Winter 2022

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Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology, University of Sussex

New Expertise

Sussex School HE of Global Studies is excited to be joined by three new members of staff who bring a range of new expertise to the department. Caroline Bennett and Nile Davies will both focus on Human Rights, and Melissa Gatter on Gender and Development.

AROLINE Bennett, who joins us from the University of Wellington, is a specialist in the anthropology of conflict and violence, and has previously worked in forensic anthropology in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Iraq.

ILE Davies, who pursued his doctoral research at Colombia. has conducted fieldwork in Sierra Leone, and expert in the is an anthropology of precarity, productivity, disasters, and reconstruction.

ELISSA Gatter, who has ioined the Department of International Development, is an anthropologist whose work in the Middle East has focussed on forced migration, development, and time.



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Awards and Achievements

ONGRATULATIONS Demet **∕**to both and Lyndsay Dinlet McLean, who have each received a 'Sussex Spirit' Award in recognition of the ways in which their teaching embodies the values of kindness, integrity, inclusion, collaboration and



courage. Anthropology staff Alice Wilson, Will Locke, Elizabeth Mills. Wendy and Ashall were also nominated for education awards.

Elizabeth Mills' expertise has been recognised in her appointment to Co-Director of the Centre for Cultures of Reproduction, Technology and Health (CORTH).

lice Wilson held Derek Brewer Visiting Fellowship at College, Emmanuel Cambridge, AprilJune 2022. During the fellowship Alice completed forthcoming her book Afterlives Revolution: Everyday <u>Counterhistories</u> Southern Oman (Stanford University Press, forthcoming 2023). The book examines the social legacies <u>of the Dhufar</u> revolution (1965 - 1976),and how kinship practices, everyday socialising and the unofficial commemoration of some former revolutionaries generate ongoing social legacies and afterlives of Dhufar's revolution.

Projects and Grants

ONCE again, Sussex anthropologists have attracted funding from wide a range of sources.

BETH Mills has been awarded a two year grant by the British Academy and Leverhulme Trust to research intersections of gender, HIV and COVID-19 in South Africa. The project involves conducting policy and ethnographic research with a group of policy makers, activists and artists with whom Dr Mills has longstanding research ties.

PAUL Boyce has received HEIF funding for the project 'Seditious Anthropology', а new received podcast series. HEIF funding for the project 'Seditious Anthropology', a podcast series. A core aim of the project is to refigure the forms and focus of anthropological knowledgeinvolving making, the sharing of perspectives and ideas in a heterodox manner, outside of the hierarchies conventional of academic discourse and publishing. The podcast

will emphasise debate and dialogue that is not routed through the 'Northern anthropological academy' as primary epistemologicalt r a n s f e r - z o n e .

He was also awarded HEIF funding for the project 'Remembered Sexual Futures', which will produce a film to retroactively explore 'sexually dissident' activism and everyday life-worlds in West Bengal from over the course of 25 years, a timeframe that goes back to his first involvements in gender and sexualities community work in this context. One of the filmmakers, Suvana Ritu (a transgender actress based in West Bengal), has been one of Paul's contacts, collaborators and friends since his first days living in the region,

A GATHE Mora has been awarded school funding as Network Coordinator for the upcoming EASA LAWNet workshop titled 'From Critique to Political Practice' to be held at Sussex on 12 May 2023

Promotion

SPECIAL congratulations to Anne-Meike Fechter for her promotion to Professor in the Autumn. The University's Academic Titles and Promotions Committee announced Professor Fechter's welldeserved recognition in September.





Postgraduate students with faculty at the winter graduation.

Special Issues

A special issue of the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, edited by Sussex's Anne-Meike Fechter and BICC's Benjamin Etzold, has been published to mark the end of the larger research project 'TRAFIG', which aimed at generating new knowledge to help develop solutions for protracted displacement that are tailored to the needs and capacities of persons affected by displacement. The special issue is titled 'Unsettling protracted displacement: connectivity and mobility beyond 'Limbo'

AMES McMurray has also edited a special issue. The collected essays, which concern the role of scholarship in responding to the Uyghur Tribunal's claims of genocide in Xinjiang, were published in the winter edition of Hau, the Journal of Ethnographic Theory.



Student Success

Masters student Lia James has been awarded the Bill and Scarlett Epstein Prize for her dissertation, 'The Social Citizenship of Household Workers in Jamaica.' The dissertation argued that native-born Jamaican household workers are denied citizenship rights and social inclusion in a manner akin to migrant domestic workers.

ur former student, Lotte Jaeger, 2022 has won the Harold К. Schneider Student Paper Prize in Anthropology, Economic Society from the for Economic Anthropology for her essay, 'Racial Capitalism and #PayUp: Critical Examination А of the Abandonment of Bangladeshi Garment Workers During the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Congratulations also to our recent Masters graduates who have gone on to jobs at CAFOD, Liberty Human Rights, and Itad: Results in Development.

Well done to Tomas Crean and Jack Payne-Cook, who were jointly awarded the David Pocock Prize for highest grade for an undergraduate thesis!

ACK Payne-Cook was also awarded the Anthropology Prize for best overall performance over the course of an anthropology degree.

THE department submitted a number of high-scoring dissertations to the RAI student essay prize competition, and we wish the entrants the best of luck.

EVAN Killick's ESRC-funded project, 'The Making of an Integrated Landscape of Conservation', has played a pivotal role in securing recognition of territorial rights for the Amawaka community in Alto Esperanza, Peru. As part of the project, team of researchers а has been working with indigenous communities around the Purus National Park, Purus Communal Reserve and Morunawa Reserve investigate to

Amawaka Rights

their current realities and address their needs.

The research team helped produce the evidence and documents to make an official application for territorial recognition from the Peruvian government. These efforts are of key importance for helping the Amawaka people resist threats from timber concessions, drug trafficking activities and internal migrants intent on settling undemarcated land.





Page 4 PhDs

Book

I shrat Kahn, who was cosupervised by Elizabeth Mills, Paul Gilbert and Dinah Rajak, has completed her PhD and returned to Bangladesh to take up her post as Assistant Professor in the Department of Women and Gender Studies at Dhaka University.

RICHARD Thornton successfully defended his thesis, passing his viva without corrections. He was supervised by Filippo Osella and Geert de Neve.

Chloe Place successfully defended her PhD thesis, 'Looking after Abuelos: An Ethnography of Dementia Care in an Andalusian Town' this Summer. She was supervised by Rebecca Prentice and David Orr.

Kaveri Medappa also passed her viva without corrections. She was supervised by Rebecca Prentice and Geert de Neve. Congratulations to all of our new PhDs!



Ton Mitchell's new edited collection, 'Morality, Capitalism: Crisis and Anthropology for Troubled Times', which he co-edited with Jean-Paul Baldacchino, was published this Autumn. The premise is that 'interesting times' are times of upheaval, conflict and insecurity - troubled times. Papers in the volume include ethnographic studies on the 'refugee crisis', the 'financial crisis' and the 'rule of law crisis' in the Mediterranean as well as the crisis of violence and hunger in South America, as well as a contribution by faculty member James McMurray and former Sussex anthropology PhD student Matthew Doyle.

Film Festival

Mariagiulia Grassilli has been awarded HEIF funding to support the Anthropology Department's partnership with the RAI Film Festival 2023.

In addition to conference panel organisations, presence on the jury, film presentations and liaising opportunities, the department will also organiseaspecialconference 'Envisioning panel _ planetary futures through ethnography and multiple media' curated bv Mariagiulia Grassilli and Raminder Kaur / within the main conference online 6-10 March 2023 focused on Visual Anthropology and Speculative Futures.

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