

Sussex Anthropologist

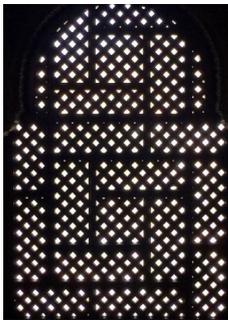
Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology, University of Sussex

Student News



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New Student Journal

This term sees the start of a new student-led journal that aims to publicise and recognise the varied and high quality academic work produced by our students.

The journal is inter-disciplinary drawing on work from all four departments in the School of Global Studies and reflecting the pedagogical and methodological approach that the School adopts more generally.

Through compiling papers that deal with pressing global issues in such a way, it seeks to generate and disseminate knowledge and

understanding that can make a difference, for a fairer, safer, more sustainable and more inclusive world.

The first issue covers such diverse topics as Neo-Colonial Containment of the Asian Other in American Vogue (**Felix**

Choong). The Consolidation of a Common Bosnian Muslim Identity (**Euan McCartney**), The Carbon Footprint of UK Meat Consumption



Model Karlie Kloss as a geisha in Vogue

(**Kara Wright**) and An Exploration of Time in Relation to the Experience of Infertility and Artificial Reproductive Technologies (**Josephine Dryden**).

Find the journal at: globalhorizonsjournal.wordpress.com

The calibre of our students' work is also emphasised by the publication of recent graduate **Elisa Sandri's** article in *The Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. Entitled 'Volunteer Humanitarianism': Volunteers and Humanitarian Aid in the Jungle Refugee Camp of Calais, the piece examines how volunteers and grassroots organisations took on the burden of delivering humanitarian aid and basic services to a refugee camp.

See the article at: <https://tinyurl.com/yawb7dt9>.

The backpage of this newsletter has a piece by Elise on the camp.

Welcome to New Faculty Kimberly Chong, Paul Gilbert and Karis Petty.



Congratulations to Recent Alumni

Tom Chambers & Ross Wignall have both taken up positions at Oxford Brookes while **Anneke Newman** has started a postdoc at the Laboratoire d'Anthropologie des Mondes Contemporains at Université Libre de Bruxelles. We wish them well in their new endeavours.

and Goodbye to Brian Street



Brian, who worked at Sussex from 1974-1996, was instrumental in founding the field of New Literacy Studies and influenced policy approaches to education through his key insights and valourisation of local literacy practices. Always a generous and kind colleague, he will be missed.

Other News

Anke Schwittay working in partnership with RedR (www.redr.org.uk), a humanitarian training organization, recently received a grant to develop and fieldtest innovative impact measurement methodologies to better understand participants' learning and changes in behaviour following humanitarian capacity building interventions



RedR group exercise, personal security training, Kenya. Credit: Nathan Siegal

Maya Unnithan has contributed to the **Another India** exhibition at the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

<http://maa.cam.ac.uk/anotherindia/>



A terracotta horse from Rajasthan collected by Maya

Sussex supported the production of 3 short documentaries by **indigenous students** as part of the Cinema for Social Transformation Workshop held in July 2017 at UCSS-NOPOKI, in Atalaya, Peru. The workshop was run by the Escuela de Cine Amazónico. The films can be viewed at:

<http://share-amazonica.org/videos/>



Finally, the **Culture & Capitalism Blog** continues to go from strength to strength. Recent pieces include **Evie Brown** writing about the International Worker's Day march in Cuba and **Rebecca Prentice** on the Grenfell Tower Fire.



<https://cultureandcapitalismblog.wordpress.com>

Workshops



As part of the British Science Festival, **Meike Fechter** and **Elisa Sandri** ran a workshop on 'Citizen Aid: The New Development?' Drawing on Elisa's research in the 'Jungle' refugee camp in Calais, and Meike's work among small-scale private aid initiatives in Cambodia, they argued that such 'grassroots



humanitarianism', whether on Europe's doorstep or in countries of the Global South, is a distinctive way in which ordinary people take matters of aid into their own hands. Its growing prominence raises the question what implications this may have for more established forms of aid and development.



Lyndsay Mclean Hilker continues to be part of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative and is co-running a workshop on "Qualitative study design and data analysis" for research on violence against women with Dr Nwabisa Shai at the SVRI 2017 Forum in Rio de Janeiro in September www.svri.org/forums/forum2017/workshops.htm

Anke Schwittay & Paul Braund organized a one-day workshop on Humanitarian Objects and Designs in June. It was attended by colleagues from UCL, Edinburgh and the University of North Carolina.



Miia Halme-Tuomasari & Julie Billaud

Sussex scholars were a strong presence at the 29-30th June international workshop, 'The Bureaucratization of Utopia: International governance, audit culture and administrative subjectivities in the 21st century' held in Geneva, Switzerland. Former Sussex PhD, **Julie Billaud**, now a researcher at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), organized and convened the workshop of 13 presentations; she, along with **Jane Cowan** presented some of their research on the Geneva-based UN human rights mechanism, the Universal Periodic Review, which inspired the workshop's main theme.

For more information see:

<http://allegralaboratory.net/bureaucratization-utopia-report/>.

Rainbow Manipur | Inclusive Manipur

Advocating economic inclusion of gender and sexual minorities in Manipur



Scenes from '1st LGBTI Pride Walk' in Imphal, 15/3/2014. Kaushik Gupta

groups of gender and sexual minorities in Manipur, North East India. The project's blog highlights the fact that many people who go against the so called social norms of gender and sexuality face severe socio-economic and socio-legal exclusion.

See more at <https://rainbowmanipur.wordpress.com>

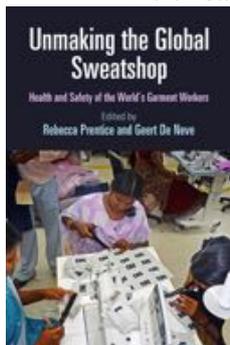
Paul Boyce has used a grant from The Sussex Social Science Impact Fund to work with and support Rainbow Manipur, an initiative of community

Evan Killick helped organise an Intercultural Gathering of Collaborative Investigation at UCSS-NOPOKI in Atalaya, Peru in July, co-funded by the Sussex RDF. The workshop brought together a diverse range of people to discuss the issues facing indigenous peoples in the region.

As a direct result of a request signed and submitted to the Ministry of Culture during the workshop, we have just been informed that the Asheninka language has been officially recognised by the Peruvian Government and work will start on supporting its future.



Publications



Unmaking the Global Sweatshop: Health and Safety of the World's Garment Workers. Edited by **Rebecca Prentice & Geert De Neve** (U of Penn Press, 2017)

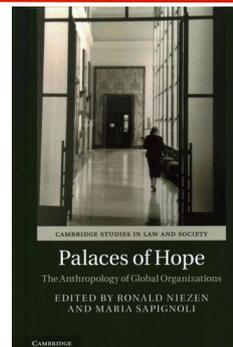
This volume gathers the work of leading anthropologists and ethnographers studying the global garment industry to examine the relationship between the politics of labour and initiatives to protect workers' health and safety.

Contributors analyze both the labour processes required of garment workers as well as the global dynamics of outsourcing and subcontracting that produce such demands on workers' health. The accounts contained in *Unmaking the Global Sweatshop* trace the histories of labour

standards for garment workers in the global South; explore recent partnerships between corporate, state, and civil society actors in pursuit of accountable corporate governance; analyze a breadth of initiatives that seek to improve workers' health standards, from ethical trade projects to human rights movements; and focus on the ways in which risk, health, and safety might be differently conceptualized and regulated. *Unmaking the Global Sweatshop* argues for an expansive understanding of garment workers' lived experiences that recognizes the politics of labour, human rights, the privatization and individualization of health-related responsibilities as well as the complexity of health and well-being.

Jane Cowan and **Julie Billaud** have a chapter in the new edited volume **Palaces of Hope: The Anthropology of Global Organizations** (CUP, 2017)

The volume assembles in one place the work of scholars who are making key contributions to a new approach to the United Nations, and to global organizations and international law more generally.



Anthropology has in recent years taken on global organizations as a legitimate source of its subject matter.

The research that is being done in this field gives a human face to these world-reforming institutions. *Palaces of Hope* demonstrates that these institutions are not monolithic or uniform, even though loosely connected by a common organizational network. They vary above all in their powers and forms of public engagement. Yet there are common threads that run through the studies included here: the actions of global institutions in practice, everyday forms of hope and their frustration, and the will to improve confronted with the realities of nationalism, neoliberalism, and the structures of international power.

Recent PhDs



Kátia Taela's thesis seeks to contribute to knowledge on how sameness and difference play out in personal and professional South-South

relations, through an ethnography of interactions between Brazilian and Mozambican development workers, in the HIV&AIDS and gender fields, in Mozambique. The thesis covers a number of related issues including: the reproduction of development and knowledge hierarchies, the nature of personal relations as well as the use of kinship structure relations and imaginaries in organisational contexts and political affinities in feminist knowledge practices.



U. Ejiro O. Onomake's fieldwork took place in Nigeria in 2011 & 2012 mainly in the states of Lagos and Ogun. Her research explored the experiences of aspirational and elite Nigerian actors attempting to take on the promise of Nigerian-Chinese relations in three key areas: big business, entrepreneurship, and education. Ejiro's central argument is that although the grand narrative of Nigerian-Chinese relations is promoted through government discourse and PR as accessible to all, it is mostly those who have access to capital, both financial and social, that are able to transform the promise of Nigerian-Chinese relations into a reality. The research highlights the motivations, agency, and strategies which Nigerian actors use to capitalize on this promise.



Markus Breines' thesis, *Pursuing Progress: Urban-urban migration and meanings of being middle class in Ethiopia*, examines how hierarchical relations in Ethiopia have been influenced by major political,

economic and social shifts over the past two decades. The country has seen new dynamics of ethnic power relations and a rapid expansion of higher education, while the government's authoritarian

developmental discourse has permeated people's lives and influenced their everyday perspectives on modernity and progress.



'Making your vision come true'

unexamined form of migration in Ethiopia. His work employs higher education, ethnicity and progress as lenses to identify how social processes surrounding urban to urban migration transform individuals' values, economic and symbolic capital, and status. He argues that these changes have led to the formation of a loosely defined group with shared characteristics, distinct knowledge and cultural practices that can be described as an Ethiopian middle class.



Peter Slovak worked in Brazil's Atlantic Forest looking at the impacts of a Private Protected Area on local communities. His thesis examines a number of issues including the incentives and motives which lead landowners to establish and administer private reserves and how these influence the pattern of relationship formation between the reserve and local communities. The research also considers the main implications of such private reserves for local people and their livelihoods. Finally the thesis considers whether and how local people's perception of the environment and the way they use their surrounding natural resources have changed since the establishment of the private reserve.



Karis Petty's doctoral research explored the perception of the South Downs landscapes for walkers who have impaired vision. Fieldwork took place over eighteen months, using a phenomenologically focused case study methodology of walking one-to-one with participants as their sighted guide. The thesis addressed the current disciplinary challenges in studying sensoriality, specifically notions of vision and 'non-visual' senses that have dominated anthropological accounts following critiques of vision within the discipline and then a call to 'rehabilitate' it. Karis's ethnography described experiences of seeing, the visual and visible for her participants who have impaired vision. Experiences of impaired vision have been more readily associated with 'non-visual' senses such as touch and hearing in cross-disciplinary research and largely absent from anthropology.

Her ethnography offered a platform for rethinking anthropological approaches to sensoriality, advocating an approach that does not prioritise 'senses' but activities of perception using what she has termed 'inclusively sensorial' and 'sensorially emplaced' approaches. The ethnography demonstrates that the environment is not merely "out there" to be perceived, but that perception is an active comingling of the perceiver and the environment, which prompts questions regarding relationality and the boundedness of the body. These questions extend to the relationality of the perceiver and 'others', acknowledging intersubjective and intercorporeal perception with human and non-human species. For more information on Karis's work see www.karisjadepetty.com.

Notes from the Field: - Dispatches from the Calais Jungle, Elisa Sandri (MA Graduate)



At the end of October 2016, nearly ten-thousand refugees were evicted from the Jungle, the refugee makeshift camp in Calais, France. I regularly volunteered in Calais with a grassroots organisation in the winter months between 2015 and 2016. Differently from other refugee camps around the world, the Jungle was not given legal approval by local authorities or the French government. This meant that international aid agencies did not have permission to deliver humanitarian aid and standard international norms for refugee protection and camp management, including sanitation, were absent. Rather than a refugee camp, the Jungle resembled 'a camp full of refugees'.

In summer 2015, grassroots organisations and private citizens from all over Europe, but in major part from the UK, started bringing basic humanitarian aid to the Jungle

and other camps scattered in the area. Volunteers from all walks of life came to help: builders, medics, activists, teachers, firefighters, university students and lecturers, actors, cooks and so on. They were trying to deal with a humanitarian emergency

much bigger than they could realistically handle, both financially and logistically.

When I went to the Jungle, I made coffee and tea outside the medical clinic set up by the organisation I volunteered for. It might sound like a trivial activity, but when I started pouring hot water from the huge kitchen kettles I began to realise the importance of those hot drinks. For many refugees, drinking tea was a reminder of home, of afternoons spent sitting down with friends and family before they fled. As such, for me, each cup was a reminder of how European governments were failing to uphold their responsibility to protect those people.

Apart from services set up by volunteers, such as a library, a youth centre and tea kitchens, the Jungle was constellated with shops, restaurants, bars, barber shops, art centres and places of worship run by refugees. All these activities were a symbolic and powerful

reminder that refugees are not only 'refugees', they are also businessmen, cooks, hairdressers, artists, and religious devotees. They were not just hopeless and helpless victims, but were making plans for the present and future, whilst talking about the indelible past. Despite its wretchedness, the Jungle was a space where tight communities formed and where important relationships were created between refugees, volunteers and activists.

It has been almost a year since the Jungle was dismantled. Charities are reporting that there are over one thousand refugees living once again in the open, without access to shelter, toilets, food or running water. It is clear that refugees will keep coming to Calais notwithstanding the inhumane treatment they receive. The example of the Jungle and its cyclical return show the extreme urgency for European states to generate policies that guarantee refugees a dignified existence.



Sussex Anthropology: Who We Are

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