

# Anthropology Department Newsletter

**Winter 2025**



# SPRING 2025 SEMESTER TALKS



Arts & Sciences  
Anthropology

**5 FEB Dr. Matthew Pailles**  
University of Oklahoma

*"Comparative Political Trajectories of Northwest Mexico: The Radical Pasts of Trincheras, Rio Sonora, and Casas Grandes"*

Department Talk  
12:20-1:10pm (STO 253)

**26 FEB Dr. Rachel Carmody**  
Harvard University

*"Gut Microbiome Plasticity and Human Adaptability in Changing Environments"*

Department Talk  
12:20-1:10pm (STO 253)

**26 MAR Dr. Andrew Shryock**  
University of Michigan

*"Hospitality and Miracles: Laying up Treasures between Heaven & Earth"*

Fredrik Barth Lecture  
3:30-5:00pm (213 Bay State Rd, Hillel River Room)

**16 APR Dr. Janet McIntosh**  
Brandeis University

*"Military Chimeras: Tensions in a Nervous Semiotic System"*

Department Talk  
12:20-1:10pm (STO 253)



# FACULTY NEWS

*Awards, Grants, Milestones*

**Wade Campbell** was announced as one of the incoming cohort of Archaeology Southwest Research Associates. His term began January 1, 2025. Last October, he was invited to give the University of New Mexico's Annual International Archaeology Day Lecture in Albuquerque. His talk was entitled: "Archaeological Research as a Tool for Indigenous Foodways Work: An Early Navajo Case Study from Dinétah." In November, he was a panelist in a discussion, "Conducting Research with Tribal Communities," sponsored by the Boston University Diversity & Inclusion Office.

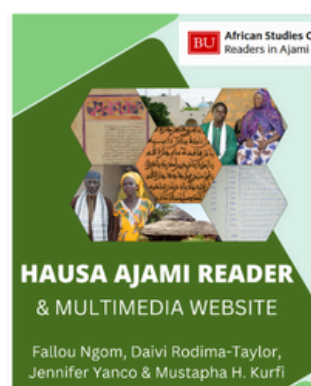
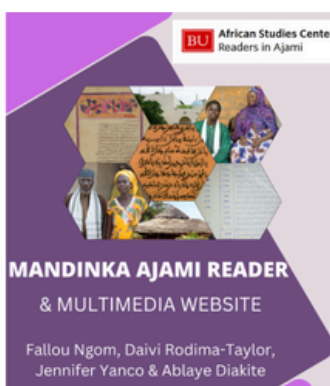
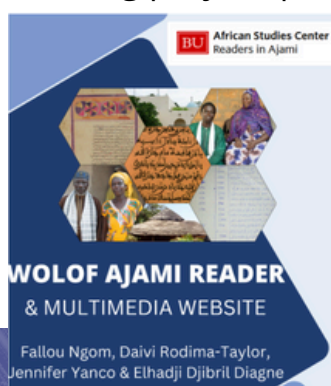
**Eva Garrett** and a team of biological anthropologists, geologists and undergraduates collected fossils of Eocene mammals in West Texas this winter. They were at the Devil's Graveyard formation at the Dalquest Desert Research Station, north of Big Bend National Park. Pictured below is the site they would hike down to search for fossils.



**Luke Glowacki** was featured in the [On Humans Podcast](#) discussing evidence for the role of war in human evolution.

**Frank J. Korom**, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and Religion has been appointed as a senior scholar at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**Fallou Ngom** and **Daivi Rodima-Taylor's** *The Readers in Ajami* project has developed three African Ajami Readers – of over 600 pages of instructional materials. The [Wolof](#), [Mandinka](#), and [Hausa](#) Ajami Readers offer a comprehensive multimedia learning experience in combination with the interactive [project website](#). For more information about this exciting project, please visit the website [here](#).



# FACULTY NEWS

*Awards, Grants, Milestones*

**Robert Hefner** traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia for an international conference of Muslim scholars on “Nahdlatul Ulama and Humanitarian Islam,” where he gave the conference’s opening and closing keynote addresses. The welcoming address was entitled “Humanitarian Islam: An Indonesian Movement for Global Ethical Reform.” The closing keynote address was entitled, “Moral Leadership at a Critical Juncture: Nahdlatul Ulama, Democracy, and the Quest for a New Islamic Jurisprudence.” He also gave the keynote address at the

Indonesian Embassy’s 16th annual “Indonesian Focus Conference on Culture, Politics, and Educational Exchange.” His keynote was entitled, “How Indonesia Created the Most Effective Democracy in the Muslim World.” He also gave an invited presentation in the Alwaleed Bin Talal Seminar in Islamic Studies at Harvard University



## *Publications*

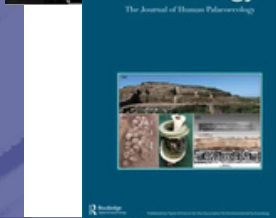
**Wade Campbell** “Microbotanical Starch Analysis as a Tool for Indigenous Foodways Research: An Early Navajo Case Study from the U.S. Southwest” (Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports , 2025)

**Luke Glowacki** “We are one people: Group myths also draw cues from self-concept formation” (Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 2024)

**John M. Marston** “Agricultural entanglements, niche construction, and low-level food production” (Current Anthropology, 2024)

“Cultivating the hills and the sands: a comparative archaeobotanical investigation of Early Islamic agriculture in Palestine,” with **Kathleen Forste** (PhD 2021). (Environmental Archaeology, 2024)

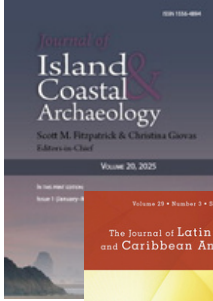
“Mapping land use with integrated environmental archaeological datasets.” (Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association, 2024)



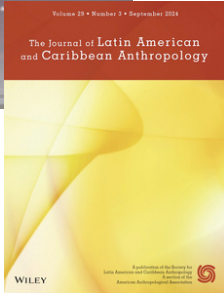


# FACULTY NEWS

## *Publications*

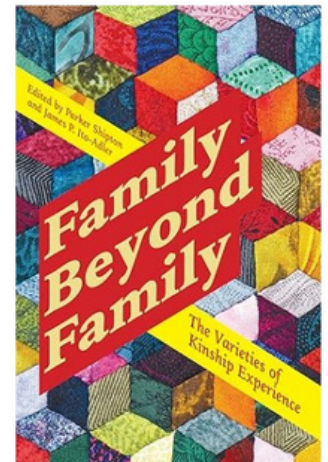


**Curtis Runnels** and **Justin Holcomb** (PhD 2020) "From sagas to voyages: Prospecting, agency, and the Paleolithic exploration of the Greek islands." (The Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology, 2024)

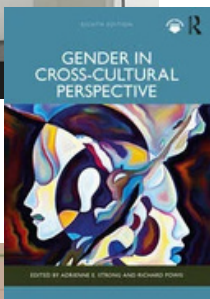


**Steven Schwartz** "Dangerous winds: Criminal threats and the indigenized security of wind power in Colombia." (The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, 2024)

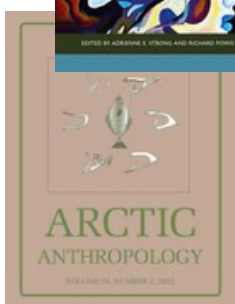
**Parker Shipton** has a new co-edited volume (with James P. Ito-Adler) out with Berghahn Books entitled *Family Beyond Family: The Varieties of Kinship Experience*. It includes chapters not only by himself but also by several past and present members of the faculty and/or alums including Prof. **Shahla Haeri**, the late Prof. **Charles Lindholm**, and doctoral alumna and CGS Lecturer **Chun-yi Sum**, former Visiting Lecturer **Mark Auslander**, and doctoral alumnus **Jiansheng Li**.



**Merav Shohet** "Revisiting and Revisioning Silence and Narrative in Psychological Anthropology." (Innovations in Psychological Anthropology, 2024)



**Chun-Yi Sum** "Beyond romantic partnerships: sese, gender egalitarianism, and kinship diversity in Mosuo society." (Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective, 2024)



**Catherine West**

"Interior Subsistence and Seasonality on the Kodiak Archipelago," with **Erin Mooneyham (B.A. 2023)** (Arctic Anthropology, 2024)

"Global Research Priorities for Historical Ecology to Inform Conservation." (Endangered Species Research, 2024)



# HOLIDAY PARTIES



*Fall semester,  
the  
department  
hosted a  
Halloween  
and a Winter  
party for the  
Anthro  
community!*

Halloween'24





# STUDENT NEWS

**Niki Xenia Alygizou** successfully defended her MAPA thesis, "Fragmented Green Futures: Urban Governance, Public Participation, and the Quest for Sustainability in Limassol"

**Tianyi Bai** received a grant from Wenner-Gren for dissertation research. The grant title is "Navigating (Un-)imaginable Futures: The Temporal Horizons of Gender among Trans Youths in China."

**Paniz Edjlali** successfully defended her dissertation: "Negotiating Love and Relationships: Different Approaches to Identity and Belonging Among First- and Second-Generation Immigrants in Paris"

**Sümeyra Güneş** and her research was featured in [an article by the BU Brink](#) entitled "How Comedians in Turkey Are Pushing Boundaries."

**Warrenkevin Henderson** was featured in a BU Today article featuring BU veterans and successfully defended his prospectus.

**Hannah Grace Howard** received a paper prize in the anthropology of religion at AAA.

**Leyla Jafarova** is the graduate Winner of the 2024 National Association for the Practice of Anthropology Student Paper Award

**Dylan Renca** was awarded a Boston University Graduate Writing Fellowship for Fall 2025 and a Boston University CURA travel grant of \$500 for dissertation fieldwork on Java during summer 2024. He organized a panel for the Association of Asian Studies (scheduled for March 2025) entitled "Indonesian Multiculturalism and its Limits: History, Ideology, and Claims of Political Belonging."



# STUDENT NEWS

**Brooke Rothamer, Nicole Merullo and Jessica Hlay** conducted fieldwork on **Carolyn Hodges-Simeon's** longitudinal field project, the Utila Child Health Project, in Honduras over winter break. They investigated childhood growth and development in the setting of a "summer camp."



**Gabriel Vicencio** was awarded an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for his project entitled "The Role of Raw Material in Defining Social Interaction" that will allow him to complete his research on stone economies at Teotihuacan, Mexico.

**Ziqi Xie** received the AAA's David M. Schneider Award for research.

## *Publications*

**Hazal Aydin** published a news feature entitled "The Transformative Potential of Intimacy: Turkish Coffee Talk and Ethnographic Listening." The piece emerged from a roundtable on decolonial research methods and native scholars during her time as a Research Assistant with the ERC funded Takhayyul Project.

**Feyza Burak-Adli** "Genderless souls?: Sufi Women in Sociopolitical Contexts" (Culture and Religion, 2024)

"The Portrait of an Alla Franca Ottoman Sheikh: Sufism, Modernity, and Class in Turkey." (International Journal of Middle East Studies, 2024)

"Turkish Islamic Feminism." (Oxford Handbook of Religion in Turkey, Oxford University Press, 2024)

"Agent of Change or Guardian of Tradition: Sufism, Gender, and Nationalism in Cold War Turkey." (Culture and Religion, 2024)

### THE TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF INTIMACY: TURKISH COFFEE TALK AND ETHNOGRAPHIC LISTENING

November, 2024 / By Hazal Aydin



Photo

Until the talking continues

CULTURE AND RELIGION  
2024, AHEAD-OF-PRINT, 1-22

#### 'Genderless souls?: Sufi women in sociopolitical contexts'

Feyza Burak-Adli<sup>a</sup>, Merin Shobhana Xavier<sup>b</sup>, and Francesco Piraino<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Northwestern University <sup>b</sup> Queen's University <sup>c</sup> Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School

Sufism is a porous phenomenon that could be described with the categories of mysticism, esotericism, spirituality, and popular religion within the Islamic tradition. Sufism has been both at the centre of Islamic orthodoxy and morality, with many Sufis shaping Islamic institutions and doctrines across time and space, and at its margins, with Sufis challenging orthodoxy and social norms, reinventing rituals, and promoting blended practices based on visions, dreams, and ecstasy. One can think of the relationship between Sufism and Islam as two overlapping traditions, generally overlapping, sometimes distancing, and rarely separated (e.g. non-Islamic Sufism of Abraham Maimonides and

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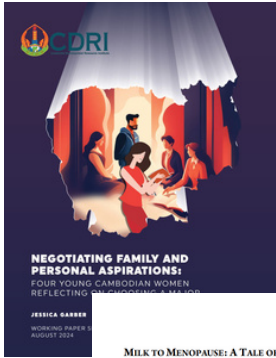
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NEW



# STUDENT NEWS

*Publications cont.*



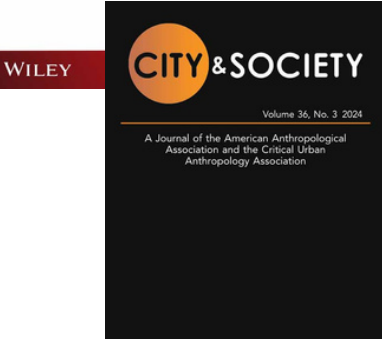
**Jessica Garber** "Negotiating Family and Personal Aspirations: Four Young Cambodian Women Reflecting on Choosing a Major." (Cambodia Development Resource Institute, 2024)

**MILK TO MENOPAUSE: A TALE OF FEMALES AT THE FOREFRONT OF EVOLUTION**  
Brooke A. Rothamer  
Department of Anthropology, Boston University, Boston, USA  
brotham@bu.edu

**Brooke Rothamer** had a book review, Milk to Menopause: A Tale of Females at the Forefront of Evolution, published in December.



**Samantha Vee** "Costs and benefits of allomaternal care to mothers and others in wild Phayre's leaf monkeys." (American Journal of Biological Anthropology, 2024)



**Xuyi Zhao** "A timespace of zero-COVID in Southwest China: Building community, governing time" (City and Society, 2024). An earlier version of this paper won an Honorable Mention for the 2023 Graduate Student Paper Award of the Critical Urban Anthropology Association.

# STUDENT FIELDWORK

**Alexander Dorr** has been identifying and analyzing fauna from the Hellenistic sites of Tel Shimron and Kedesh while staying in East Jerusalem at the W.F. Albright Institute. In February, he gave a public lecture on the fauna from Kedesh, and how animal economy and provisioning at the site remained stable despite the historical and archaeological record suggesting dynamic changes in rule in the region.



**Sarah Lewinger** is currently in Kampala, Uganda. Embedded in a community of predominantly Gen Z poets, she is studying how young people use poetry and performance to navigate political expression and create meaning and (sometimes) solidarity under conditions of increasing state surveillance and repression.

**WarrenKevin Henderson** was at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History last semester scanning skulls of bears, pinnipeds, and horses. To the left are two of his favorite photos: one in which he compared the size of his head to that of a walrus; the other is of the recently extinct Caribbean Monk Seal--"a powerful reminder of what happens when humans take too much."





Assistant Professor  
of Anthropology

# STEVEN SCHWARTZ

*New faculty  
highlights!  
Find their  
posters at the  
anthro office!*

Dr. Steven Schwartz is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Boston University. He is an environmental anthropologist with expertise in political ecology, resource extraction, and indigeneity. His research explores how the climate crisis and the global rise of renewable energy intersect with Indigenous peoples' environmental relations, practices of resistance, and political and economic life in Latin America.

*Wind Futures: Indigeneity, Aerial Worlds, and the Making of Renewable Energy in Colombia*, Steven's upcoming book, details his research in La Guajira, a peninsula that is the center of a wind energy rush in Colombia and comprises part of the ancestral territory of the Wayuu Indigenous people. With knowledge gained from 18 months of ethnographic fieldwork, he explores how frontline communities, energy workers, and state bureaucrats negotiate and experience the shift from coal mining to wind farming. The book documents new struggles over wind, land, and the future that seek to redefine the meaning of a "just" energy transition beyond state and corporate desires.

Dr. Schwartz is also developing a second book that investigates what ideas, practices, and imaginaries of environmental care, post-carbon life, and eco-social justice are emerging among groups living near petrochemical ruins and oil regions in Colombia and Venezuela. His research has been supported by the Social Science Research Council, the Wenner-Gren, Tinker, and Mellon Foundations, among others.



# UNDERGRAD NEWS

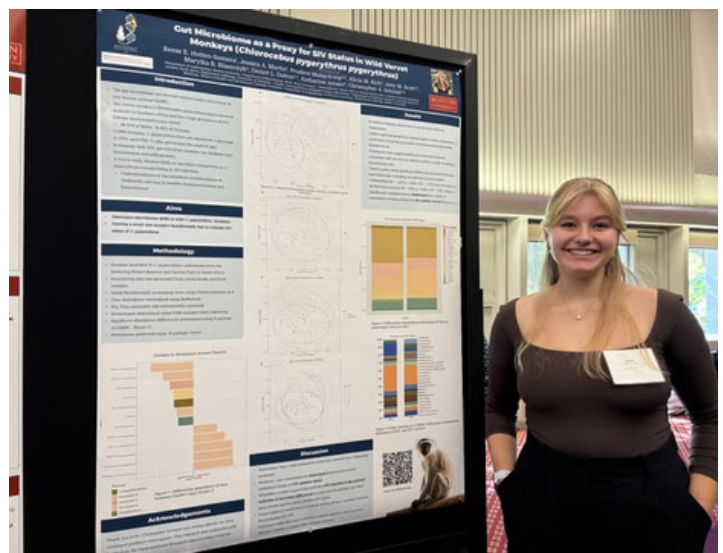
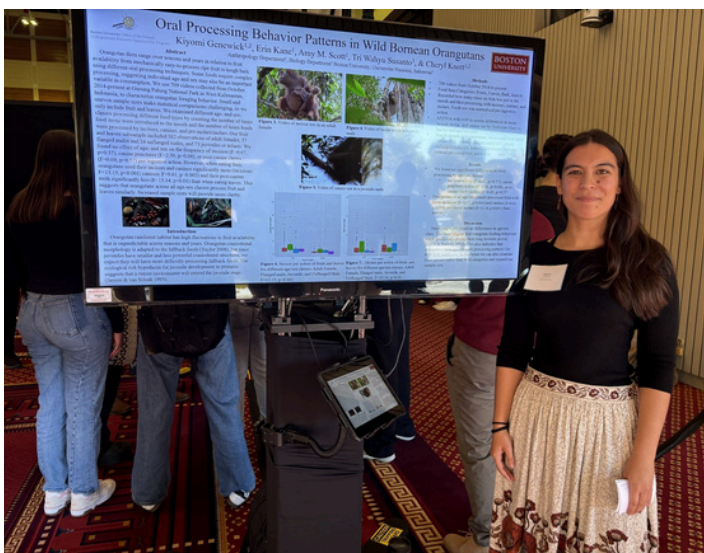
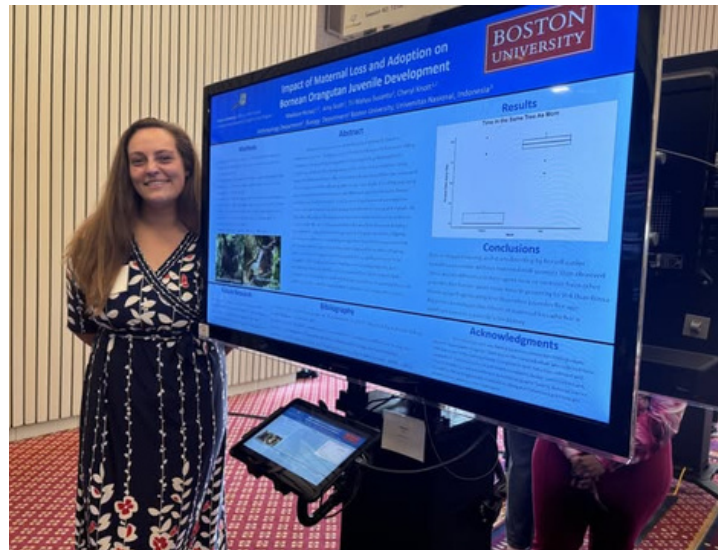
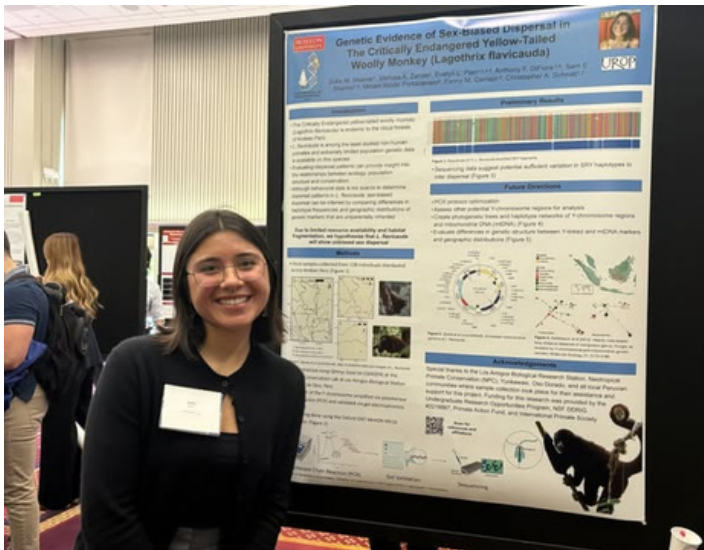
*Awards, Grants, Publications, Research, Milestones*

- **Jessica Buckley** presented at the 27th annual UROP Symposium with her poster "Ancestral Subsistence on Chirikof Island: Shell Midden Analysis)"
- **Kiyomi Genewick** presented at the 27th annual UROP Symposium with her poster "Oral Processing Behavior Patterns in Wild Bornean Orangutans"
- **Reese Hotten-Somers** presented at the 27th annual UROP Symposium with her poster "Gut microbiome as a proxy for SIV status in wild vervet monkeys"
- **Madison Hurysz** presented at the 27th annual UROP Symposium with her poster "Impact of maternal loss and adoption on Bornean orangutan juvenile development"
- **Alexia Nastasia** presented at the 27th annual UROP Symposium with her poster "Mapping Worldwide Youth-Driven Initiatives for Addressing the Climate Crisis: Best Practices, Values Informing Climate Action, & Environmental Justice"
- **Ruofei Shang**
  - presented at the 27th annual UROP Symposium with her poster "Asian American Youth Palestine Activism: Why Do Asian American Youths Get Involved in the Palestine Liberation Movement?"
  - was spotlighted in a video by the College of Arts & Sciences for her work as a Communications Intern at the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.
  - awarded \$1000 grant to support travels for senior thesis research, Asian American Youth in Palestine Activism. This grant will fund research her trip to California, where she will be visiting all of the major Asian American museums and archives
- **Katrina Tronco** (CAS'25) presented at the 27th annual UROP Symposium. Her presentation was entitled "Family Care, Decision-Making, and Community Building in the Filipino Nursing Diaspora from an Intergenerational Perspective."
- **Sofia Weaver** presented at the 27th annual UROP Symposium with her poster "Genetic Evidence of Sex-Biased Dispersal in The Critically Endangered Yellow-Tailed Wolly Monkey (*Lagothrix flavicauda*)"
- **Jonathan Zhang**
  - presented a poster at the National Collegiate Research Conference held at Harvard University on his honors thesis research
  - Jonathan Zhang presented at the 27th annual UROP Symposium with his poster "PTSD & Post-combat Purification Rituals: An Analysis into Potential Therapeutic Benefits"



# OUR UNDERGRADS AT UROP!

*Congratulations to all participants!*







*New faculty highlights!  
Find their posters at the anthro office!*

# ANDREANA

**Assistant Professor  
of Anthropology &  
Bioarchaeology**

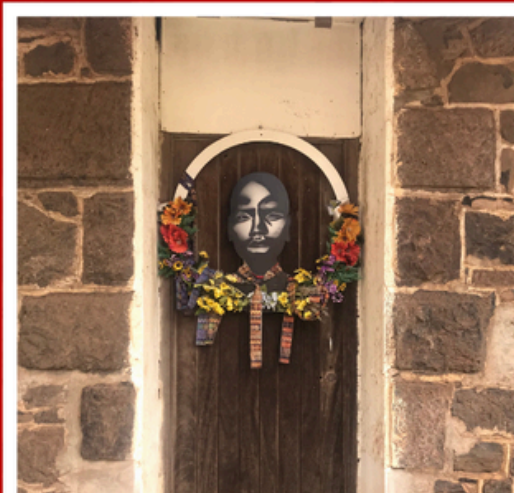
# CUNNINGHAM

Professor Cunningham is an interdisciplinary anthropologist specifically interested in the patterns of variation that existed for enslaved people in regions that are not traditionally placed in dialogue (currently the Caribbean, South Atlantic Ocean, and Indian Ocean). Her research also examines the ways that these sites of the slave trade can be used to reimagine theory and practice around heritage preservation and community engagement. An expert in bioarchaeology, Cunningham uses her research to uncover the forgotten stories of enslaved peoples and truths about the slave trade that have been omitted by slavers.

***The Histories of Enslaved People Were Written by Slavers. A BU Researcher Is Working to Change That***, is a profile about Andreea and her research in the *BU Brink* that highlights her commitment to expanding ethical research practices—an effort she has brought to BU via the *Anthropology Teaching Collection Curation Project*, which traces BU's hazy history of acquisition for its own collection of human remains.



***“Any sort of burial work, especially in an African diaspora context, should be done with community. I now see it as ancestor work to do any sort of work related to burial grounds. And to do that—that’s something that has to be grounded beyond a discipline.”***





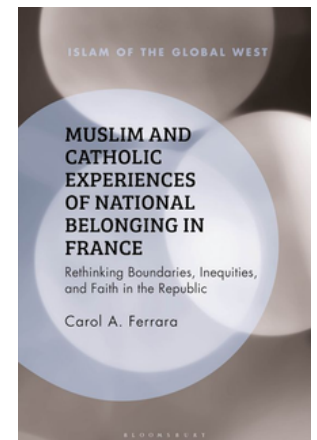
# ALUMNI NEWS

*Awards, Grants, Publications, Research Milestones*

**Calynn Dowler** (PhD 2022) was awarded a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Wenner-Gren Foundation to finish drafting her current book project.

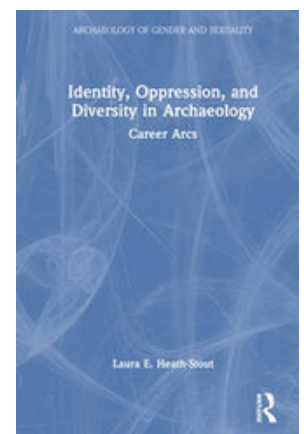
**Kathleen Forste** (PhD 2021) became a Postdoctoral Research Associate in Archaeology in the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World at Brown University.

**Carol Ferrara's** (PhD 2019, Assistant professor at Emerson College, debut book, *Muslim and Catholic experiences of national belonging in France*, published with Bloomsbury Academic as part of the Islam of the Global West series, explores how the differing experiences of national identity and belonging for French Muslims and Catholics reveal inequities that work to marginalize minorities in plural secular societies.



**Lindsay Gifford** (PhD 2009) was awarded the University of Chicago's Neubauer Collegium Interdisciplinary Research Grant for a project entitled "Imagining the Sanctuary City: Chicago's Current Migration in Anthropological, Legal and Historical Perspectives." She is collaborating with faculty in Law and Humanities to better understand migrant and refugee reception in Sanctuary City contexts.

**Laura Heath-Stout** (PhD 2019) published a book in October based on her BU dissertation, *Identity, Oppression, and Diversity in Archaeology: Career Arcs*. It documents how racism, classism, sexism, heterosexism, and ableism affect the demographics of archaeology and discusses how knowledge that archaeologists produce is shaped by the discipline's demographic homogeneity.

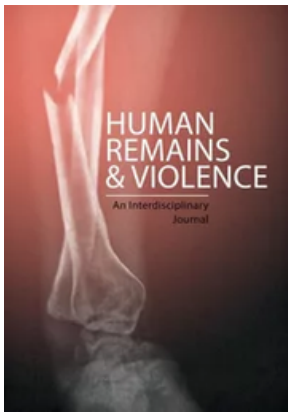


**Arianna Huhn** (PhD 2013) was promoted to full Professor at California State University San Bernadino.

# ALUMNI NEWS

*Awards, Grants, Publications, Research, Milestones*

**Erica M. Larson** (PhD 2019) published *Wearing your Moral Character on the Sleeve of your School Uniform: Ethical Becoming and Nation-building in Indonesia* (The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology, 2024)



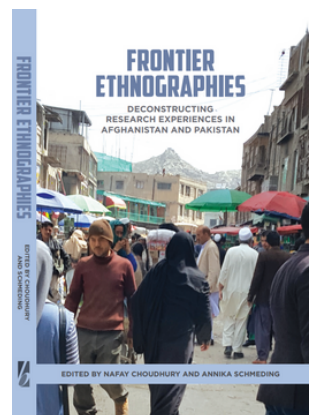
**Dat Nguyen** (PhD 2020) authored three publications in 2024: *Rendering the 'Orphaned' Dead Palpable: Spiritual Care and Memory Activism at the Former Republic of Vietnam Military Cemetery.* (Human Remains and Violence: An Interdisciplinary Journal, 2024)

*Reconfiguring Buddhism for Youth in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.* (Oxford University Press, 2024)

*War Dead, Trauma, and Care: The Differential Reintegration of Vietnamese Former Combatants.* (War and Society, 2024)

**Noha Roushdy** (PhD 2021) published *International Schools and the Production of Elite Non-Belonging in Cairo's Satellite Cities* (Égypte Soudan mondes arabes, 2023)

**Annika Schmeding** (PhD 2020) started as a Lecturer at the Department of Arabic and Middle East Area Studies at the University of Amsterdam. In 2024, she co-edited the book: *Frontier Ethnographies: Deconstructing Research Experiences in Afghanistan and Pakistan*; a collection of essays probing the boundaries of knowledge production in complex and shifting research settings through ethnographic writing and analysis at the intersection of anthropology, political science, conflict studies, ethnomusicology, and the arts.



**Jacob F. Tischer** (PhD 2024) has recently taken up a position as Assistant Professor of Taiwan History at Charles University Prague in the Czech Republic.



# Thank you!

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