification strategy. Based on six months of ethnographic research in two of Genoa’s postindustrial peripheries, this project attends to competing ways of using aesthetics to mobilize consensus that do not entail the commercialization of cityscapes. If ethnographic research in Val Bisagno illuminates activists’ bottom-up tactics of invoking a hegemonic categorization of heritage to stop redevelopment, the Valpolcevera component of this project examines the top-down (corporate and administrative) use of depoliticized street art to pacify a ruined neighborhood in the wake of disaster. This project thus adds nuance to the understanding of how, in the age of neoliberal urbanism, aesthetics can become a terrain for the pursuit of consensus.
SUGANDH GUPTA, then a graduate student at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, was awarded a grant in October 2019 to aid research on "Dependency, De-Addiction, and the Care by the State in Jammu, India," supervised by Dr. Jocelyn Chua. This research project investigated the social and clinical impacts of long-term militarization and political conflict on injecting drug users (IDUs), mental health professionals, and government programs that seek to rehabilitate drug users in Jammu City, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), India. It draws upon a) thematic analysis of interviews with recovering IDUs, their family members, mental health professionals, social workers, and government officials; b) participant observation at the Opioid Substitution Treatment Center; and c) archival research on India's narcotic laws and J&K's de-addiction policy. The study examined the daily struggles encountered by individuals recovering from IDU, who are reliant upon state-supported services in a disputed territory. Their ability to access these services was regularly disrupted by political unrest and curfews. Clinicians faced manpower shortages, irregular Buprenorphine supplies, neglect of basic amenities, the presence of para-military forces, and a lack of a safe and stable space to operate the clinic. These conditions created panic and frustration for clinicians and barriers to access for clients. The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic further marginalized these services. The study examined how clients, clinicians, family members, and state officials struggle and often must rely on one another to provide regular care and services amidst political conflict in the region.

GINA HAKIM, then a graduate student at University of California, Irvine, California, was awarded funding in April 2021 to aid research on “Migrant Infrastructure Innovation: Building Public Works Across Borders,” supervised by Dr. Kim Fortun. In the highlands of Michoacan in Central Western Mexico, the residents of the village of Urequío have built and managed their own water infrastructure, drawing on a network of aquifers and groundwater sources that by 1995 provided all 700 residents access to potable water. In the absence of sufficient municipal and state support, residents have drawn on partnerships with former residents who migrated to the United States. Living primarily in the California cities of Wilmington and Long Beach, migrants participate in the creation of infrastructural possibility in Urequío, through fundraising and remittances as well as participation in the conceptualization and care of infrastructure projects. This study examines Urequío’s infrastructure actors, the kinds of expertise they have mobilized, and the processes they have relied on to move from identification of needs to infrastructure design, development, and governance. Focusing on how this transnational community is navigating threats to groundwater, this research examines the processes and exchanges that support infrastructural innovation and includes the participatory creation of an archive, documenting the cross-border processes of collaborative infrastructure knowledge exchange and production.

ANUSHA HARIHARAN, then a graduate student at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, was awarded a grant in April 2019 to aid research on “Forging Solidarity, Constructing Subjectivity: Dalit Feminist Activism in India and the Making of Transnational Network,” supervised by Dr. Jocelyn Chua. This study examined practices of friendship, inter-caste solidarity-building, care and ethical life among feminist social justice activists in Tamil Nadu, southern India. Drawing on a combination of methods that include participant observation, oral histories and archival methods, this research project gathered data that spans multiple decades of feminist activists’ lives to situate social justice activism in the intimate and everyday ethical labor that activists perform. The methods used in this study investigated the ways in which members of a feminist group in Tamil Nadu collectively conceptualize desirable ways to live and work in meaningful ways with each other that subvert age-old regional norms of caste, kinship, class and gender. This is visible in both publically-facing sites of protests, political rallies and public celebrations of
activists’ lives, as well as intimate, everyday spheres of domesticity. The study also investigated how feminist subjectivity is constituted through collective articulations of feminist ethics, friendship and practices of care that feminist activists have extended to each other, and others in their political and social worlds, through their lifetimes. Data gathered illuminates how feminists creatively combine seemingly incommensurable moral resources such as Liberation Theology, feminism and Marxism, in how they enact meaningful ways of being in the world, and articulate an ethical sense of self.

ZEYNEP GIZEM HASPOLAT, then a graduate student at Rice University, Houston, Texas, was awarded a grant in April 2021 to aid research on "Commodifying Life, Managing Liveliness: Live Cattle Imports in Turkey," supervised by Dr. Gunel Gokce. This project examined the conflicts and convergences between veterinary health and economic efficiency by focusing on live cattle imports in Turkey since the 2010s. The fieldwork focused primarily on the knowledge and practices of veterinarians and private companies taking part in livestock economies, combining these with the research on the bureaucratic organization of live imports. Drawing on interviews, online media content, and field visits to importing companies, farms, and veterinary medical associations, the research analyzed the impacts of the liveliness of the animals on the economic relations formed around the cattle trade. Cattle as a living commodity emerged as a source of value on different, often divergent veterinary and economic terms, pushing the actors involved in the trade to reconcile those disparities. Veterinary health practitioners, importers, and state officials have taken up differential valuations of the cattle at the level of the microbial, the individual, and the herd against the backdrop of the increased frequency of zoonoses, the ongoing pandemic, and the economic crisis. Attending to the complex relationship between these levels, this project highlights the importance of attending to the intricate relationship between veterinary health, public health, and socio-ecological relations within capitalism.

SARA HEFNY, then a graduate student at Brown University, Providence, RI - To aid research on “Refugees a(t) Risk: Vulnerability, Security, and Italy’s Humanitarian Corridor,” supervised by Dr. Jessaca B. Leinaweaver. This multi-sited, ethnographic project investigated a private refugee resettlement program, created by a consortium of Italian ecumenical organizations, which allows Syrian refugees to enter Italy from Lebanon under the protection of a humanitarian visa. This program, and other refugee assistance projects, was born into a context of perceived migrant “invasion” and economic anxiety in a country that still has not recovered from the global economic recession. This dissertation is based on two years of fieldwork in Italy, following workers in these faith-based organizations and the Syrian refugees they are tasked with resettling. The dissertation explores how these humanitarian workers adopt a variety of ethical principles to understand and justify their work. The project also examines how the workers decide who is deserving of aid and what the best ways are to provide assistance, as well as the effects of these decisions on the Syrians who are in their care. By examining the tensions between the obligation to help refugees and concerns over security and economy, this project interrogates the ways global and national discourses shape local understandings of refugee deservingness, how these understandings are mobilized, and the effects of these decisions on the lives of newly resettled Syrians in Italy.

YOOKYEONG IM, then a graduate student at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, received a grant in May 2019 to aid research on “Order and Emancipation: Judicial Activism in South Korean Queer Movement,” supervised by Dr. Nicholas Harkness. This research examines the history, modes, and effects of law as an increasingly central means of activism in the South Korean queer movement. The rise of legal—both legislative and judicial—advocacy in queer activism is in line with the broader societal trend in Korea and beyond, that law seemingly emerged as the most potent means of politics. The study is
situated in a unique context where contesting desires for institutional protection and fluid emancipation coexist. Informed by ethnographic fieldwork meeting rooms, street protests, conferences, and courtrooms, the research identified the dialectical relationship between queer legal advocacy and its countermovement in constituting the growing significance of the law in rights-claiming politics. It also found that the construction of legal knowledge relies on the linguistic model and further examines the affinity between the language of law and certain theories of time. The research focuses on the situated theorization of legality and liberation to explore an anthropological question of who can drive change and how they do it.

RICCARDO JAEDÉ, then a graduate student at University of London, London, United Kingdom, was awarded funding in October 2018 to aid research on “The Ethics and Effects of ‘Declassing’ among Non-parliamentary Leftists in Kolkata,” supervised by Dr. Charles Stafford. This dissertation examines the politics of urban middle class activists among the non-parliamentary left in Kolkata, India. It is based on 17 months of ethnographic fieldwork among political groups in Kolkata, of which the final four were spent embedded in an alliance of Hindu communist and Muslim organizations that spearheaded the citizenship protests in West Bengal of 2019 and 2020. It offers an immersive account of the often paradoxical dynamics that rendered the protest movement against the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the 2019 Citizenship Amendment Act a temporary success in West Bengal. The functioning and efficacy of these dynamics is intelligible only if read as an extension of the highly performative modalities in which politics is practiced in Bengal. Through close attention to gender, affect, and highly moralized political rituals, the dissertation places its main analytical focus on the operations of performativity and (emically unrecognized) magical thinking in otherwise ‘secular’ activist politics, and the spectacular mobilizational and politically transformative effects they can achieve. This analysis is born out through an in-depth examination of the political and ethical tensions around feminism, caste, and intersectionality within the activist scene, with particular focus to the mobilizations and demobilizations around sexual abuse and the politics of “calling out” in the form of #MeToo in Kolkata.

LARISA JASAREVIC, an independent scholar from Chicago, Illinois, was awarded a Fejos Postdoctoral Fellowship to aid finishing the ethnographic film project on “Post-War Natures and Contemplative Apicultures: Beekeeping in Bosnia.” In the resulting film, “Honey’s Vanishing: The Bees and Stories are Holding Us Up,” two sisters follow beekeepers hunting for honey through the changing climates of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Local beekeepers have long been fleeing industrial toxicity and urban development to seek out best wild forage for their bees—often in surprising places. The bees forage on the former frontlines of the 1990s war, now lush and rewilding. But honey is vanishing. Honey ecologies entirely hinge on local weather and so beekeepers foraging the wilds have a unique insight into profound changes underway due to climate change. To better grasp the ecological disaster that is entirely missed in global conversations about honeybees’ endangerment, the sisters establish an apiary on their father’s land in a mountain village and travel, cross-country, in beekeeper’s tracks. What they find are not only records of growing estrangement between bees and plants. They also find unusual stories that local Bosnian Muslims tell about “the end times,” the era in the Islamic calendar before the world’s end. Divinely inspired bees, sheep, plants and angels figure in the traditional tales that teach how to live through an ultimate catastrophe. It is the down-to-earth apiary and gardening lessons, however, as well as people’s intimate relationships with honeybees through hard times that best convey ecological and anti-apocalyptic notes of Islamic tradition. Framed by three popular stories—about angels awaiting the signs of the End, about planting on the eve of apocalypse, and about a waning weed that stands for the world—the sisters’ road
trip starts from their village apiary. Beekeepers and shepherds, visited across Bosnian wilderness and industrial wastelands, suggest what journeys become possible when the End is looming.

NICHOLAS JOHNSON, then a graduate student at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, was awarded a grant in August 2020 to aid research on “Emergent Citizenships: Chilean and Mapuche Politics and Belonging in the Peri-urban Santiago (Chile),” supervised by Dr. David Nugent. This dissertation project seeks to contribute to Indigenous studies, the anthropology of interculturalism, and citizenship studies by examining whether cross-racial interdependencies provide the conditions through which participants can debate and implement their visions of how to rectify historic inequalities and colonial legacies. It intends to do so through ethnographic fieldwork, interviews, and archival research on Mapuche (Indigenous) and Chilean (non-Indigenous) histories of mutual survivorship in peri-urban Santiago. Unlike the peri-urban neighborhoods in other parts of the world, neighbors have cooperated for mutual survivorship across racial lines through developing housing and organizations to manage shared resources in response to an inadequacy of neoliberal solutions to poverty. Research focuses two of 22 neighborhoods in which Chileans and Mapuche have a history of neighborhood organizing by using online mapping tools to visualize the transformations of community projects at 5-year intervals. Drawing on this mapped data to analyze interview transcripts and fieldnotes, this project seeks to test the hypothesis that Mapuche and Chileans’ history of neighborhood co-management has led to the emergence of intercultural citizenship practices that enable residents to articulate broader visions of how social and political life should be organized in Chile that contrast to the national discourses of neoliberalism.

EMRAH KARAKUS, then a graduate student at University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, received funding in April 2019 to aid research on “Kurdish Lubunyas: Securitization of Queer Subjectivities in Kurdish Turkey,” supervised by Dr. Eric Plemons. The conflict between the Turkish state and Kurdistan Worker’s Party (PKK) that began in 1984 entered a cease-fire in 2010 but returned to re-intensified militarized conflict in 2015. As with many aspects of Kurdish identity politics in Turkey, the ways in which Kurdish queer folks are articulating, debating, and living identities are intimately and increasingly interwoven with institutions, discourses, and practices of securitization. Key to this dynamic is the notion of bedel (debt), the feelings of indebtedness, loss, and obligation among Kurds to struggle for the cause of Kurdish rights. Drawing on 12 months of field research in several key sites and locations, including Kurdish LGBTI organizations and apartments rented by sex workers and “partyers” in Istanbul and Diyarbakir, the research demonstrates how securitization is affectively experienced through belonging, difference, loyalty, and betrayal. Through bedel, queer and trans Kurds in Kurdish Turkey police boundaries for their security and livelihoods, constitute moral value, respectability, belonging, and honor in the Kurdish society, craft “chameleon subjectivities” for disorienting racial and sexual violence, and collectivize a politics of face to solve disputes within their community, shifting the meanings of bedel in the process.

ILKIM KARAKUS, then a graduate student at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, was awarded funding in April 2021 to aid research on "An Ethnography of Care: Grassroots Politics, State-formation, and Urban Marginalization in Istanbul, Turkey," supervised by Dr. Ajantha Subramanian. As urban margins oscillate between varying degrees of state presence and absence, sustaining a life in the city increasingly demands relying on alternate networks of care to cope with unemployment, infrastructural deprivation, state neglect or excessive regulation. If care is simultaneously provided in place of and against the state, this requires incorporating care as a crucial dimension of the predicament of urban marginality. This research responds to this demand in an urban margin in Istanbul, Turkey, where residents use “revolutionary politics” as a local framework to navigate forms of care that circulate in the neighborhood.
In addition to defining contours of communal care to fill the state’s void, local understandings of “revolutionary” also guide the types of care residents demand, accept, or refuse from several governmental agencies. Understanding care not only as an ethical commitment to the wellbeing of the other, but also as a power-laden claim about what constitutes wellbeing, this research investigates primary sites where care and the “revolutionary” come together. In exploring acts of care as indexes of competing claims about what life is, how it should be, and by whom it is to be governed, this research aims to reveal emergent forms of urban governance.

ADAM KERSCH, then a graduate student at University of California, Davis, California, was awarded a grant in April 2021 to aid research on “The Biopolitics of Infectious Diseases, Vaccines, and Settler Colonial Whiteness on Lingit Aaní,” supervised by Dr. Marisol de la Cadena. This research explores the shifting relationship between colonially imported infectious diseases, whiteness, and settler colonialism in Sheet’ká (Sitka, Alaska), analyzing colonially imported infectious disease outbreaks from Russian (1799-1867) and Euro-American occupation (1867 – present). These articulations of race and infectious diseases emerge from archival materials, such as journals and reports of Russian colonial administrators and physicians, correspondences between Euro-American governors and the federal government, and Tlingit oral narratives. It demonstrates that infectious diseases were a crucial matrix for settler colonial articulations of race and whiteness, providing a lens through which colonizers understood and exercised populational difference, including through the use of vaccines. During the COVID-19 pandemic, participant observation at vaccine clinics, in Facebook groups, and Sitka City Assembly meetings demonstrated how these historical formations emerge and take shape in anti-masking and anti-vaccine rhetoric. Whites who denounced COVID-19 mitigation efforts articulated their bodies as sites for implementing white supremacist policies and politics. At the same time, the government’s history of medical abuse and denigration of Tlingit people in Sheet’ká made many of my Tlingit interlocutors hesitant to get vaccinated. Thus, this research provides insight into how whiteness has inflected responses to the current pandemic and outbreaks of past infectious diseases.

MARWA KOHEJI, then a graduate student at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, was awarded a grant in October 2019 to aid research on "Staying Cool in Bahrain: Heat, Air-Conditioning, and Everyday Comfort," supervised by Dr. Margaret Wiener. As climate change results in an increase in the intensity and frequency of heat waves, air-conditioning has become the primary technological solution to keep humans cool. In a remarkably short period of time, this machine has spread to many places around the world where it previously did not exist. The growing popularity of air-conditioning has created concerns on the part of policy makers and scholars surrounding its energy and environmental costs. It is, therefore, important to consider how this technology moves to, becomes integrated in, and transforms new places and cultures. This project investigates this question by studying the production and use of air-conditioning in Bahrain, a country in one of the hottest regions on earth. Through historical and fieldwork research, it engages three key processes: The historical introduction of air-conditioning to Bahrain and its effect on local architecture and everyday routines; the manufacturing of air-conditioning and its connection to larger infrastructures; and everyday experiences of heat exposure and cooling as they shape, and are shaped by, class and gender differences. This research shows that far from simply a response to a hot climate, the adoption and use of air-conditioning is entangled with particular historical trajectories and socio-material developments.

ZUNAIRA KOMAL, then a graduate student at University of California, Davis, California, was awarded funding in February 2021 to aid research on “The Psychiatric Life of Azad Kashmir: Healing, Liberation, and
Islam.” This dissertation fieldwork research consisted of twelve months of ethnographic research on the development of psychiatry in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of 2005 in Kashmir. Particularly, this study explores the way in which psychiatry in this disputed territory (disputed between India and Pakistan) interacts with traditional practices of Islamic cures of the soul, as well as with the liberation struggle for Kashmir’s independence. Data collection included long-term ethnographic work at several hospitals and faith-healers’ clinics. Research findings showed that the rise of new discourses about mental health in the region are being mutually engaged and transformed by Islamic practices of healing, suffering, and resisting – making it so that this encounter between psychiatry and Islam is shaped both by antagonism and creative resonance.

HARINI KUMAR, then a graduate student at University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, was awarded a grant in October 2018 to aid research on “Formations of Tamil Islam: Negotiations and Contestations in Contemporary South India,” supervised by Dr. William T.S. Mazzarella. This project is an ethnography of Muslim belonging in contemporary India. Specifically, it analyzes how Muslim communities in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu sustain longstanding attachments to diverse traditions, histories, and places, at a time when non-national and non-Hindu forms of affinity are increasingly treated with suspicion by a prejudicial regime. At the same time, it asks: how can we understand contemporary Muslim life outside the shadow of a Hindu majoritarian and nationalist discourse? By attending to sensibilities that exceed both the totalizing logics of Hindu majoritarian oppression and prevailing antagonisms such as Hindu vs. Muslim or majority vs. minority, this dissertation attempts to open up an analytical and historical space to consider how inherited traditions and genealogical ties endure in the present, and why they matter.

Drawing on fifteen months of ethnographic research conducted across Tamil Nadu, this dissertation argues that we cannot understand Muslim belonging without considering the everyday forms of relatedness between people, places, and non-humans in a plurality of sites through which people forge their commitment to specific ethicopolitical projects and orient themselves to an Islamic way of life in a Tamil milieu. This work seeks to push past statist discourses of citizenship toward a more expansive understanding of belonging that draws on longer histories and traditions whose vitality in the present, however fraught and uncertain, precedes the dominant notion that belonging can only be mediated by the nation-state and its technologies of exclusion.

JANELLE LAMOREAUX, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship to aid research and writing on “Infertile Futures: Epigenetic Environments in a Toxic China.” The Hunt Fellowship resulted in the publication of the book Infertile Environments: Epigenetic Toxicology and the Reproductive Health of Chinese Men (Duke 2023), in which the fellow investigates how epigenetic research into the effects of toxic exposure conceptualizes and configures environments. Drawing on fieldwork in a Nanjing, China, toxicology lab that studies the influence of pesticides and other pollutants on male reproductive and developmental health, Lamoreaux shows how the lab’s everyday research practices bring national, hormonal, dietary, maternal, and laboratory environments into being. The manuscript situates the lab’s work within broader Chinese history as well as the contemporary cultural and political moment, in which declining fertility rates and reproductive governance and technology are growing concerns. It also points to how toxicology in China is a transnational endeavor tied to both local conditions and international research agendas and infrastructures, which highlights the myriad scales and scope of epigenetic environments. At a moment of growing concerns about toxins, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, and climate change, the fellow demonstrates that epigenetic research’s proliferation of environments produces new kinds of toxic relations that impact multiple generations of humans.
ANA LARA, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, received a grant in April 2021 to aid research on “Ogun’s Fields: Black Ontologies on the Island of Hispaniola.” This project focuses on the figure of Ogun among vudú practitioners (servidores) in the Dominican Republic. The study examines the relationship between Ogun and local articulations of Blackness. The grantee collaborated with researchers and servidores over a nine-month period to carry out qualitative ethnographic research across Dominican vudú communities. The study asks, “How do servidor mobilizations of Ogun shape articulations of Blackness in the Dominican Republic?” Initial findings point to how servidor mobilizations of Ogun rupture contemporary discourses of hypodescent and mestizaje -- carving out a distinct path that is neither. Servidor conceptualizations of Ogun forgo Christian colonial narratives of ethno-racial Catholic Hispanic assimilation into the modern nationalist project and provide an alternative geography of belonging across the island of Hispaniola.

ELLIO T. LIU, 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 “Race-making and Police Technologies in Post-Civil Rights New York City,” supervised by Dr. Jeff Maskovsky. This project examined the ways race is remade through the use of policing and surveillance technologies at the New York City Police Department. Over eighteen months of ethnographic fieldwork, the grantee attended community meetings, inter-agency meetings at police headquarters, conferences of police unions, crime analysts, and police executives, and interviews with retired officers and administrators. Research was conducted at the Municipal Archives, tracing the development of police technology from 1955 to present in official studies, mayoral correspondence, and selected memoirs. Findings suggest police technologies produce a new racial techno-politics in which links between crime, safety, danger and race are forged and contested in popular and political discourse. Following the Black Lives Matter movement, the NYPD is combining “neighborhood policing” strategies with expansive data analysis, in a bid to rebuild police legitimacy through precise interventions in local problems alongside low crime rates. Recalling earlier Civil Rights reforms, these shifts refocus police attention on a narrowed range of legible targets, thereby addressing accusations of indiscriminate racial harassment, while simultaneously facilitating new racialized discourses regarding the criminal types and territories subject to police intervention. Technology thus proves central to the ways policing becomes political in 21st century U.S. cities.

LOUI S A LOMBARD, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, received funding in October 2017 to aid research on “Ethics in Wars of Protection: Rwandans Re-Make Peacekeeping.” In the 21st century military peacekeeping has changed: peacekeepers are expected to do more to protect civilians, and there are more peacekeepers from Africa, and deployed in Africa. Rwandan soldiers are at the center of these transformations. Their government has been among the staunchest supporters of aggressively protecting civilians, and the tiny country has become one of the world’s largest contributors of peacekeeping troops. The changing social landscape for peacekeeping creates new moral challenges for the deployed soldiers, and the grantee’s ethnographic research with Rwandan soldiers before, during, and after their deployment as peacekeepers has delved into what they see as morally challenging and how they deal with conflicts that arise. They described how they strove to align the prerogatives of bureaucratic rules and process, their roles in hierarchies, and their ideals. They wanted to be both good students, following all the rules and using the best parades, and good teachers, demonstrating they knew how to do peacekeeping better than (differently than) the “mere” procedure-followers. Though they frequently resolved the inherent tension between the two by prioritizing the role of good student, that is changing.

DANIELLE D. LUCERO, then a graduate student at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, was awarded funding in April 2021 to aid research on “Indigenous Citizenship, Reproductive Nation Building, and
Contemporary Pueblo People,” supervised by Dr. Bryan Brayboy. Studies of Indigenous citizenship by legal scholars and anthropologists have frequently approached the topic through juridical-political frameworks that understand Indigenous identity through self-identification or specific sets of ascribed cultural practices. This dissertation examines existing tribal enrollment practices’ impacts on the reproductive and social labor of Pueblo people through an interdisciplinary lens, with specific attention given to Pueblo women’s perspectives on rules governing tribal membership. In particular, it asks how tribal enrollment regulations have impacted dating, child rearing practices, and traditional family structures within Pueblo communities. Through semi-structured interviews and photovoice elicitations with 24 individuals, the researcher unpacks Pueblo peoples’ experiences navigating the fraught relationships between identity, race, gender, and place. This work highlights the social precarity of mixed race and intertribal people in Indigenous communities, as well as the interplay between traditional Pueblo membership practices and settler colonial “shadow systems” within tribal governments. By exploring participants’ experiences with interpersonal/romantic relationships in their families and home communities, this study expands the understandings of the sexed and gendered dynamics of Pueblo identity, governance, and belonging. A key finding of this project supports the notion that Pueblo communities rely on women’s reproductive and social labor to ensure cultural and demographic continuity into the future.

KATHERINE MADDOX, then a graduate student at University of Texas, Austin, Texas, received a grant in April 2019 to aid research on “Situating Syrian-ness in France: Asylum and Diaspora in Paris,” supervised by Dr. Sofian Merabet. This dissertation examines the way that Syrian exiles in Paris, France come to establish lives in the wake of crisis and resettlement. Their trajectories are shaped by historic forces – the legacy of French colonialism, the societal fragmentations amplified and instrumentalyzed by the Syrian state, the structures of international humanitarian regimes – that reveal the significance of Syrian experience to understandings of contemporary migration and refugee subjectivity. This dissertation research draws on over 18 months of ethnographic fieldwork to critically engage each force in turn and explore the lived experience of resettlement in Paris. Moving away from framings focused only on the role of state and international actors in defining refugee and exile subjects, the full scope of diasporic encounters and resettled integration emerges in the narratives of daily life and quotidian practices. Everyday experiences such as submitting paperwork to municipal officials, locating housing, navigating the Paris métro, attending language classes, and encountering others in the city reveal the nuances of lives lived in the wake of crisis. By attending to the process of resettlement and the re-establishment of lives in exile, this work presents an alternative to the obfuscating rhetoric of crisis and refugee victimhood.

MEIGHAN MANTEI, then a graduate student at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, was awarded funding in April 2022 to aid research on "Land, Resources, and a Politic of Affect: Navigating Girlhood in Oil Country," supervised by Dr. Virginia Caputo. The aim of this research project was to explore the ways in which girlhood is constituted through embodied markers and affective constellations of (un)belonging and (dis)connection in relation to the local fossil fuel and agricultural industries of southeast Saskatchewan. This research project engaged the methods of ethnographic participant observation, semi-structured interviews and photovoice to make girls subjects of their own stories. Preliminary data shows how a politics of affect works to assemble local notions of girlhood and how concepts of (un)belonging and (dis)connection are deployed through the relationships girls have with humans, more-than-humans and the materialities of land and resources in Saskatchewan. Further, the data highlights how social constructs and relational interdependencies create and maintain expectations for girls’ obligations to and expression of certain ideologies, loyalties, and moralities and how power inequities, institutionalized through
affective economies, gender roles, racialization, and social class, ensure that all voices in rural communities do not carry the same weight. This research project contributes to a richer understanding of gendered, classed, and racialized experiences in rural industrialized and extractive communities and can be used by other researchers interested in the experiences of women and girls in these types of contexts.

ANGELA SOFIA MARQUES CASTELA FILIPE, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2020, to aid research and writing on "In Pursuit of Attention: Diagnosis, Values, and Social Encounters in an ADHD Clinic." Exploring the case of a pediatric unit, the resulting manuscript “The Cares of Inattention: Diagnosis and Social Encounter in the Pediatric ADHD Clinic” throws fresh light on the ways in which clinicians, alongside children and their families, make sense of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Drawing on archival research, a combination of media, policy, and visual analysis, and clinical praxiography, this project explores how the diagnosis is made in practice and how its meaning and management are negotiated in the Portuguese setting. This exploration traces how ADHD came to be an object of care and medical concern and, at the same time, “a site” of social encounter and critique. In doing so, it addresses questions about the flexible boundaries and meanings of the diagnosis and, more broadly, about how we engage with matters of behavior, childhood, mental health, and school performance today, defined in terms of paying attention. Given the globalization of ADHD and the wider global turn in mental health, this work also offers an in-depth and uniquely situated account of American diagnostic psychiatry and psychostimulant treatments as they intersect local contingency and social history. From clinical practices and protocols of assessment to public—and increasingly politized—debates on medicalization and over-prescription, this account throws fresh light on the cares of inattention in everyday life and in the times of austerity and inequality.

LAUREN MARSH, then a graduate student at University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, received a grant in April 2021 to aid research on "Laboring for Reproductive Justice: Doula Care in Carceral Spaces," supervised by Dr. Tomas Matza. A growing number of doulas/birthworkers in the United States are working to provide “non-medical” perinatal support for incarcerated pregnant/postpartum people while drawing attention to their unmet needs and experiences in settings of deprivation and violence. Doulas argue that prison birth is deeply connected to broader patterns of reproductive injustice and social oppression. They are seldom employed by biomedical or carceral institutions, and must justify both their access and the value of their care. This project uses prison/jail doula programs as a critical ethnographic case study to understand how liminal caregivers pursue social justice goals inside and outside of structurally violent institutions. It asks: 1) how do doulas care for incarcerated pregnant people in settings where they have limited authority? 2) How do they navigate tensions between professionalization, institutional access, and advocacy on behalf of clients? And 3) if prison doulas argue that intervening during the perinatal period ("physical reproduction") helps challenge broader patterns of social marginalization ("social reproduction"), how might that happen? How might prison doula care impact not just individuals, but families, communities, and/or institutions? Wenner-Gren support enabled three phases of fieldwork in the larger dissertation project with doula programs in a county jail and three state prisons.

NINA MEDVADEVA, then a graduate student at University of Minnesota, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, was awarded a grant in October 2019 to aid research on “Home and the Sharing Economy: An Ethnography of Displacement in D.C. and San Francisco,” supervised by Dr. Aren Zachary Aizura. Debates about short-term rentals (STRs) such as Airbnb have exploded in San Francisco and Washington, D.C — two of the United States’ largest STR markets. STRs monetize the home in particular ways, but this monetization is
not simply normalized; rather it is contested. This project focuses on that contestation through STR regulatory activism since 2010. Combining eighteen months of participant observation, media analysis, archival research, and fifty-four interviews with STR hosts, government officials, and activists, the grantee argues that residents’ visions of economic justice are inextricably tied to broader systems of race, gender, and property under capitalism. Findings include: 1) that STR coalitions in favor and against STR regulations were subdivided into formal organizations, individual actors who might join formal organizations, and government entities; 2) that race, gender, and space played key roles in how actors came out in favor or against regulations; and 3) STRs became a political entity through years of grassroots agitation.

KRISTIN V. MONROE, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, received funding in October 2019 to aid research on “Mobility and Manhood across the Syrian Warscape.” Two problems have dominated discourse about the Syrian war: how the violence is organized and how Syrians have coped with destructive capacities of the violence primarily through becoming refugees. This project is an ethnographic investigation of the lives of Syrians across a transnational warscape that aims to broaden these understandings of the long war in Syria by investigating forms of gendered mobility and social transformations the conflict has wrought. The project focused primarily on a study of the livelihood practices and mobilities of male cross-border taxi drivers from western Syria who have made a living over the last several years driving to and from Lebanon and have been currently caught up in myriad crises: Syria’s ongoing conflict, Lebanon’s economic collapse, a hardening of the Syrian-Lebanon border, and the global pandemic. A secondary research topic, which grew out of the data collected from male taxi drivers, concerns the marital mobilities of Syrian women who have traveled to Lebanon in taxis for wedding celebrations. Their grooms are Syrian men who, under the threat of forced conscription, did not want to enter Syria. Both the taxi drivers’ and brides’ experiences foreground the complex gendered politics of wartime mobilities and immobilities.

ANDREW MOON, then a graduate student at The New School, New York, New York, received funding in April 2018 to aid research on “Making the Archipelago Sound: An Ethnography of Environmental Observation in Indonesia,” supervised by Dr. Hugh Raffles. This project investigates how an international scene of earth scientists working at laboratories and field stations in Southeast Asia examines infrasound. Infrasound is conventionally understood to be produced by massive geophysical and industrial disturbances that propagate low-frequency pressure waves in the atmosphere over vast distances. Knowledge about these disturbances is largely limited to surveillance initiatives during the Cold War that operationalized infrasound to locate the source of nuclear tests. Recently, earth scientists trained in seismology have turned to infrasound to uncover the diversity of its source. This has led to the characterization of ice sheets, ocean waves, volcanic vents, ash plumes, planetary atmospheres, and much more. The revitalized interest in infrasound can be understood in response to private and state-science institutions seeking greater remote access to the blind spots of seismic and satellite infrastructure used to measure, standardize, and value environmental risk. Infrasound’s application holds a particular promise in Indonesia, where constant cloud cover and procedural issues relating to the access and maintenance of remote sensing technologies across an archipelago of 17,000 islands are said to hamper the ability to observe and provide early warning of environmental events. The project draws on 12 months of field research and engages with academic debates from the anthropology and social study of science, technology, and value, scholarship on sound studies, transmission arts, and environmental humanities, and postcolonial histories of science and risk to ask three empirical questions: how are low-frequency atmospheric environments produced as sites of scientific observation? How do these observations make
second-order artifacts (e.g., information, data, parameters, standards) that demonstrate the provenance of environmental transformation? And how do these practices and artifacts of low-frequency observation situated in Southeast Asia shape the contemporary development of public and private-sector scientific research, labor, planning, and collaboration for environmental hazards?

EDGAR MUNOZ, then a graduate student at Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia, was granted funding in October 2019 to aid research on "Unraveling Theatre for Young People: Performance and Agency in Cali’s Community Theaters, Colombia," supervised by Dr. Jan Grill. This project explored interventions and performances in two community theatres and their role in the (re)construction of youth agency in marginalized branches of Cali, Colombia, as a way of facing “social suffering.” The study asked what the role of community theatre for the youth in urban margins punctuated by territorial stigmatization, internal displacements, economic dispossession, and violence. Through tracing the trajectories, practices and experiences of the students and instructors, the project examined how the performances, choreographies and dispositions acquired through studying and teaching theatre become constitutive of re-making of agency and reorientations of creating a life worthy of pursuing. While the theatre pedagogy and its strategies are marked by participants’ experiences in a community penetrated by a continuum of violence and social suffering, it offers an alternative space of resistance for subjects to springboard into a sense of autonomy, transforming the self and propelling them towards particular moral and future-oriented strivings for alter-realities. Therefore, this work constitutes a critical approach to health research that transcends the individual biological explanation of discomfort.

SUMIN MYUNG, then a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, was awarded a grant in October 2019 to aid research on "Crafting Forests, Claiming Futures: A Politics of Scientific Reforestation in South Korea," supervised by Dr. Naveeda Khan. The dissertation project, retitled “Crafting Forests, Claiming Futures: Forest Sciences and the Politics of Anthropogenic Forests in South Korea,” explores the political, ecological, and scientific stakes of forest regeneration in South Korea facing ecological violence, exacerbated by the legacies of Japanese imperialism, the unended Korean War, and rapid industrialization. Drawing on 34-months of archival research and ethnographic fieldwork in South Korea, the project asks how forest scientists’ quotidian practices, tools, and infrastructures of knowledge production have engaged with the residues of imperialism and war while re-claiming habitable futures for the national public and global audiences through climate-sensitive forestry projects. Recent scholars of the Anthropocene have tended to examine various drivers of ecological crises at the planetary level, focusing on how humans have induced such troubles that will persist indefinitely on future Earth. This project shifts the focus by foregrounding how habitable futures have been conceived, claimed, and materialized through forest-making projects in a postcolonial world. In this way, the dissertation sheds critical light on the varying vectors and meanings of the “anthropogenic” in the making of ecological futures beyond Euro-American contexts.

AARON NEIMAN, then a graduate student at Stanford University, Stanford, California, received a grant in April 2019 to aid research on "Meeting the Black Dog's Gaze: New Ways of Knowing and Treating Depression in Australia," supervised by Dr. Duana Fullwiley. This ethnographic research project, conducted in the service of a doctoral dissertation, centered on the world of electronic mental health (“e-mental health”) programs in Sydney, Australia. Through embedded participant-observation with the researchers, administrators, and advocates who receive government funding to develop e-mental health programs, the purpose of this project was to understand the sociopolitical causes and effects of this new, automated “therapy without therapists.” The research sought to understand how digital mental health
treatments attract public funding and awareness as viable, even desirable strategies for good medicine and good governance. Key themes of the project relate to potential complications that come from the outsourcing of this highly skilled form of human labor to a computer: how automated or digitally mediated therapy disrupts the hypothetical "therapeutic alliance" between doctor and patient, calls into question the authority of the "psy"-ences, and blurs the line between medical intervention and lifestyle adjustment. Unexpected events such as the Black Summer Bushfires and the Covid-19 pandemic presented some methodological challenges, but ultimately served as a unique opportunity to investigate the use of computers to deliver psychological aid in periods of crisis.

EGOR NOVIKOV, then a graduate student at Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany, was awarded funding in August 2020 to aid research on “The Role of Filth in International Humanitarianism,” supervised by Dr. William Sax. Humanitarian work deals a lot with disorder, ambivalence and varieties of physical dirt, but unlike compassion, repulsion and anxiety are mostly omitted from its public image. This research conducted through remote interviews with former international volunteers in Kolkata and their local counterparts, and analysis of grey literature and relevant social networks pages studies the emotional bind of abjection and compassion common in humanitarian experience. Firstly, the contact with physical filth and moral ambivalence makes the experience of volunteering moderately traumatic and through this valuable for the providers of aid. Secondly, the protective repulsion towards disorder and disease nourishes the central social tension of humanitarian work: the radical inequality between the givers and the receivers. This emotional anchor makes the paternalistic dominance of the humanitarians over their counterparts fluid but persistent. Thirdly, ambivalence is also a problematic but promising communication resource bringing the international humanitarians and the locals to a common ground. To the aid receivers and other local participants, the informality and lack of transparency in relations with the humanitarian agents can be a means to plant their own meaning into the aid and thus claim agency and dignity, instead of accepting the role of passive victims.

ZEYNEP OGUZ, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, was awarded a grant in August 2020 to aid research on “The Island to Come: Geopolitical Disputes, Offshore Hydrocarbons, and Political Futures in a Divided Cyprus.” In the last decade, the discovery of huge offshore gas deposits in the continental shelves and exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of Cyprus, triggered new geopolitical disputes between Turkey, Cyprus, and Greece over maritime sovereignty rights and the political future of the island, which has been partly occupied by Turkey since 1974. This project explored the political-environmental futures that Cypriots — the Turkish and Greek inhabitants of the entire island— envision in the wake of gas discoveries and the urgent need to stop fossil fuel production to prevent catastrophic climate breakdown. The research combined interviews with environmental activists, peace activists, and members of peacebuilding international organizations with historical research on bi-communal peace movements in Cyprus. The grantee interviewed approximately 100 individuals from the organizations and initiatives mentioned above, and attended the virtual meetings hosted by Don’t Dig! and Unite Cyprus. The grantee reviewed and analyzed reports by PRIO, United Nations, Interpeace, and Seeds of Peace. Following the anthropological tradition of taking ordinary people, their aspirations and actions as makers of political worlds, these findings point at possible futures beyond military occupation, ethnic-nationalist conflict, and fossil-fueled extractivism.

STEPHANIE PALAZZO, then a graduate student at University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, received a grant in August 2020 to aid research on “Decomissioned: Safeguarding the Future After Three Mile Island,” supervised by Dr. Eugene Raikhel. The proposed project tracks community responses to the
decommissioning of Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant to investigate how future uncertainty and historical memory inform people’s everyday conceptualizations of safety and containment. Nuclear energy as a carbon free and safe energy source is hotly contested, and TMI in Middletown, Pennsylvania has historically emerged at the center of such debates since its partial meltdown in 1979. Today, TMI is one of several nuclear power plants slated to close over the next fifty years due to growing competition from low-cost fossil fuels and aging 20th century infrastructure. Despite its growing frequency, decommissioning is a politically, economically, and scientifically fraught process. This project asks whether local concerns around the plant’s decommissioning are primarily motivated by the presence or absence of nuclear threat or if they also reflect and enact a broader orientation to pasts and futures in which environmental, economic, and physical health is uncertain. This project encompassed an 11-month, multi-sited ethnographic study of central Pennsylvania to examine competing articulations of socioeconomic, environmental, and biophysical safety, how they are informed by the past accident, and how they come to bear on visions of the future. It combines participant observation, interviews, oral histories, and archival work to examine how multiple actors around TMI respond to and understand the aftereffects of an industry which promised the good life, but has now proven temporary and perhaps harmful.

SHIVANGI PAREEK, then a graduate student at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, was awarded funding in August 2020 to aid research on “"We Only Paint Stories We Heard from Our Ancestors": Adivasi Art in a Contemporary Art-World," supervised by Dr. Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan. Production and consumption of Adivasi arts is an expanding field in contemporary India. Simultaneously the original inhabitants and modern primitives, Adivasis continue to find and assert a place within the diversity of Indian subcontinent, projects of nationalism, and questions of modernity. This project explores the processes and political possibilities entailed in the emergence of Adivasi art as a participant in a globalized “contemporary” art world. In a context of socio-economic and historical inequalities which have marked the “tribal” as a culturally deficient Other trapped in an unchanging past, this project asks — how does the assertion of temporal contemporaneity for Adivasis, through a reframing of their art as ‘contemporary’, reconfigure their historical marginalization? This project is situated in a regional but globally connected Gond Adivasi art-world in Bhopal, India and studies its expanding networks. Attentive to how indigenous art enters circuits of global capital, the project asks how emerging global contemporary art worlds are attentive to complexities of indigenous cultural production and a post-colonial context. Through 18 months of ethnographic research, this project will study networks of production and exhibition and explore the potential of contemporary art-worlds to reconfigure inequalities in space and time layered with tropes of marginalization, primitivism, and backwardness. The project hopes to advance our understanding of indigenous cultural production in South Asia through an ethnographic study of the making of Adivasi arts and artists in central India.

JESSICA PENG, then a graduate student at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received funding in August 2020 to aid research on “Archipelagic “Potentials”: Infrastructures, Labor, and Education in Indonesia,” supervised by Dr. Andrew Carruthers. Amidst the Indonesian government’s stated ambition to become a top global economy by 2045, talk of potensi, or “potentiality,” is everywhere: from policymakers who identify their goals as “unleashing the country’s economic potentials” to rural youth who express their hopes to “open their inner potentials.” Archipelagic “Potentials”: Infrastructures, Education, and Labor in Indonesia takes the ubiquitously present and multifaceted concept of potentiality as an analytical entry point into exploring the relationship between everyday practices of speculation and processes of development policy and practice. Drawing on the anthropological literatures on market
making, development, and education, this dissertation studies how policymakers, educators, and students at various societal scales in Indonesia engage in everyday practices of evaluative speculation as they take part in the collective actualization of a development vision. Beginning in Jakarta, Part I of the study focuses on a global network of policymakers who regularly declare that Indonesia’s future welfare depends on: 1) realizing the existing, but as-yet undeveloped “economic potentials” of the country’s margins; and 2) ensuring the positive potentials of Indonesia’s burgeoning “demographic bonus” subsumes the negative ones. These policymakers position the vocational “skilling” of rural youth as a necessary means of driving economic growth. Turning next to Bone, South Sulawesi, a so-labeled “marginal” locale, Part II examines the everyday activities at a fisheries vocational high school, where educators respond to national-driven demands to prepare a specific kind of “work-ready” youth: “the potentializing student.” The study concludes by exploring how young people evaluate their own potential futures vis-à-vis the multi-scalar claims made about the potentials of their nation, their region, and their own lives. Together, the dissertation identifies two key ramifications for the future-potential-oriented societal push observed in Indonesia: 1) the communal deflection of social ethics in the present through justifications for future good; and 2) the social abandonment of societal members who are deemed surplus to achieving the country’s vision of success.

HANNA PICKWELL, then a graduate student at University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, was awarded a grant in April 2019 to aid research on “Secondhand Fetishes: Positive and Negative Enchantments of Things in Urban China,” supervised by Dr. Julie Chu. Retitled “Retro Enchantments and Secondhand Ghosts: The Lively Afterlives of Old and Used Everyday Things in Beijing,” this project examines the complex relationships between people, material culture, and values that have emerged in the wake of modern China’s dramatic economic, social, and material transformations. It focuses in particular on old and outmoded, everyday material things such as household objects, including the regimes of value that surround them; the ways in which they mediate the interlocutors’ relationships with the past and participate in the production of various kinds of personhood and community in the present; how they exceed human intentionality (by instigating sometimes uncontrollable consumption, sparking fears of haunting, generating atmosphere, or impacting the environment); and how these fit into broader figurations of commodities, consumption, aesthetics, and ethics under “market socialism.” To explore these questions, in-person ethnographic research was conducted at sites including secondhand markets, vintage shops, and non-commercial collections of old and used things, as well as online research of social media, e-commerce websites, and television shows. In addition to traditional ethnographic modalities such as participant observation and interviews, the research also draws on methods from multi-sensory and visual anthropology, and ultimately aims to contribute to anthropological literatures on aesthetics, affect, materiality, and value.

RIMA PRASPALIAUSKIENE, an independent scholar, Oakland, California, was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2018 to aid research and writing on “Enveloped Lives: Caring And Giving in Lithuanian Health Care.” This book is an ethnography of how people practice health and care by engaging in ambiguous practices that some would define as informal and corrupt. It examines the relationship between caring, things and money. It focuses on how informal payments – “little white envelopes” – that the patients or their relatives give or feel compelled to give to doctors before or after treatment, sustained and maintained public health care in the times of economic shortages during socialism and during the fundamental transformations to capitalism in post-socialist Lithuania. Based on two years of fieldwork research, this book follows these envelopes as complex doctor-patient transactions, the nexus of
relations, to learn about health and care at the intersection of neoliberal reforms and socialist fragmentations. Enveloped Lives traces the genealogy of the health care reform since 1990s, exploring how patients, doctors, and caretakers encounter, perceive, and carry out these ambiguous practices. This ethnography shows how envelopes became a form of care embedded in social relations and driven by webs of obligations. These practices are productive in sustaining the lives of doctors and have affective value for patients and doctors alike. They supplement public health care while making doctors reliant on patients’ generosity. While the envelopes do not reduce social inequalities, they slow down significantly the transformation of public health care from the social function of the state to a business matter. Therefore, they might preclude the emergence of new inequalities that appear with the adoption of private health care and insurance regimes.

AANMONA PRIYADARSHINI, then a graduate student at University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was awarded funding in April 2016 to aid research on “Shattered Sacred, Broken Lives: Violence against Religious Sites in Bangladesh,” supervised by Dr. Robert M. Hayden. On September 2012, eighteen Buddhist bihars were destroyed in three Muslim majority sub districts –Ramu, Ukhia, Patia – of Bangladesh. The destruction of bihars and sacred objects was followed by the reconstruction of destroyed bihars, as tourist attractions, by the Bangladesh government. Considering both destruction and reconstruction of bihars as processes of “ruination,” the research focuses on the rubble of violence – reconstructed bihars, broken pieces of Buddha and sacred objects – and examines the way they shape religious practices, ethics, and social relations. The research asserts that religious practices are not mere evidence of something immaterial, such as beliefs. Rather, they engage material forms –temples, statues, objects –through which they enter into social life. Material forms, in turn, are also subject to cultural constructions and have their own social lives. They persist across contexts, and acquire new features to which people respond in new ways. The research examines what happen when sacred objects and sites are destroyed or forcefully modified and how they give rise new interpretations and interactions. This research traces different social lives of the rubble of sacred sites and objects, along with the new meanings, practices, ethics, and social relations they produce in the process of destruction and reconstruction.

TIMOTHY QUINN, then a graduate student at Rice University, Houston, Texas, received funding in August 2020 to aid research on “Queer Chemicals: Intimate Experiments with Preventative HIV Medications in Bangkok,” supervised by Dr. Zoe Wool. This project will study the circulations of HIV prevention drugs in Bangkok, Thailand. The emergence of state-manufactured Teno-Em/PrEP is situated at the intersections of health governance and Thailand’s attempts to position itself as a hub for medicine and tourism within a regionalizing Asian economy. Health programs target populations of men-who-have-sex-with-men (MSM) and transgender sex workers (TSWs), while PrEP promotion capitalizes upon emerging bioeconomies and LGBT markets in Asia. PrEP also has a social life of its own as it moves through regional queer circuits, redefining perceptions of risk, while enabling new relations, intimacies, and pleasures. This project follows PrEP as it circulates within and beyond the infrastructures that have emerged to proffer, facilitate, and govern its use. Drawing from anthropological literature on pharmaceuticals, chemical relations, and sexual subjectivity and ethics, this project seeks to generate a framework for understanding the chemo-material underpinnings of these forms of sovereignty and sexual modernity. Through fieldwork across an HIV policy institute, an LGBT health clinic, community organizations, and queer/LGBT events, this project will study how PrEP is repurposed in the fashioning of subjectivity, relation, intimacy and care.
What kinds of social worlds are created through human entanglements with this particular chemical commodity chain?

FARAH QURESHI, then a graduate student at University of California, Irvine, California, was awarded funding in October 2019 to aid research on “Financial Inclusion, Political Inclusion, and Social Belonging in Kenya,” supervised by Dr. William Maurer. Digital financial systems are often positioned by their advocates as imperative to everyday life in Kenya, but inclusion practices embedded in national improvement programs seem to fracture local identities, intentionally and unintentionally creating or exacerbating exclusions even within racial and ethnic groups by defining the conditions of inclusion. This project examined the social consequences of techno-optimistic adoptions of financial inclusion and political inclusion of diverse peoples in Kenya including the country’s South Asian community. Financial and political inclusion aim to “improve” the international image of the nation through widespread access to formal financial services as part of a National Development Plan. This ambition aims to unite people under financial inclusion and fintech developments. Findings, however, show that entrepreneurs and users of mobile finance solutions feel consistently unsure of the financial inclusion agenda’s expectations, consequently leading many to be financially excluded through various financial technology platforms. This study shows how underlying social segmentations—which can be traced through political history and ethnic economic enclaves—are reproduced or exacerbated by the forced adoption of these systems.

KAREEM RABIE, American University, Washington, DC, received a grant in August 2020 to aid research on “Palestine in China: Circulation, Social Life, and Trade." Throughout the West Bank over the last ten or fifteen years, there has been discussion of the link between businessmen in Hebron and China. Hundreds of Palestinians have settled in China or travel there annually. This research focuses on political economic governance through those traders and travelers who navigate changing forms of circulation, figures who allow us to see states, law, and global economics through daily practice. Through ethnography of traders and actors in the West Bank and China, and between the two, as well by documenting material processes around commodity importation, this work helps unearth intertwined and global economic and social histories. Within and beyond Palestine and China, it asks: what does governance around circulation and movement look like? Who is it for? How does it affect local social life and politics?

JULIA RADOMSKI, then a graduate student at American University, Washington, DC, was awarded a grant in April 2021 to aid research on "Development Reassembled: An Ethnography of China’s Role in Latin American Infrastructure," supervised by Dr. Malini Ranganathan. There is a new development leader in Latin America. What does China’s role in Latin America tell us about how the “project” of development is being recast in the 21st century? Ecuador, despite being a small country, has been one of the primary recipients of Chinese development finance in Latin America. It has also been the site of substantial engagement, contestation, and resistance surrounding Chinese projects, particularly relating to large infrastructure. The Coca Codo Sinclair hydroelectric dam (CCS), the focus of this project, has sparked debates among grassroots activists and policy makers alike relating to its implications for Ecuadorian development. How do differentially positioned and multiply scaled actors engaged with Coca Codo Sinclair conceive of their relationship to China as a development actor? How do these relationships and understandings (re)assemble contemporary meanings of development? The research draws on the anthropology of development and science and technology studies to explore how CCS constitutes both a new and old development assemblage.
MEGAN S. RASCHIG, California State University, Sacramento, California, received a grant in October 2018 to aid research on “Healing After Police Homicides: World-Making, Repair, and Ethnographic Involvement Today.” In Salinas, California, a community-led project of Chicanx-Indigenous cultural healing has made significant inroads against carceral institutions, racialized criminalization, and police brutality. This project tracked the impact of cultural healing projects five years after a period of police homicides of Latino men. As cultural healing took root in the city, many different impacts could be identified in the lives of locals – some progressive and anti-carceral, others more disturbingly seeming to reinforce existing forms of racial and gendered discrimination and violence. This ethnographic research was adapted over these shifting conditions and the COVID-19 global pandemic with productive and illuminating results.

AMIR REICHER, then a graduate student at City University of New York, Graduate Center, New York, New York, was awarded funding in April 2018 to aid research on “‘Going Native’: How Second-Generation Outpost Settlers Mimic their Way into Feeling-at-Home in the West Bank,” supervised by Dr. Mandana Limbert. Since the signing of the Oslo Accords with the Palestinian Authority (PA), with few exceptions, Israel has officially upheld its commitment and ceased to build new settlements in the West Bank. But, on the ground, from the 1990s onwards, the West Bank hinterland was scattered with over 140 illegal outposts, strategically constructed to appropriate as much land as possible. Unlike the institutionalized West Bank settlements built in the first decades of the occupation, these outposts are considered illegal also by the Israeli government, who frames their establishment as acts of “anarchistic” vigilantes. As the first research based on extended anthropological fieldwork among outpost settlers, this project – renamed “Going Native: Second-Generation Settlers and Feeling-at-Home in the Colony” -- provides a unique inside perspective of how a settler-colonial project expands in real time. At the center of this research is a stream of second-generation settlers who even more than redemption or nationalist aspirations, are driven from a desire to become grounded, settled, indigenous. At its core, Going Native investigates the settler-colonial know-how by which settlers appropriate indigenous land, the conflicting desires and material circumstances that shape their settler-colonial endeavor, and the ambivalent relationship they navigate vis-à-vis the state.

ELIANA RITTS, then a graduate student at New York University, New York, New York, received funding in April 2019 to aid research on “Broadcasting Indigenous Futures: Contested Sovereignties at Taiwan Indigenous Television,” supervised by Dr. Faye Ginsburg. Founded in 2005, Taiwan Indigenous Television (TITV) is the first Indigenous television station in Asia, a ground-breaking national media network created by, for, and about Taiwan’s diverse Indigenous groups. TITV plays a central role in representing Indigenous interests and asserting Indigenous media sovereignty: Indigenous self-representation and control over media production. The station also represents both Taiwan and its Indigenous peoples – who are not well-known on the world stage – for local, national, and international audiences. This doctoral project analyzes the relationships between visual and political sovereignty at TITV, and the ways that representations of Indigeneity circulate on local, national, and international levels. The research centers around the strategies that media makers at TITV use to Indigenize production, by foregrounding Indigenous protocols, relationships, and value systems. The grantee demonstrates how, through programming and everyday production practices, Indigenous creators in Taiwan use media to make claims for their historic rights, contemporary presence, and sovereign futures.

GABRIELLE ROBBINS, then a graduate student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, was awarded funding in August 2020 to aid research on "Artemisia's Industry: Between Farm and Factory in the Making of African Pharmaceuticals,” supervised by Dr. Christine Walley. Retitled
“Artemisia’s Industry: #MadeInMadagascar Pharmaceuticals Between Farm and Factory,” this project uses multi-methods ethnographic research to understand how plant-based drugs became pivotal to Madagascar’s pandemic response. It examines how Artemisia annua, a medicinal herb, was previously grown on the island as raw materials for antimalarial drug ingredients; how artemisia became a pandemic-era therapeutic resource of global interest; and how its cultivation and processing were mobilized for nationalist crisis response that rejected dependence on Euro-American Big Pharma. Contra analytical emphases on “global pharmaceuticals,” attention here focuses on local, regional, and national “farm pharma” projects fueling new kinds of medical protectionism. Integrating remote and in-person research across Madagascar, Europe, and the U.S., this project contributes novel methodological tools for the anthropology of medicine/pharmaceuticals at the same time as it interrogates how Covid-19 potently reworked operant geographies of medical manufacture and distribution.

IRENE SABATE MURIEL, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain, received a grant in April 2021 to aid research on “The Gender Dimension of the Housing Crisis in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (2008-2021).” In the context of a long housing crisis (2008-2022), many women in the Barcelona metropolitan area are being denied adequate homes. During this twelve-months field research among women with different profiles -- alongside housing professionals, activists and experts -- ethnographic data have been collected to tackle women’s residential conditions, and how they cope with adversities in this arena. While some of them were under the threat of an eviction or could not afford an adequate home, others suffered more subtle -sometimes only potential- hindrances to self-determine their own residential conditions. Some research participants were struggling for housing justice within the vigorous local movements, and reflected on the predominance of female activists. As commonalities, research participants pointed at the need to take into account some aspects that tend to be seen as extrinsic to the housing question, such as women’s working conditions, the feminization of poverty, the attribution of reproductive duties, the fluidity of household structures, or gender violence. They also accorded great importance to location, and to the proximity of public facilities and social networks, in their quest for adequate housing. A diachronic approach, based on the collection of housing trajectories, has revealed itself as key to tackle the drivers of women’s discrimination within a financialized housing system.

NOOSHIN SADegH-SAMIMI, then a graduate student at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received funding in October 2018 to aid research on “Who Counts? The Politics of Race-Making in Iranian American Advocacy,” supervised by Dr. Deborah Thomas. Advocates of a MENA census category have proposed the inclusion of a distinct reporting category for the classification of Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) group in the racial designation section of the census. It’s been argued that whereas the MENA population are present in administrative records such as the American Community Survey (ACS), they remain mostly invisible in federal statistics and reports that inform political representation such as the decennial census. The proposed MENA census category, which is a distinct reporting category deployed as an ethnicity, has been hotly contested since it was included in 2015 census pilot instrument prompting respondents to self-identify their race, ethnicity, or national origin. A comprehensive geographic definition of the MENA category includes the population with origins in the Arab League (22 member states), non-Arab states (Turkey, Iran, and Israel), and trans-national communities (Armenians, Assyrians/Chaldeans, Kurds, and Berbers). Through immersive ethnographic research, in collaboration with social scientists, advocates, and activists closely affiliated with the Census Bureau, the grantee explored the creation of this census category as a case study of the broader phenomenon of political recognition for ethnic and racial immigrant minorities from the Middle East and
North Africa in the United States. By asking whether the inclusion of a MENA box creates a new political identity, this project contributes to the anthropological studies of democracy by providing policy-relevant and in-depth analysis of narratives and claims of peoplehood. Further, this project explores the efficacy of frames such as political representation and recognition in relation to categorization of people of Middle Eastern and North African descent in the United States.

MATT SCHISSLER, then a graduate student at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was awarded funding in August 2020 to aid research on “Inter-religious life in Myanmar,” supervised by Dr. Mike McGovern. After disruptions due to COVID-19 and a coup in Myanmar, funding enabled the grantee to work on the dissertation, “Violence in a Decade of Democracy: An Anthropological History of Race and Religion in Myanmar.” In September 2018 UN investigators concluded that attacks on ethnic Rohingya in Myanmar had amounted to genocide. These events have also been explained in excellent recent works of public and scholarly research. Myanmar was transitioning to democracy; political competition often leads to scapegoating. But why was it the Rohingya who were made scapegoat? The dissertation argues this question has not been answered, because established assumptions about political transitions, ethnic violence, and colonial legacies have lent existing explanations an intuitive sense of adequacy. Understanding how the Rohingya became the target, rather than others, thus offers to generate new insights on the established assumptions. The study accomplishes this by using tools from anthropology to weave together diverse materials: ethnographic observations from Myanmar; Burmese-language print and digital media; colonial archives; interviews; and a collaborative oral history project in five Myanmar cities. The result is a historical argument for the distinctively contemporary scales of violence against Muslims in Myanmar.

CHERYL MEI-TING SCHMITZ, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany, was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2021 to aid research on “Suspicious Transactions: Translating Chinese Business in Postwar Angola.” As the People’s Republic of China has transitioned from a “rising” to a “global” power, its activities on the African continent have attracted critical attention. Situated in Angola, the site of some of the most controversial deals between China and an African state, this book offers an ethnographic account of how Chinese-African interactions are experienced at the level of everyday life. The analysis focuses on the activities of a Chinese construction firm with whom the author lived and worked as a volunteer translator from 2013 to 2014. Examining commercial exchanges, labor and managerial practices, and the pursuit of business partnerships, the ethnography explores how knowledge and value are brokered through the negotiation of transactional alliances heavily colored by geopolitical rivalries. Acknowledging the mutual imbrication of observer and observed, the narrative traces how translations and mistranslations took place through and alongside economic transactions in which values emerged. Thus, gaps in knowledge, acts of deception, and sentiments of betrayal appear to be constitutive not only of Chinese globalization in Angola but also of the anthropological enterprise itself.

STEVEN SCHWARTZ, then a graduate student at University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, was awarded funding in April 2018 to aid research on “Lifeworlds of Extraction: Wind Energy and Indigeneity in the Guajira,” supervised by Dr. Justin Richland. This project examined how indigenous Wayuu communities and energy corporations experience the rise of wind farming in the Guajira – an arid, resource-rich, yet severely impoverished region along Colombia’s Caribbean coast. Although wind farming draws on discourses of “clean” energy and culturally driven development interventions, for many indigenous actors the expansion of wind energy infrastructure anticipates a wave of land privatization, social conflicts, and corporate control over energy resources with limited to no local benefits. This research inquired how the
transition to wind farming is taking place – how it is rearranging the everyday lives of indigenous and corporate actors through their interactions, and how notions of Wayúu identity and corporate forms of social relations are being mutually transformed and re-evaluated. By examining the emergence of wind farms, the researcher gained a deeper understanding of the social, economic, and political dimensions of energy transitions as experienced by indigenous communities and energy corporations in Colombia. The project draws on 12 months of ethnographic field research, observing existent and future wind farms and interacting with Wayúu communities, staff members of energy corporations, and indigenous organizations protesting the expansion wind power in the Guajira.

AIDAN SEALE-FELDMAN, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, was awarded an Engaged Anthropology Grant in September 2019 to aid engaged research on "Dialogue as Care: Co-Creating Theory through Community Forums, Open Seminars, and Collaborative Filmmaking in Nepal." This project was based on two years of dissertation fieldwork that examined mental health governance and the translation of affliction in Nepal before and after the 2015 earthquakes. With support from an Engaged Anthropology Grant, the grantee travelled to Nepal to conduct the project “Dialogue as Care.” The aim of this project was engagement and dialogue with those who participated in and supported the grantee’s research, as well as the broader scholarly community in Nepal. By sharing the results of this research on the ethics of care and the contestation of concepts of affliction in a rapidly changing therapeutic landscape, this project facilitated critical dialogue and feedback that will continue to be incorporated into future publications. In order to support the co-creation of anthropological knowledge, core activities involved the organization of a workshop with a leading NGO for mental health and counseling to gather feedback on the grantee’s book manuscript in-progress, a public talk on mental health in times of disaster, and a three-week intensive seminar in medical anthropology.

KATYAYNI SETH, then a graduate student at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, was awarded funding in April 2021 to aid research on "Caring for Children with Seizures in North India: An Exploration through Documents and Death," supervised by Dr. Daniel Smith. The research undertaken during the grant period focused on two aspects of family-clinician interactions: 1) the creation and circulation of medical documents; 2) communication surrounding the possibility of a child dying. The grantee studied these aspects to learn how caregivers collaborate and relate to each other during moments of familial and medical crises. Interviews, document analysis and event analysis conducted during fieldwork revealed that repetition plays a crucial role in both familial and medical care practices. Families and clinicians feel a desperate need to do things for the wellbeing of children under their care and to keep doing certain things repeatedly, such as writing files and seeking opinions from a variety of treatment providers. These repetitive actions sit beside the fear that whatever one is doing, and is capable of doing, for the child might not be sufficient to reverse their illness or prevent their death. In instances when a child is dying, these issues of doing and repetition bring to the fore what is at stake for families and clinicians as they experience Uttar Pradesh’s excessive child mortality rate.

JOANNA SMITH, then a graduate student at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, was awarded funding in May 2019 to aid research on “Prohibition, Transgression, and the Configuration of Bodies at the Modern Slaughterhouse,” supervised by Todd Ramón Ochoa. Funding allowed the grantee to spend September 2019 - August 2020 conducting dissertation research on North Carolina’s pork industry. The goal of this research was to explore the mechanisms of secrecy and the cycle of prohibitions (social, legal, and regulatory) and transgressions that have pulled the act of killing out of public life and contained it within the modern slaughterhouse. During fieldwork, the grantee visited slaughterhouses,
watching the work of killing and building relationships with owners, inspectors, and workers; spent time with farmers, retailers, hunters, homesteaders, restauranteurs, vegan activists, and butchers; worked at a butchery; participated in on-farm slaughters; and attended vigils at slaughterhouses. When COVID-19 struck, on-site research inside slaughterhouses came to a halt. However, the grantee continued to closely observe the discourse and practices around slaughter through their established relationships with interlocutors and through the news, and continued to spend time on farms. This period of fieldwork afforded valuable insights into the development of the slaughterhouse as a mechanism of containment, as well as into the role that slaughtering practice plays in configuring sociality.

ROBIN SMITH, an independent scholar from Oxford, United Kingdom, was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2020 to aid research and writing on “Hostage Barter in the EU: An Ethnography of Corporate Financial Practices.” The resulting manuscript, The Art of Getting By in Istrian Winemaking, tells a story of how winemakers work together to transform their market to reflect their economic values. It explains how they draw on their economic agency in daily life to help one another make ends meet in the context of financial precarity, where multinational corporations put pressure on their longstanding relationships, bank balances, and ways of doing business. Their business favors for neighbors and local competitors push back on financial manipulation tactics from outside seeking to diminish their liquidity. It asks what kind of capitalism is emerging in the region and answers this question by showing how local values are transforming into economic systems. That Istrians have historically been considered politically dangerous because of assumptions that their Italian heritage translate into irredentist desires is a unique context within which one may analyze the struggles over values that animate the economy. For them, doing favors is a way of enacting the economic values that shape their market. Thus, the book unpacks the mechanics of local capitalism and how markets are a space of constant negotiation.

VIVIAN SOLANA, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, was awarded funding in April 2018 to aid research on “Intimate International Aid: Regenerating the Sahrawi Revolution through Spanish-Sahrawi Relations.” This project investigates how the intimate ties between a growing presence of Sahrawi refugees in Spain and a large network of Spanish advocates for the Sahrawi national liberation movement (known as the POLISARIO Front) is implicated in the regeneration of a longstanding Sahrawi struggle that claims sovereignty over the Western Sahara, Africa’s last official colony. The protracted irresolution of the conflict over the Western Sahara is propelling Sahrawi youth to find futures outside of the refugee camps in which the POLISARIO Front organizes its anti-colonial movement since 1975. The grantee asks how refugees’ regeneration of their struggle extends, suspends, and/or transfigures when they leave the refugee camps in which they have come of age, and enter Spain, the nation-state that first colonized their land. Examining how intimate Spanish-Sahrawi social relations are engaged in building new horizons of political possibility across this transnational field, this project contributes to scholarship that studies the intersection between the reproduction of political movements and forced migration, and it offers insights into international relations and post-colonial futures otherwise.

GABRIELLA SOTO, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, was awarded funding in April 2019 to aid research on “The Contradictions of In/security: Rescue Beacons in the South Texas Borderlands.” Based on collaborative action with a humanitarian NGO in south Texas, this project attends to the complexities of humanitarian action to prevent undocumented migrant deaths and care for those who die. By necessity, the NGO conducts its operations with tenuous permissions and the sometimes-reluctant cooperation of area property owners (in a landscape dominated by private property), the sheriff’s department and other county officials, and Border Patrol agents in a space where government actors
claim that they too operate with parallel humanitarian intent. In particular, the NGO’s points of overlap with federal law enforcement opens a unique window for a critical comparative investigation of humanitarian concepts: what it means for an NGO to take on responsibilities of a state that validate the state’s claims to humanitarian intent, in a national security landscape when those rescued are also pursued for arrest, and as the state itself is implicated in creating the conditions from which migrants require rescuing. Yet, this space of uneasy collaborations also, as a matter of survival, fosters a sometimes-painful dynamism and spatial consciousness attentive to possibility for change in what can be a seemingly hopeless context.

DAKOTA STRAUB, then a graduate student at Columbia University, New York, New York, was awarded funding in August 2020 to aid research on “Circulating Sound: The Movement of Anthropogenic Noise through Science, Industry, and Nonhuman Oceanic Worlds,” supervised by Dr. Paige West. From space travel to marine biology, private investors are increasingly stepping in to take a leading role in advancing science and technology. This research investigates how philanthropists and wealthy individuals who conduct private ocean exploration projects understand their role in this field. What is the relationship between privately funded ocean exploration and marine science? How are wealthy individuals investing in ocean exploration and what drives them to do so? What sorts of understandings of the past and dreams of the future do private funders engage with regard to the prospects for underwater exploration? What do private investors and scientists believe to be the effect of their investments and personal expeditions on scientific knowledge production? Finally, what geographies emerge through ocean exploration and private investment or philanthropy and do these influence the kinds of scientific projects carried out in different locations — for example, the Mediterranean Sea versus the Pacific Ocean? Through archival research, interviews, media analysis, and ethnographic fieldwork at a yachting conference, the grantee investigates how ultra-wealthy elites’ understandings of the pasts, presents, and futures of exploration and marine science relate to broader scientific and environmental concerns in the 21st century.

KEVIN SUEMNICHT, then a graduate student at University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois, was awarded funding in August 2020 to aid research on “There Is No Word for What We Must Become”: Social Movement in Southern Illinois,” supervised by Dr. Molly Doane. Renamed “There Is No Name for What We Must Become: Social Movement in Southern Illinois” the grantee concluded that the Carbondale Spring was a project to unite various efforts to escape the dominant economy through immediate forms of communal economic and political life. Interlocutors understood their participation in ways that reflected the different positions of the interlocutors relative to class, the economy, and racial differences. In the course of research, the grantee concluded that the Carbondale Spring was a project to unite various efforts to escape the dominant economy through immediate forms of communal economic and political life. The organization failed to defund the police or to reallocate the money toward these projects, and this project suggests that the difficulties of doing so transcend democratic imperative and lay within the structure of the municipal government itself. For interviewees, climate change represents a deep-seated existential challenge which provokes anxiety, uncertainty, and shame among all those who consciously oppose the forward march of this civilization toward self-induced extinction.

ZAHIRAH SUHAIMI, then a graduate student at University of California, Santa Cruz, California, was awarded funding in April 2019 to aid research on “Emergent Microbial Cultures: Harmful Algal Blooms in the Johor Straits,” supervised by Dr. Anna Tsing. Since 2009, harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the Johor Straits have indiscriminately smothered the coastlines of Singapore and Malaysia, killing several hundred thousand tons of farmed and wild marine life. Yet, scientific studies to understand these blooms have
largely been confined to Singapore and Malaysia, with little exchange of data between the states. Through ethnographic fieldwork with Orang Seletar, Malay, and Chinese fish farmers, as well as collaborations with scientists in Singapore and Malaysia, new insights into recent toxic algal blooms emerge. Historical data, participant observation, and water sampling analysis piece together how projects of water management, coastal hardening, indigenous erasure, and infrastructure development have created the conditions of possibility for HABs in the Johor Straits.

ERIN TORKELSON, University of West Cape, Cape Town, South Africa, was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2020 to aid research and writing on “Bantustan Banking: Race, Debt and Welfare in South Africa.” The resulting manuscript considers how cash transfer programs have emerged as world-making responses to global poverty. There has been surprising consensus – among Silicon Valley techies, World Bank bureaucrats, and left academics – that cash transfers can right the wrongs of inappropriate development interventions by just giving money to the poor. Cash transfers are assumed to be simple, value-neutral tranches of money distributed from governments to citizens through digital financial technologies. However, the research argues that South Africa’s cash transfers are not value-neutral at all but encode structures of racial capitalism. Between 2012 and 2018, South Africa conscripted Black women – who make up 85% of all recipients – into regimes of debt at the site of social welfare provision. Drawing upon three years of ethnographic work, this writing shows how the perception of Black women as risky financial subjects justified their forced removal into a separate digital financial space subject to indirect rule by a private corporation outside the protection of state financial authorities.

CAROLINE TRACEY, then a graduate student at University of California, Berkeley, California, was awarded funding in October 2019 to aid research on “The Soul Will Fly Home of Its Own Accord’: Building a Transnational Infrastructure to Address Migrant Death,” supervised by Dr. Nathan Sayre. Long a migrant-sending country, in recent years Mexico has become one of return. Between 2010 and 2018, 2.6 million Mexicans left the United States, 55% by deportation and 45% by return. In response, a body of deportation scholarship has emerged and, mostly in Mexico, limited scholarship on return migration. Yet both literatures have largely overlooked women deportees and returnees, arguing instead that deportation is a gendered form of surplus labor control. This dissertation, an ethnographic account of women and gender-non-conforming deportee/returnee activism, challenges the idea that non-male deportees are ancillary to deportation and return migration as phenomena and objects of academic study, arguing that these return migrants’ cultural production, community-building, and intimate knowledge of the bureaucracies of the US and Mexico has improved the circumstances of long-term emplacement for all return migrants and their families.

KEREM CAN USSAKLI, then a graduate student at Stanford University, Stanford, California, was awarded a grant in April 2017 to aid research on “Law’s Encounters: Kafala Relationships in Iraqi Kurdistan,” supervised by Dr. Thomas B. Hansen. This research is an ethnography of sponsorship agreements between displaced persons, and the broader social worlds constituted by displacement and political violence in Iraq. This practice of sponsoring [known as kafala] requires a great deal of trust between Iraqi Kurds and Arabs – former enemies, victims of state violence, and current political adversaries. Through 18-month fieldwork with Kurdish sponsors and Arab sponsees in the Sulaymaniyah Governorate of Iraqi Kurdistan and the adjacent disputed territories, this research examined the ethics and social utility of inter-ethnic trust and obligation in Iraq following the U.S. invasion in 2003. It documented how Kurdish and Iraqi bureaucratic and security regimes use sponsorship agreements as tools for civilian identification, while making themselves indispensable to the navigation of inter-ethnic relationships between civilians. In
addition to showing how various temporary agreements -- sponsorships, proxyships, verbal deals -- are central to how (non)citizens to secure temporary residencies, property, and jobs, this research also examined how deeper senses of obligations between ethnic communities can generate provisional sovereignties that defy modern state power in geographies riddled with protracted political tenuousness. Data collected for this research included participant observation conducted in roads and checkpoints, inter-ethnic neighborhoods, displacement camps, government and law offices, and border-towns; interviews with lawyers, low-level government officers, Iraqi Kurds and displaced Iraqi Arabs; archival material and analysis of legal codes as evidence. This project shows how civil war, state violence and civilian acts of resistance and inter-ethnic trust rework rules and moral principles of coexistence and survival between ethnic communities.

ARRAN WALSHE, then a graduate student at New York University, New York, New York, was awarded a grant in August 2020 to aid research on Walshe, Arran (New York U.) "Martyred Citizenship: The Administration of Sacrifice in Iraq, 2003–2017," supervised by Dr. Helga Tawil-Souri. This project investigates how Iraqis navigate a legal and bureaucratic political system that depends not only on discriminatory conceptions of citizenship or identity, but critically on restrictive concepts of what lives can be sacrificial. It details how the Iraqi Martyrdom Foundation, a public institution founded in 2006 and tasked with regulating and reforming the Iraqi state’s legal and bureaucratic definition of martyrdom, came to occupy a hegemonic bureaucratic role in managing the state’s reparations and compensation practices. In its work the Foundation pulls on a conjunction of human rights law, human resource norms, and conceptions of both heroic sacrifice and victimhood, to apportion specific material, and moral value on its beneficiaries. Through an ethnography of the Foundation, its law, bureaucrats, and beneficiaries, it traces how Iraqis contest, negotiate, and successfully reorder the Foundation’s definition of martyrdom through the idiom of karam, or generosity, reframing the dichotomy of heroism and victim through lived ethics of everyday kindness. It examines how this process of contestation over the ethical and material values of sacrifice shape individual responses to endemic lived and structural violence that for many Iraqis has resulted in the loss of any acceptable political, social, or economic future.

CHUN-YU (JO ANN) WANG, then a graduate student at Stanford University, Stanford, California, was awarded funding in April 2019 to aid research on "Refining Politics: Oil Development, Environmental Activism, and Political Improvisation in Rural Malaysia," supervised by Dr. James Ferguson. This research project investigates the novel political actors and practices that emerged from the interactions between a small fishing village and a state-led, mega refinery and petrochemical development project in Pengerang, Malaysia. It explores how the national oil development project and its related controversies afforded new political spaces and opportunities for marginalized social groups to rearticulate political subjectivities and solidarities. Archival and ethnographic fieldwork traces the emergence of unanticipated critical loci and allies, such as “cemeteries” and “ghosts,” mobilized by the ethnic-minority, non-elite Chinese villagers in political contestation against and negotiation with the clientelistic state and colluding elites. It delineates historically and spatially unique elements and dynamics, such as settlement patterns and intra-group rivalries, which informed community and identity rebuilding amidst turbulent industrialization and political transition. The dissertation foregrounds these transient encounters and interstitial agencies that also constituted the constantly shifting grounds for categorical differentiation and identification, and thus helps us better understand what it means to be/live a life as a “non-bumiputera” (non-indigenous) “Chinese” “Malaysian” rather than normatively prescribing or theoretically
assuming it. The research suggests that attention to novelty sheds light on how alternative political futures may come into being in multi-cultural, post-colonial societies.

YIFAN WANG, then a graduate student at Rice University, Houston, Texas, received funding in October 2019 to aid research on “Born to Age: “Industrializing” Eldercare and Making Aging Subjects in China,” supervised by Dr. James Faubion. This research examines how demographic aging informs life and care work in contemporary China. If China’s over three decades implementation of birth planning policies had sought to contain a crisis of overpopulation, today, the global productivity epicenter is reconceptualizing the crisis as population aging. This sea change has culminated in China’s recent calls to industrialize (chanyehua) eldercare in the face of diminishing family-based care provision. Such industrialization is reshaping the eldercare landscape and giving rise to new care ethics, subject positions, and a mushrooming field of service and goods for consumption. To study these new phenomena, the grantee conducted fieldwork at an eldercare company in Nanjing with both marketing and care workers, and at eldercare-themed exhibitions, summits, and forums, both in-person and online. Archival research was also conducted to study the narrative of aging during the socialist period.

SARAH WEBB, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, received a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2020 to aid research and writing on “Adding Sustainability? The Politics of Value Creation in the Rainforest Markets of the Philippine Archipelago.” This project focused on development of a book manuscript, Honey Reforms: Lives Made with a Philippine Forest Wonder. The book brings into conversation two pressing issues of anthropological inquiry: the potency of substances like honey in imagining sustainable ways of living and the historically based marginalization that certain peoples have experienced through the valuation of forests, at a time when resource scarcity as become a regular feature of daily life for many. Honey sourced from Palawan Island’s renowned forests has become a forest wonder -- a product that can be value-added in order to save the rainforest by providing indigenous Tagbanua honey hunters with sustainable livelihoods. The substance of Palawan honey is promoted as having healing properties, but in addition to a capacity to transform consumers’ bodies, the sale of Palawan honey is also promised to produce significance economic and environmental transformations for the peoples, livelihoods and rainforests of Palawan Island. Honey reforms explores how the materiality and specificity of substances help us to understand what it means to sell sustainable living across ethnic and class relations. What do people buy when they buy Palawan honey, and for whom does this matter?

ANNA WEINREICH, then a graduate student at New York University, New York, New York, received a grant in October 2019 to aid research on “Material Frictions and Decolonial Entanglements? An Indigenous Collection between Australia and Berlin,” supervised by Dr. Fred Myers. Aboriginal Australian objects in European ethnographic collections have long galvanized Aboriginal efforts to gain access to, reconnect with or repatriate material culture acquired under colonial conditions. The Aboriginal collection held at the Ethnographic Museum in Berlin, Germany, materializes the country’s significant historical entanglements with Australia, where German-speakers represented the second largest group of colonial immigrants prior to the outbreak of World War I. While the colonial relationships embodied by these objects have heretofore played a subordinate role in the German national imaginary, their display at the Humboldt Forum—a contested new museum in Berlin—has entangled them in a broad cultural reckoning with Germany’s own colonial histories and debates that have brought “decolonization” onto the agendas of the state. This dissertation ethnographically tracks the collection’s journey across relations between nascent institutional efforts at “decolonization” and the crucial role of these objects and images in the decolonial work of Aboriginal remembrance. Examining the global networks of power relations among
persons, objects, and divergent systems of knowledge embodied by Aboriginal collections in Germany, it asks: How are these “global assemblages” renegotiated today, as Aboriginal claims of continued belonging encounter the distinct cultural politics of a decolonizing public sphere in metropolitan Europe?

CHERYL WHITE, Anton de Kom University, Paramaribo, Suriname, was awarded funding in April 2021 to aid research on “Tallawah: The Maroons of Amazonia.” The adventurous tourist will ride the white-water rapids of the Suriname River, just to experience traditional African Diasporic Maroon life in a river side village. The Maroon collective identity was born from the will of the enslaved Africans to escape coastal plantations and traverse the dense tropical rainforest of Amazonia, in search of an untethered life. They found it in the interior of Suriname, South America, and remain in their ancestral territories until this day. But what do we know of the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century settlements formed in the tumultuous years of slavery, deep in the forest, where clan groups marked the matrilineal descent order that is still observed today? Using multi-scale archaeological research, we have recorded their pottery making tradition, recovered their diverse eighteenth-century material culture, discerned their agricultural legacy using phytolith analyses, and understand patterns of sedentism, explained in archival documents and maintained through oral history. More broadly, this research provides archaeological evidence for contested land rights, by illustrating Maroon historical presence on the Amazonian landscape. It has also identified sites threatened by climate change. Collectively, this research raises awareness among Maroons about the importance and the need, for self-directed heritage management.

BONNIE O. WONG, then a graduate student at University of California, Berkeley, California, was awarded a grant in October 2018 to aid research on “Same, But Different: Surgical Practice in the Making of Chinese Modernity,” supervised by Dr. Aihwa Ong. What is surgery like in China and why does it matter? This ethnography of cancer surgery draws on sixteen months of fieldwork over eight years, and follows surgeons through their training, operations, and political climbs. Surgery in China is enmeshed in larger political narratives: each surgeon strives to be “a cut above” not just for personal success but as part of a narrative of medical-technonationalism. While this ethnography begins in the operating room, it extends outwards to consider the specific configuration of technology, expertise, structures, systems, and ethical or moral norms which come together. What forms of knowledge emerge from this context and what are the barriers to how that knowledge is shared and circulated? This research captures China’s healthcare system at a crossroads: as scholars simultaneously try to stake a place within the international community and reject the need to “catch up” to others, determined to prove strength on their own terms, through autonomy and decoupling from international expectations. This research explores the tensions between state priorities and international norms, between national politics and personal ethics, between standardization and expertise, to consider what an anthropology of surgery can teach us about China and global knowledge production today.

JAMIE JING-MEN WONG, then a graduate student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, received a grant in October 2019 to aid research on “Data Entrepreneurship and Chinese Political Culture,” supervised by Dr. Graham Jones. Funding allowed the researcher to shadow VC investors as they travelled to different parts of China to engage with local government officials, universities, and other VC investors. This has resulted in a clearer understanding of the network of influence, power, and credibility within the Chinese VC landscape, and enables comparison of what is specific and generalizable in different VC settings. Furthermore, this research illuminates the specific arrangements of co-dependencies and co-production between universities and the VC industry in this current configuration of the university-industrial complex to commercialize innovation. Lastly, by
attending to the interaction between different VCs, this research probes the social practices that uphold start-up companies’ values.

ARMANC YIDLIZ, then a graduate student at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, was awarded a grant in August 2020 to aid research on “Educating the Other: Sexuality, Race, and Political Economy in the Humanitarian Industries of Germany,” supervised by Dr. George Meiu. Among experts, Germany is usually offered as a “good example” in discussions of sex education, as it is compulsory by law in primary and secondary schools. However, the kind of sex education offered depends on the local states and is often challenged by multiple political actors. Usually framed as a matter of liberals vs. conservatives, the discussion misses the racializing effects of the discourse around sex education in practice. While sex educators employ a language of universality by emphasizing that they impart “scientific knowledge,” the values they articulate in the classroom are products of specific historical and political economic forces. Especially during the so-called “refugee crisis,” sex educators and their beneficiaries have also questioned such values sharply. Foregrounding the history of race and sexuality from the colonial German Empire to the present, this dissertation – retitled “Pedagogies of Flesh: Sexuality, Race, and Value in the Sex Education of Postcolonial Germany” -- ethnographically examines the tensions between universality and liberalism in sex education. It identifies the subject positions sex education produces and renders normative in Germany. Visiting sex education classes, NGO offices, sex education trainings for sex educators, and newspaper archives, this dissertation explores how sex education racializes different social groups amid ongoing crises of German national identity.

KENZA YOUSFI, then a graduate student at University of Texas, Austin, Texas, was awarded a grant in June 2020 to aid research on "Along the Conveyor Belt: Phosphates Extraction, Walls, and Infrastructure in the Western Sahara," supervised by Dr. Jason Cons. The world’s longest conveyor belt transporting phosphates has shaped the long history of national liberation and insurgency in the Western Sahara. This project investigates the extractive assemblage of vital phosphates infrastructure, labor policies, and colonial environmental imaginations. This archival research situates contemporary ethnographic exploration of how Saharawis relate and make phosphates infrastructure a site of everyday hangout, insurgency, and political rebellion. From archival materials collected from various Spanish archives from 1940-1976, the project traced the colonial tension around the impossibility of mastering an infrastructure erected in a moving desert landscape. The failed colonial attempts to deploy scientific, technical, and military measures to fixate the extractive infrastructure into the landscape led to precise territorial control, relationships with indigenous communities, and connection between land and sea. These projects shaped the living conditions, labor practices, and movements of the people working toward extracting and transporting phosphates. Saharawis lived, labored, and moved in this extractive assemblage through three intimately linked sites: the mining site, the port, and the conveyor belt. These sites shaped not only the colonial resource profitability but also the Saharawi insurgency’s political discourse. The extractive assemblage traced from a historical lens demonstrates that liberation movements were not merely a domino effect but shaped as much by material realities that often culminated around infrastructure.

YUKUN ZENG, then a graduate student at University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, was awarded funding in October 2018 to aid research on “Canonical Reading, Alternative Education, and Perennial Wisdom in Contemporary China,” supervised by Dr. Michael Silverstein. Renamed “Canonical Reading, Alternative Education, and the Social Movement of Eternal Wisdom (Dao) in Contemporary Chinese Societies,” this project is an ethnographic study focusing on dujing, a grassroots Confucian education movement in PRC, Taiwan, and Chinese American communities. This movement mobilizes youths to read (Confucian) canons
aloud without understanding, with the hope that repetitive recitation will lead eventually to eternal wisdom (dao). In its most intensive forms, students read eight hours a day for years, often urged by parents (usually mothers) to drop out from legally mandatory mainstream schooling. This dissertation argues: 1) although dujing features reading classics without regard for understanding, the sound, media, materiality, and repetition in dujing practitioners’ reading are perceived and practiced by them as the pursuit of wisdom (dao); and 2) Dujing families intensify reading from two hours a week to supplanting mainstream schooling with dujing. This process is shaped by the gender dynamics in dujing families, the authoritative politics of wisdom that dujing promotes, the value and network of religious groups, and the highly competitive education in East Asian communities. Dujing is eventually mobilized as a conservative yet radical social movement. 3) The developments of dujing are affected by the different histories and cultural politics in situated contexts, such as the Cultural Revolution (Mainland) and the Chinese Cultural Renaissance (Taiwan) during the Cold War, current nationalism (Mainland) and multiculturalism (Taiwan), and the anxiety and reproduction of “model minority” (Asian American Community in the US).

MUHAMMAD NABIL ZUBERI, then a graduate student at the City University of New York, Graduate Center, New York, New York, received funding in October 2017 to aid research on “Technologies of Imagination: Media and Political Protests in Bangladesh,” supervised by Dr. Vincent Crapanzano. In the context of the violence between two competing political movements that killed over 500 people in 2013 in Bangladesh, this year-long research project investigates the roles people’s ideas and beliefs about the media play in the circulation of the manipulated images and fake news, as well as in the imaginations they engender in times of crisis and violence. For both movements, locked in a battle over the legitimacy of the ongoing war crime trials and the role of Islam in the national life, the key goal was to make the public see and imagine the social reality in a way favorable to them. Through innovative use of a range of old (word-of-mouth in bazaars, loudspeakers in mosques) and new (Facebook, blogs) media technologies, both movements managed to generate intense emotions and divide the public imagination in half in 2013. Through ethnographic investigation in the capital city of Dhaka, and sub-district bazaars in Hathazari and Satkaria, this study will explore following questions: 1) What role did the old media and conventional ways of communication like words-of-mouth and mosque loudspeakers play in the circulation of the manipulated images and news? 2) How did people’s ideas and beliefs about these media affect the circulation of these images and news? 3) How did these ideas and beliefs affect people’s interpretation of the messages delivered through these media and imaginations of the transpiring events?
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