

S.A.M.E. Newsletter

Trinity Term 2017

The School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography

Issue 5



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Letter from the Head of School

Welcome to the fifth edition of the SAME electronic newsletter. It is four years since the last one and a lot of water has flowed down the Isis and Cherwell in that time.

We cannot cover all the activity within the department in one newsletter, and certainly not everything that has happened since 2013. But I hope that the highlights given here will give you some idea of what we are up to. The exciting activities featured here span everything from providing objective analysis in the political minefield of migration trends to probing the evolutionary origins of ritual. Topics covered range from food and well-being in Ethiopia, ageing in America, and primate tool use in Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique, to towerblock living in Romania. For those who want to keep abreast of departmental activity as it happens, there is the option of following us on Twitter (@oxford_anthro; @COMPAS_oxford; @Oxford_HumSci; @InSIS; @Pitt_Rivers; and many individual handles that you will find on the relevant web pages).

John Davis (1938-2017), who was Professor of Social Anthropology and Head of Department from 1990 to 1995, and then Warden of All Souls College from 1995 to 2008, passed away on 15th January this year. John was well known for his contributions to the anthropology of Italy and Libya, as well as for his books *People of the Mediterranean: An Essay in Comparative Social Anthropology* (1977, Routledge & Kegan Paul) and *Exchange* (1992, Open University Press). He served as Chair of EASA and as President of the RAI. A memorial service was held in All Souls on 24th June. Obituaries for Bill Pickering, Merete Jakobsen, and Brian Street appear on page 23.

A wonderful development has come to fruition this year (those with long memories will recall that the appeal for it featured in more than one of our previous newsletters). This is the endowment of the Clarendon-Lienhardt Associate Professorship in the Social Anthropology of Africa, with a Tutorial Fellowship in Human Sciences at St Hugh's College. The postholder will be announced shortly and will join us in January 2018. This is the department's first and so far only permanently endowed post (by contrast, other departments and faculties in the university benefit from many such positions). I am incredibly grateful to the more than 120 individuals who contributed and helped to make this possible.

We will have two other new Associate Professors joining SAME during 2017-18: in Demography (shared with the Sociology Department and responsible for the

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Letter from the Head of Department (*continued*)

demography element of Human Sciences), and in the Anthropology of South Asia, a post based primarily in the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies but with a link to Anthropology. Among the new members of staff who joined us in 2015 are [Dr Susana Carvalho](#), Associate Professor in Palaeoanthropology, and [Dr Thomas Hendriks](#), the Evans-Pritchard Lecturer in African Anthropology.

At the end of the 2016-17 academic year Dr Bob Parkin will retire after many years of service to the department as a teacher of social anthropology and as Director of Graduate Studies for over a decade, a position he frequently combined with being Admissions Officer. This is a record of administrative efficiency that will probably never be beaten. It is also unlikely that anyone will ever do as many upgrade and confirmation vivas as Bob has got through in his time in the department. We are very grateful for his many years of sterling and uncomplaining service and wish him a happy and fruitful retirement.

It is now five years since InSIS (the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society), headed by [Professor Steve Rayner](#), joined SAME from the Said Business School. InSIS is now very well integrated into the School. This year [Dr Javier Lezaun's](#) option course, Science and Technology Studies, was so well appreciated by those who took it that he was shortlisted for the OUSU Teaching Awards. One very welcome innovation that InSIS has brought to the department is the new Mary Douglas Memorial Lecture, which alternates between Oxford and UCL, being hosted at St Anne's, Mary's old college, when in Oxford. This year on 24th May a packed Mary Ogilvie lecture theatre heard Pat Caplan, emeritus professor at Goldsmiths, speak on 'Gifts, Entitlements, Benefits and Surplus'. Before that, on 28 April, an even more packed Saskatchewan Room in Exeter College heard Anna Tsing give the Marett Memorial Lecture on 'What is History? Or, the Life and Times of Water Hyacinth'.

A couple of our students are featured in the newsletter below. Other achievements include Elo Luik winning the runners-up prize in the ESRC 2016-17 writing competition and Nick Shapiro (DPhil, 2014) receiving the 2016 Horizons prize for the best article in *Cultural Anthropology* (more details on page 23). Details of the many fascinating projects of our nearly 100 [DPhil students](#) and over 20 [postdoctoral researchers](#) can be found on our website.

From 18-21 September 2018 the School will host the annual ASA (Association of Social Anthropologists) conference. Details are given on page 14 below (and will be updated regularly on the website: <http://www.anthro.ox.ac.uk/asa-2018>). We hope that this will bring together all the different types of anthropology practised within the School and beyond, in line with the ASA's aim of establishing a 'pan-anthropology' network. We expect the call for panels to go out in January 2018 and the call for papers shortly after that. Please reserve the dates in your diaries now!

The department has grown enormously in recent years and is now housed in eight different villas and terraced houses on either side of the Banbury Rd (43, 51-53, 61, 73, 64, 58, 58a). Being spread out like this has many practical, social, and intellectual disadvantages. It has long been a top strategic priority to move into a single building that could accommodate the whole School, so that we could share a single front door and have a single common room for all. After many years of delay, it appears that we may be getting closer to achieving that aim. I hope that by the time of next year's newsletter there will be good news to report on this front.

David Gellner

Head of School (david.gellner@anthro.ox.ac.uk)

New School website and logo

The School's new website went live on 28 February 2017. We hope that you find the new website easier to navigate, with the information you need closer to hand. Feedback is always welcome so if you have any comments on our new website, please [contact us](#).

The new website has carried over our familiar URLs:

www.anthro.ox.ac.uk;

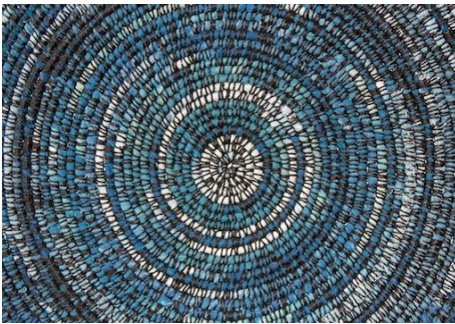
www.isca.ox.ac.uk

www.icea.ox.ac.uk

www.insis.ox.ac.uk

www.ihs.ox.ac.uk

The School's new logo was unveiled in 2016. It represents a basket used for dyeing indigo fabric.



The SAME Garden Party

This year's SAME Garden Party took place on the Thursday of 9th Week of Trinity term, 22 June 2017. Both photos were taken at the 2017 Garden Party with the photo on the right showing (l-r) Hélène Neveu, Zuzanna Olszewska, Doreen Montag, and Juliet Bedford.



Human
Sciences
Newsletter
2016-2017
available to
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In the news

On 17 November 2016, [Dr Zuzanna Olszewska](#), Associate Professor in the Middle East at ISCA, was awarded the Houshang Pourshariati Book Award in Iranian Studies for her book [The Pearl of Dari: Poetry and Personhood among Young Afghans in Iran](#). The award was announced by the Middle East Studies Association at its annual award ceremony in Boston.

[Professor Laura Peers](#) (SAME and the Pitt Rivers Museum) has won a Vice-Chancellor's Award for Public Engagement with Research. These awards, inaugurated in early 2016 and announced on 1 July 2016, recognise and reward those who undertake high-quality public engagement with research and have contributed to building capacity in this area. Professor Peers won an award in the Project category with the outstanding [Great Box Project](#), a partnership project with the Haida Gwaii Museum and artists Jaalen Edenshaw and Gwaii Edenshaw.

In an article published on 10 February, Oxford Today presented a high-profile feature on the work of ISCA anthropologists [Dr Chris Morton](#), [Professor David Zeitlyn](#), [Professor Laura Peers](#), and [Dr Neil Carrier](#) to repatriate photographs with 'the far-flung communities where they were taken'. The article, entitled 'By way of anthropology: Museum's photos go on an extraordinary journey home', is available to read on the [Oxford Today website](#).

[Dr Emma Cohen's](#) research from 'The Social Body Lab' has been selected as a Research Impact case by the Social Sciences Division, who developed a short animation video. Articles were published also in *The Conversation* and *Aeon* – links available [here](#).

[Professor Bridget Anderson](#) gave a prestigious keynote speech entitled 'The Invasive Other' at the 34th Social Research Conference April 20–21, 2016. She argued that underlying people's economic fears about migrants taking their jobs are much deeper anxieties about nationality, culture, and race. The nation-state is simply not working for much of humanity, and we need to come up with new ways of thinking about political communities.

[Professor Steve Rayner](#) was interviewed in the BBC2 Documentary 'The Cult Next Door' shown on 26 January 2017. The cult in question was the 1970s Workers' Institute of Marxism-Leninism Mao Xedong Thought. Recent interest in the group has been prompted by the jailing of its leader on sexual abuse charges related to the long-term confinement of former members and his own daughter in a south London flat.

[Professor Clare Harris](#) gave talks at two events in New Delhi, India, during September 2016 and was among the speakers at 'My Favourite Object | My Dream Museum', part of the conference 'Capacity Building: Museums in India', which was held at the Goethe-Institute.

In January 2017, [Professor Harvey Whitehouse](#) spoke about '[quelling radicalisation](#)' and '[why facts don't unite us](#)' at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Human Sciences Symposium, 25 February 2017 – Speaking Truth to Power

With 2016 throwing up many questions about the way politicians and the public consider information gathered by 'experts', now seems the perfect time to discuss the relationship between 'truth' and 'power'. The Oxford Human Sciences Society in its annual symposium organised a series of talks and question sessions seeking to shed new light on our relationship with academic knowledge. The speakers, a mix of academic and activists, ranged across the human sciences, discussing everything from the psychology of climate change to how we can best use anthropological knowledge to inform tactics for controlling disease epidemics.

Cognitive and Cultural Foundations of Religion and Morality

In February 2017 the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology (ICEA) launched the three-year *Cognitive and Cultural Foundations of Religion and Morality* project, having obtained a £1.5 million grant from the Templeton World Charity Foundation. [Professor Harvey Whitehouse](#) and [Dr Jonathan Jong](#) have assembled a team of five psychologists and anthropologists to investigate how religious and moral beliefs evolved together across diverse cultures. One major aspect of the project is a multinational survey that seeks to map the current cultural diversity in how religious and moral beliefs are distributed globally. Field experiments around the world will also shed light on how religion and morality might (or might not!) mutually reinforce one another.

Ritual Modes: Divergent modes of ritual, social cohesion, prosociality, and conflict

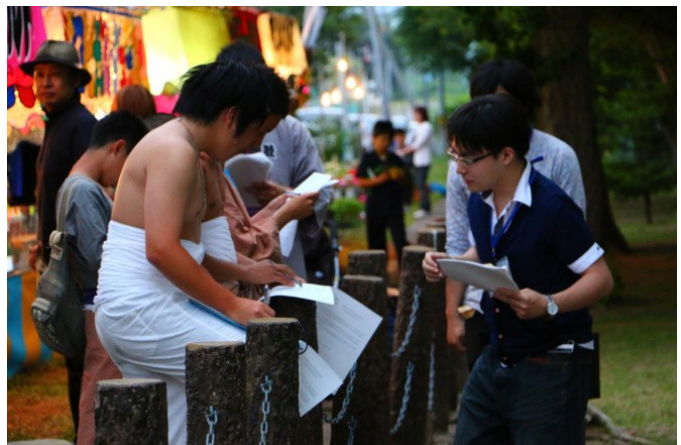
In October 2016, ICEA launched a new five-year ERC Advanced Grant entitled *Ritual Modes: Divergent modes of ritual, social cohesion, prosociality, and conflict*. PI Harvey Whitehouse and his team of postdoctoral researchers and international collaborators aim to establish an authoritative scientific framework for understanding the relationship between group ritual, social cohesion, and pro-group behaviour, identifying the fundamental components of rituals worldwide, and charting their effects on patterns of group alignment and action. Their hope is that the project will have a lasting impact on basic understandings of the nature, causes, and consequences of ritual dynamics, as well as opening up exciting new avenues of inquiry that bridge the humanities and social sciences.

Creative Multilingualism

A new Oxford-led research programme, including [Dr Andy Gosler](#) of Human Sciences, will explore the crucial role of creativity in the use of languages and investigate more creative forms of language learning, providing a forum for universities, schools, and other partners to forge a new and more cohesive identity for modern foreign languages (MFL). The programme entitled Creative Multilingualism is led by Professor Katrin Kohl of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). As part of it, Dr Andy Gosler will enable children across the world to find out the different names of the barn swallow along its global migratory path. The interdisciplinary research programme is part of the AHRC's Open World Research Initiative.

The Centre for Anthropology and Mind's **AnthroLab** brings the methodological tools of the psychological sciences to bear on questions about human culture and society: Why are human beings religious? How did social complexity evolve? Is there cross-cultural moral agreement?

Being a multidisciplinary team, our researchers conduct qualitative research, surveys, and controlled experiments on these and other topics, both in the lab in the field. For more information about our research projects, please visit our [Research Areas](#) page.



The Migration Observatory

The 2017 General Election campaign was a busy time for the team at the [Migration Observatory](#). The team are working with Full Fact – a respected fact-checking organisation – to help scrutinise claims about migration made during the campaign.

The team at the Observatory scrambled to produce up-to-date analysis ahead of the election on a wide variety of key policy issues including: post-Brexit migration policy options; the impact of currency devaluation on migration flows; net migration levels and why people migrate to and from the UK; and the fiscal, labour market, and public service impacts of migration. As always, longer analytical pieces were also counterbalanced by more accessible outputs, including videos and regular social media updates.

The Observatory – which is part of the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society ([COMPAS](#)) – provides impartial, independent, authoritative, evidence-based analysis of data on migration and migrants in the UK, to inform media, public and policy debates, and to generate high-quality research on international migration and public policy issues.

Observatory staff regularly appear on national and regional news programmes and in the press explaining key issues, and also sit on the independent Migration Advisory Committee and act as advisers to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee.

May 2017: Analysis by [Dr Carlos Vargas Silva](#) and [Rob McNeil](#) of the Conservative party plan to recommit to the ‘tens of thousands’ net migration target. Carlos appeared on BBC Radio 4’s Today Programme, while Rob appeared on the BBC1 Lunchtime news, the BBC News Channel, and a number of BBC radio programmes. This is typical of the day-to-day media work undertaken at the Migration Observatory.

August 2016: Coverage in, among others, the Guardian, Financial Times, and The Sun, for our ‘Here Today, Gone Tomorrow’ commentary, which highlighted the lack of clarity regarding post-Brexit residence status of EU nationals living in the UK, and estimated that applications for permanent residence from EU citizens would take the government 140 years to process unless they introduced improved systems.

June 2016: The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Time Magazine, Mail on Sunday, Daily Mail, Financial Times, Guardian, BBC, and others cited Migration Observatory analysis (from multiple briefings, commentaries, and other Observatory materials) in their pre-referendum analysis.



The Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity – GEM

The [Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity](#) is an ambitious initiative at COMPAS that aims to open up spaces for academics and practitioners to exchange research ideas and findings. We have organised a diverse range of activities from thematic working groups in European cities to drama in schools. These activities seek to maximise the effectiveness of connections between authoritative evidence, policy, and practice.

At present we are involved in five projects: 1) *Inclusive Cities*: a two-year learning exchange project that engages five UK cities in developing action plans focusing on a city-wide narrative and practical measures for the inclusion of newcomers; 2) *City Initiative on Irregular Migrants in Europe*: a working group of eight European cities that will share experience and develop guidance material for local municipalities on best practice in relation to mainstreaming irregular migrants within EU domestic policy agendas; 3) *Urban Innovative Actions–'Refugee Launch Pad'*: creating a new model of asylum centre providing housing for young people from the neighbourhood and for asylum seekers and local residents; 4) *Autumn Academy*: Our five-day residential symposium for 30 senior policy makers and civil society leaders in September will this year focus on irregular migrants in Europe, with input from the United States; 5) *On-line web tool for destitute migrant families*: A research-to-impact initiative that arose from COMPAS research on destitute migrant families (UK), our [on-line web tool](#) assesses eligibility for local authority support. It was launched in January.

Talking Oxford: Bringing Together Town and Gown to Form a Stronger Community

[A series of events](#), designed to forge closer links between University researchers and Oxford residents through discussions about the key issues of migration, urban planning, and inequality, launched on 18 May at the Kassam Stadium.

From broadcasting to Radio Oxford in the morning to leaving the Kassam Stadium, the event had a very different feel to a conventional seminar and well it might: issues of affordable housing, planning, university-community relationships, poverty and inequality are not subjects for the cool-headed comfort of a seminar room. Professor Bridget Anderson and Dr Nicola Headlam dug into their own biographies to try to begin a conversation that - rightly - is exposing and unsettling and which touches on the more intimate aspects of identity and belonging, be that financial and emotional deprivation or security, or the biggest question of all: where do you belong? To read more, please visit the [website](#).



[Professor Michael Keith](#) opens the COMPAS Trinity 2017 Seminar Series 'Talking Oxford' at the Kassam Stadium. Four events considered the relevance of migration to people's lives in Oxford and looked for new ways of thinking and talking about migration.



Reproducible Research Oxford

In October 2016 [Laura Fortunato](#) launched [Reproducible Research Oxford](#), a project based at the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography and the Oxford e-Research Centre (OeRC), funded by the IT Innovation Challenges Fund and the Social Sciences Division. Laura leads a team of researchers and staff who are passionate about research reproducibility and open research. Project team members are based in units across the University.

The project aims to lay the groundwork for a culture of research reproducibility at the University, focusing on training in the effective use of computational tools in research. These tools are widely used in some disciplines, and they can enable researchers to easily track the process leading from data to results, so that it is fully reproducible. However, researchers often lack the opportunities, incentives, and confidence to make best use of these tools.

To address this issue, as part of the project Laura set up a partnership with [Software Carpentry](#) and [Data Carpentry](#), non-profit volunteer organisations focused on teaching researchers across disciplines the computing and data skills they need for effective and reproducible research. Two Software Carpentry workshops were run in Hilary Term 2016, one in January and one in March, providing training to over 50 learners from across the University.

In March, [Reproducible Research Oxford](#) hosted the first Oxford-based [Software Carpentry](#) and [Data Carpentry](#) instructor training. As a result, 11 Oxford-based trainee instructors join a small cohort of instructors already based at Oxford, and they will be able to deliver training at future workshops, in an effort to build local capacity in the area of research reproducibility and open research.

See the project [website](#) and follow us on Twitter [@RR_Oxford](#) to find out more about the project, our past and future events, and how to get involved. Email us at ReproducibleResearchOxford@gmail.com to get in touch.

The photo below was taken at a workshop in January 2017 .



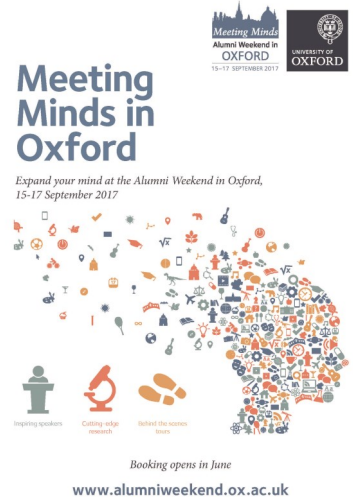
Paleo-Primate Project Gorongosa and Primate Models for Behavioural Evolution

In 2016, [Susana Carvalho](#) was awarded the prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prize, offering £100,000 to help enhance her research career. Susana Carvalho is an Associate Professor in the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology and an Associate Director for Palaeoanthropology and Primatology at the Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique, where she currently coordinates the long-term 'Paleo-Primate Project'.

Susana's work is at the foundation of a new academic sub-discipline: non-human primate archaeology. Her studies revealed for the first time the behavioural patterns and contexts that generate modern chimpanzee tool assemblages that can be compared with those recovered from the past, for apes and humans. Susana's research addresses some of the most challenging questions in the field of archaeology: How old is hominin technology? Which toolmakers can we associate with the first lithic industries? Can we document material culture in Pliocene deposits? What is the role of raw materials in the emergence of technology? When and how did technology-related behaviours (e.g. transport selection) emerge? Which traits of individuals (e.g. age, skill) influence social learning and the transmission of knowledge?

Susana Carvalho's current funded projects include tackling the environmental and behavioural contexts of the earliest tool users in the Koobi Fora formation, Kenya (funded by N.S.F., with D.R. Braun); investigating human origins and adaptations in complex environments with the Paleo-Primate Project Gorongosa, Mozambique (funded by the John Fell Fund, National Geographic Society, and Gorongosa Restoration Project); and testing hypotheses for how technological-related behaviours emerged in hominin evolution via using wild chimpanzees as models, e.g. the project 'Stones on the move: the real life of a chimpanzee tool', funded by the National Geographic Society.

Researchers in Susana's new lab '[Primate Models for Behavioural Evolution](#)' conduct a broad variety of exciting studies on the evolution of human behaviour using extant primates as models (e.g. cumulative culture in non-human primates; primate behavioural responses to shifts in predation pressures; automated approaches to find fossil sites, etc.).



Susana Carvalho in the Garonga shaft, South Africa.

Projects at the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society ([InSIS](#))

Envisioning emergent environments: negotiating science and resource management in rural communities

Belize is a small country on the Caribbean coast of Central America, currently seeking to manage its vulnerability to environmental hazards. As part of efforts towards sustainable development goals, governmental and non-governmental bodies are undertaking data-led 'watershed management' projects to assess and manage not only water but also land, ecosystems, and human aspects of resource stewardship. This research will examine what contemporary watershed management interventions mean and entail for rural residents whose lives and livelihoods depend on the environments in question. This research work will be undertaken by [Dr Sophie Haines](#) and funded through her two-year ESRC Future Research Leaders award.

Changing Ecologies of Knowledge and Action ([CEKA](#))

[Dr Javier Lezaun](#) is participating in CEKA, a programme designed to explore the changing dynamics of the production of technoscience. The 21st century has also seen the emergence and rapid growth of forms of scientific production outside the conventional academic and industrial framework. These include a significant growth in citizen science, in which individual members of the public contribute in varying degrees to a scientific enterprise, alongside the emergence of crowd-sourced and crowd-funded science, and the proliferation of Do-It-Yourself (DIY) science communities and platforms. CEKA will map and analyse these and other related developments, assessing their implications for the future development of technoscientific production.

How Institutions Think ([HIT](#))

HIT is a pilot project, led by [Professor Steve Rayner](#), that investigates distributed cognition in an institutional framework. The project brings together a collaborative group of researchers from anthropology, archaeology, cognitive science, philosophy of mind, science & technology studies (STS), and social psychology to empirically explore the phenomenon of distributed cognition under different institutional (social organizational) conditions defined by the density of social and material networks and the extent of social differentiation within such networks. From an anthropological perspective, the work brings together two strands of thought in the work of the late Dame Mary Douglas: [How Institutions Think](#) (1986) and [The World of Goods](#) (1978).

Oxford Interdisciplinary Microbiome Project (IMP)

[Dr Javier Lezaun](#) is participating in the [Oxford Interdisciplinary Microbiome Project](#) (IMP), a new incubator initiative of the University's Social Sciences Division that will explore new understandings of microbial life and the social and public policy implications of new microbionomic knowledge. Our ability to map previously invisible forms of microbial life in and around us is forcing us to rethink the biological constitution of the world, and the position of humans vis-a-vis other forms of life. IMP brings together researchers from Anthropology, Geography, and History of Medicine to develop an interdisciplinary research agenda on the microbiome and its implications.



**Interdisciplinary
Microbiome
Project**

Projects at InSIS

Carbon Drawdown Policy Project (CDP)

[Professor Steve Rayner](#) is participating in the Carbon Drawdown Policy Project, a 32-month research project, which started work in summer 2016 funded by the V. K. Rasmussen Foundation and ClimateWorks, involving researchers from InSIS and the Oxford Martin School. In the context of the Paris Agreement on climate change, it is a study of particular policy instruments, and policy pathways (involving a series of coordinated measures) that can be used to speed up, slow down, or stop work on research and development, demonstration and testing, or deployment of a range of carbon and methane drawdown and storage techniques. The work's initial focus is the enhancement of natural carbon sinks like forests, but, given the new ambition in Paris to restrict global warming to less than 1.5 °C, goes beyond it to consider new approaches such as direct air capture of carbon dioxide or enhanced weathering of rocks to capture carbon.

British Council Institutional Links project

In early 2017 [Dr Javier Lezaun](#) was awarded funding under the British Council's Institutional Links scheme for the project, 'Acting in an uncertain world: mapping public health responses to the Zika epidemic in Brazil'. This project seeks to produce a real-time analysis of how public health institutions in Brazil are responding to the ongoing Zika epidemic, in particular how knowledge about the infection is co-evolving with new practices of clinical care and changing social imaginaries of the disease. The project focus will be on the research, clinical, and public health activities conducted by the network of Fiocruz institutes during the first four years of the Zika epidemic (2015-2018). This project will be run in partnership with the Oswaldo Cruz foundation, a pre-eminent public health research institution in Brazil.



InSIS, 64 Banbury Road, Oxford

10-in-10

Sudden realisation! It is ten years since our cohort finished our DPhils! We thought this would be a good opportunity to convene an informal networking event of Research Associates and other colleagues from our year(s) at Oxford, and celebrate the passing of a decade.

To that end, we ask colleagues if they would like to participate in 10-in-10, a day long symposium to be held in Oxford this summer. The idea is that participants will give a quick fire overview of their work and professional trajectories – ten years in ten minutes. The event is not only for our colleagues who finished ten years ago— all are welcome!

Please contact Juliet Bedford (julietbedford@anthrologica.com) or Doreen Montag (d.montag@qmul.ac.uk) if you are interested in participating (either as a speaker or just to attend the event). We may produce a short compendium of the meeting, and there will definitely be socialising that evening!

We look forward to hearing from you!

All good wishes,

Juliet and Doreen

Chasing Shadows

As part of their ongoing research in Guinea Bissau, [Ramon Sarró](#) (SAME) and Marina P. Temudo (University of Lisbon), together with film maker and anthropologist Roger Canals (University of Barcelona), have been making a film on the prophetic movement known, in the Balanta language, as Kyangyang ('Shadows'). In April 2017 the team filmed more than 30 hours of footage that they are now painstakingly trying to reduce to a 30-35 minutes narrative. The film, tentatively entitled *Chasing Shadows* (thanks to David Gellner for suggesting the title), will illustrate a unique prophetic movement that mixes symbols and practices from Islam, Christianity, and traditional cosmology, and which needs to be explored taking the highly plural religious landscape of the country into consideration.

Unlike world religions, Kyangyang is not a religion one converts to, but rather one that catches you, like a disease. It was a very effervescent social movement in the 1980s and early 1990s until the Government violently repressed it, owing to fears that the movement, although purely spiritual, could give rise to a political insurgency (as has indeed been the case with many prophetic movements in colonial and postcolonial days). Initially, Ramon and Marina intended simply to document the existing, old members of the Kyangyang (middle-aged men and women the two researchers have known for a long time). However, in April 2017 they found, rather serendipitously, that in some villages the movement is returning with a vengeance, probably as a local reaction to the encroachment of Pentecostal Christianity and reformist Islam, two world religions competing to attract the 'animistic' Balanta farmers, in some villages with great success.

Hundreds of young people are being 'caught' again by the Shadows, something that, according to their research, had not been documented for more than 20 years. They were extremely privileged to be invited to film ceremonies where the caught people prayed and danced in trance, and were able to interview Kyangyang leaders and members, chasing shadows chasing people, so to speak. They interviewed leaders and members of other world and indigenous religions who expressed their more or less sympathetic or unsympathetic perspectives on the movement. They also filmed the extraordinary forms of prophetic art that Kyangyang members embody when they are in altered states of consciousness. The initial research on the Kyangyang, conducted in between 2010 and 2014 as a follow up of previous research on Balanta issues, was funded by a grant from the Portuguese National



Chasing Shadows

Research Council. *Chasing Shadows* was filmed in partnership with the INEP (Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisas, Bissau) and the National Museum of Ethnography (Bissau). It was partially funded by SAME, the Portuguese Cooperation (Instituto Camões), and the Catalan GESA (Grup d'Estudis de Societats Africanes). The film will be edited by Sarró and Canals at Jordi Orobitg Productions (Barcelona) over the summer of 2017. A first screening will take place at the workshop 'The Perils of Coexistence' (organised by Ruy Blanes, Jose Mapril, and Ramon Sarró), a meeting of the Network of Anthropology of Religion of the EASA that will take place on 18-19 September at the New University of Lisbon.

[Connect with members of the School of Anthropology at Oxford Academia.](#)

The tree for living: a socio-cultural account of enset

[Dr Elizabeth Ewart](#) recently secured a grant for US\$80,000 from The Christensen Fund to work together with Dr Wolde Tadesse on a project based in southern Ethiopia. This grant follows on from John Fell Fund seed funding obtained in 2016.

The central aim is to produce an ethnographic account of the socio-cultural significance of enset (*ensete ventricosum*), which is a key staple crop cultivated in the highlands of Ethiopia. Enset provides food and other materials to several million Ethiopians and their animals. Across the highlands, rural and many urban homesteads are visually characterized by the tall, dark green, shiny enset groves that normally surround the main house and serve as visual markers for the well-being of the household. The resilience of the crop along with the durability of food products derived from enset have led to some people calling it the 'tree against hunger'. However, ethnographic research with local communities shows that the importance of enset goes well beyond the staving off of hunger and is rather understood as a 'tree for living well'. Enset is thus not just nutritionally but also culturally central to local understandings of wellbeing.

A further purpose of the project is to place enset within a wider cultural ecology that links crops (including barley, bamboo, enset, potatoes) to land, people, and their animals. Thus enset is part of a wider agro-ecological landscape that is at once resilient and sustainable. In this landscape, nutrition and cultivation can be understood as mutual flows of sustenance. For example, manure flows from animals to enset, while enset in the form of animal feed returns sustenance to animals.

Overall, the project aims to contribute to an account of highland agricultural practice that seeks to decentre human agency, recognizing instead the multiple ways in which land, animals, crops (including cash crops), forests, and people mutually co-create one another.



ASA Conference 2018 — 18-21 September 2018, Oxford**SOCIALITY, MATTER, AND THE IMAGINATION:
RE-CREATING ANTHROPOLOGY**

The Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth's 2018 conference will be jointly hosted by the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography (SAME) of the University of Oxford, including the Pitt Rivers Museum, and the Department of Social Sciences, Oxford Brookes University. It will take place in Oxford, based in and around the Examination Schools, the High Street, Oxford, on 18–21 September 2018.

The conference invites participants from all areas of anthropology and archaeology, aiming to encourage debate as widely as possible, across socio-cultural, material, visual, biological, forensic, cognitive, evolutionary, and linguistic fields. It also welcomes participants from anthropology, archaeology, and museum studies associations, and will provide a forum to take forward the ASA's proposal for a UK Anthropology Network (UKAN).

One of the major debates within anthropology broadly defined is the question of how to bridge approaches primarily concerned with the social, and those primarily focused on the material, the physical, or the biological. Much recent anthropology, from a variety of theoretical perspectives, seeks to overcome artificial conceptual divisions, either by proposing new (often hybrid) ontologies or simply by pursuing problems that challenge conventional boundaries. ASA2018 aims to address this key question directly. If sociality, matter, and the imagination are reconsidered from multiple perspectives across the discipline, how might we renew and re-create anthropology? What kinds of theoretical, methodological, and ethical concerns are raised by this potential re-creation? Working with a very broad definition of 'the material'—potentially including linguistic, biological, genetic, neurological, environmental, and evolutionary factors—the conference aims to advance debates on sociality and matter, the imagination and creativity, and therefore on what it is to be human in a rapidly changing world.

In addition to conference papers, participants from all fields of anthropology are encouraged to present work in a range of media including film, sound, performance, photography, and drawing. We also aim to include exhibitions, laboratories, and other experimental formats in the Pitt Rivers Museum and elsewhere.

Further details of the main conference themes will be announced in due course.

We expect registration to open in early 2018 but, in the meantime, if you have any enquiries about the conference please contact [ASA Conference 2018](#).

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you would like to hear from The School about special lectures and events, please do [get in touch](#) so that we can add you to our emailing list.

Alternatively, if you would prefer that we don't contact you or send you further newsletters, please also let us know, although we will be sorry to see you go.

Mary Douglas Memorial Lecture 2017

On 24 May the 2017 Mary Douglas Memorial Lecture was held in the Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre at St Anne's College. This year, the lecture was given by Professor Pat Caplan, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at Goldsmiths, University of London. The lecture title was 'Gifts, Entitlement, Benefits, and Surplus: Food Poverty and Food Aid in the UK'.

This annual lecture is held in memory of Dame Mary Douglas (1921-2007) and is sponsored by the School of Anthropology & Museum Ethnography at the University of Oxford, the Department of Anthropology at UCL, the Royal Anthropological Institute, and St Anne's College, Oxford. Next year's lecture will be given in UCL by Professor Dame Caroline Humphrey on 23 May 2018.



Dame Mary Douglas

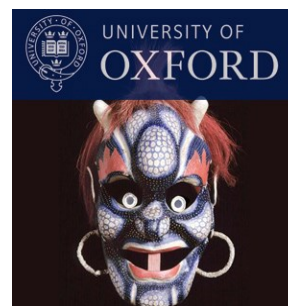
Evans-Pritchard Lectures 2017

This Trinity Term, Dr Naor Ben-Yehoyada (Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University) delivered five lectures on the subject of 'Getting Cosa Nostra: Knowledge and Criminal Justice in Southwestern Sicily'. The lectures took place in All Souls College during May 2017. Details of past Evans-Pritchard Lectures can be found [here](#).

Marett Memorial Lecture 2017

The Lecture this year was given by Professor Anna Tsing (University of California Santa Cruz) on 28 April at Exeter College. Its title was 'What is history? or, the life and times of water hyacinth'.

Debates about the meaning and role of 'history' in anthropology came of age in Evans-Pritchard's Marett lecture of 1950—and have run strong ever since. This lecture revisited history-and-anthropology debates to consider how anthropologists might better incorporate the contingent and transformative abilities of other species into our stories of what happened. Can 'history' make room for multiple ontologies? To show how articulations across varied human and non-human agendas forge unexpected paths, Professor Tsing discussed how the infamous weed plant water hyacinth has tracked and haunted colonial and neocolonial water engineering across the world.



[Listen to podcasts recorded at seminars, conferences and other events at the School.](#)



Prof. Anna Tsing delivers the 2017 Marett Memorial Lecture on 28 April.

Research Associate Spotlight: [Dr Darryl Stellmach](#)

I studied undergraduate anthropology in Canada. I loved university—I had a natural affinity for research, and field research in particular.

After finishing my undergraduate education, I wanted to continue on to graduate studies, but was also determined work a few years outside of the university, to catalyze my learning. I hoped to work internationally and preferably in a field related to my degree.

Ever since my teenage years I had been interested in the work of aid organizations like the Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). I spent a couple years working in development-related organizations in Canada, and then got my first international aid posting in 2001. In 2003, I joined MSF and have worked with them ever since.



I thought I would take about 5 years away from the university, but one thing always leads to another and it ended up being a 12-year absence. By 2009, having spent years in Sierra Leone, Uganda, Colombia, Somalia, and Pakistan I was ready for a break from the field. I felt it was time to follow up on my delayed aspiration of doing graduate studies.

I applied for anthropology programmes in medical, political and development anthropology. Out of all of them, I choose Oxford medical anthropology, largely because it was the most relevant to my experience but also because of the speed and professionalism with which my application was handled (as opposed to applications to some Other Places). And it was Oxford, after all.

The MSc programme exceeded my expectations—I really enjoyed the work and I seemed good at it. I discussed with Stanley Ulijaszek, my MSc supervisor at the time, about the possibility of returning for a doctorate. He was supportive, but it took me a couple years to secure the funding—in the meantime I went back to the field with MSF.

My doctoral thesis attempted to describe the social life of a nutritional emergency. I spent nearly a year embedded with MSF as they responded to the 2013 outbreak of conflict in South Sudan, and the potential for famine within the country. This meant much time spent in meeting rooms and behind epidemiological spreadsheets, but also in clinics, patient wards, and homesteads in remote parts of South Sudan. I also passed a little bit of time in sandbag bunkers, since conflict was ongoing in some places. The research is valuable because, to the best of my knowledge, it's the first monograph-length participant observation of an aid agency's crisis response. As such, it hopefully produces some novel insight into how practitioners identify and deal with a nutritional emergency as it happens

After finishing the doctorate, I moved to Sydney, Australia, for family reasons. I have a post-doc position at the University of Sydney with an interdisciplinary research team, working on issues of food and epidemic security. I also work part-time with MSF as an anthropology consultant. I imagine that I'll continue in this hybrid kind of career for many years to come, mixing academics with more applied work.

My current research interests centre on climate-related disaster, migration, and politics. As an aid worker—someone who's witnessed social and environmental collapse first hand—I am deeply concerned at our political and ecological futures. Every reasonable indication is that complex emergencies, epidemics, and displacement will increase in frequency and scale as the century continues; and there is a genuine likelihood that the human catastrophes of the 21st century will eclipse those of the 20th century.

Research Associate Spotlight: Dr Darryl Stellmach (continued)

Social scientists, and anthropologists in particular, have a critical role to play in this approaching future. While anthropology is an empirical discipline, based in the here and now, its focus on microcosms—of the home, the family, or village—also give it a sort of predictive power. We can see the implications that macro-economics and policy have for the communities where we work, and we can see individual people struggling with, for example, tangible effects of ecological change, or population pressure. This is a privileged view, one that must be urgently communicated in order to feature in the science, technology, and politics that will chart our course in the 21st century.

The Oxford University Anthropological Society ([OUAS](#))

OUAS started off the year with an active Michaelmas full of social events and coffee mornings. The largest event of the term was a joint talk with the Archaeology Society featuring Tim Ingold (University of Aberdeen) and Dan Hicks (Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford). At this highly attended event, Ingold and Hicks debated the intersection of Archaeology and Anthropology and their ongoing importance in academia and the world. In Hilary Term, members organised two ongoing event series, Applied Anthropology and This Anthropological Life, as well as movie nights and social events.

The Applied Anthropology series hosted speakers from a range of applied fields, including legal scholar Eddie Bruce-Jones (Birkbeck College School of Law, University of London), market research experts Simon Pulman-Jones (GfK) and Lucia Laurent-Neva (Visual Signo), and the Kaleido Film Collective. This Anthropology Life fostered conversations between scholars, practitioners, and students, featuring Dr Miriam Driessen (Contemporary China Studies), Dr Inge Daniels (ISCA), and Dr Imogen Clark (Sutherland Labs) as the primary speakers. The society continues to plan academic and applied talks for Trinity term.

All events are paid for by membership dues, and OUAS is grateful for the continued support and active membership of the Oxford anthropology community. If you are interested in becoming a member of OUAS or renewing your membership, contact our new president, Kristofer Jonsson, (Kristofer.jonsson@anthro.ox.ac.uk), and make sure to stay up-to-date on our events via our Facebook Page.

Profiles of
our current
DPhil
students
can be
found on the
website
[here](#).

[Previous
DPhil
students](#).

Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford Online (JASO)

[Current issue—New Series Volume IX, no. 2 \(2017\)](#)

Anthropology Matters, Especially in Times of Crisis

Essays and Personal Reflections of Oxford Medical Anthropology Master's students Carlota Solà Marsiñach, Cathryn Klusmeier, Derek Soled, Emma Anderson, Leah Schwartz, Maie Khalil, Mason Alford, Noëlle Rohde, Sarah Grace Black

With an abridged version of Frederick Damon's (2003) article 'What Good are Elections? An Anthropological Analysis of American Elections'

Edited by Elisabeth Hsu and Paola Esposito.

All previous issues are also available to download from the [website](#).

Student Spotlight—[Carrie Ryan](#)

My research explores efforts to manage the aging boom in America. In particular, I investigate the new neoliberal, biopolitical task for American elders to take responsibility for, to plan, and to personalize their aging and dying futures. Figuring out how one wants to age and to die is existentially difficult; moreover, aging and dying processes often belie neat plans. Therefore I examine how American elders handle the dilemmas of navigating American expectations of control, individualism, freedom, and self-responsibility while living in an increasingly interdependent aging body. In such a context, how do communities of care and individuals that care help elders handle, understand, make meaning out of, and find the good in their fleshy and unwieldy aging and dying experiences?

I explored these research questions in a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Los Angeles. This community is a model of elder care that allows elders to 'age in place' by providing comprehensive care until death, including independent, assisted, and nursing-home living. During twenty months of fieldwork, I lived in the assisted living facility and worked as a part-time Activities Assistant, straddling the worlds of the staff and residents. I spent my days waking and dressing neighbors, sharing low sodium food at meals with residents, calling Bingo games, teaching computer courses, wheeling residents to and from their rooms, and hanging out on porches with the residents watching the loud, congested Los Angeles traffic whiz by.

Time was slower there, and the psychic life fluctuated between casual enjoyment and deep grief: for example, beginning the day with residents in computer class discussing Justin Bieber's performativity on his Instagram page to ending the day by sitting at the bedside of a beloved resident in their last hours. I watched elders create new selves and new social circles at the sunset of their lives, and in interviews listened to them struggle to define what the good death meant to them. I saw how nurses created a community of care, often amidst conditions that made it difficult for them, and witnessed how their work impacted their own visions of how they wanted to grow older. In addition to this fieldwork, I expanded my own sense of Los Angeles' approach to aging and dying by visiting local funeral homes, frequenting Death Cafés, attending local bioethics committee meetings at hospitals, and by becoming a certified death midwife.



Carrie Ryan, rear left, with members of a Continuing Retirement Community in Los Angeles.

Student Spotlight—Carrie Ryan (continued)

Sitting at the juncture of life and death is not an easy intellectual journey for a mid-twenty-year-old student, but the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography at Oxford has equipped me with analytic tools, the wherewithal to craft an ethical, reflexive, and humble ethnographic sensibility, and the practical and mentoring support to help me engage the people I studied in thoughtful, rigorous, and expanding ways. The department appropriately honors anthropology's theoretical forbears but also is sensitively attuned to the discipline's new turns and my own sense of theory has benefitted greatly from this historical awareness. My fellow students, drawn together from all over the world, infuse my own research questions with a diversity of thought I think only possible at an international hub like Oxford. The reading groups we have organically begun together, where we discuss topics like ethics and uncertainty from our own research perspectives, expand my own sense of the vastness of the discipline and makes me feel part of a community of learners. Oxford itself offers a rich plethora of resources that sit outside of, but are tangential to Anthropology and I have particularly benefitted from research groups on bioethics, medical humanities, ethnographic writing, and aging.

During my research, several elders wondered why I would spend my young years studying aging and dying: 'You have enough time to think of these things,' they would quip. Oxford has helped me understand that the questions this world lays bare are always ripe for asking and that the asking matters now even though insights may develop and change over time. Put another way, my degree has taught me that the beauty of learning is in the pursuit, and that my research experience, more than just an investigative means to a doctoral end, is one significant step towards figuring out how to ask tough questions sensitively and self-reflexively. Fundamentally, Oxford, and all its people and things, is teaching me how to engage the world as a life-long student.

COMPAS Photography Competition 2016

This year's competition theme was: *New Horizons*. We were looking for photos and illustrations exploring contemporary experiences of migration, anything from a symbolic illustration of the changing attitudes towards migration, to a personal depiction of moving to a new place. All of the entries can be seen [here](#). The winning photo is by Helena Georgiou, who lives in Cyprus. Its title: 'Mum, where are we going?' (2016).



THE COMPAS BLOG

Once a week,
COMPAS
researchers blog
about their work,
thoughts, and
insights.

The posts are
provided
by COMPAS staff,
with some
contribution
from students.

We hope that this
blog will give you
an interesting
insight into
COMPAS!

[Read it here](#)

Maria Salaru Film Project

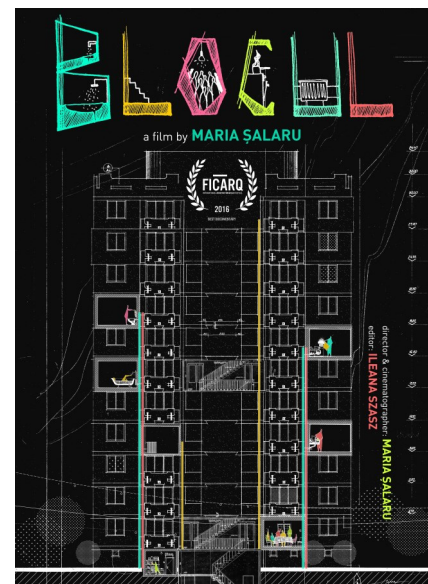


My research project, supervised by Dr Inge Daniels, looks at postsocialist changes seen through the lens of contemporary architecture in Piatra-Neamt, Romania. I study inhabitants' everyday engagements with their apartments in a block of flats, in order to understand how they come to terms with the uncertainties of a rapidly changing society, caught in between the vulnerabilities of both socialism and capitalism. My project's engagement with important themes from economic, visual, and material anthropology actually stems from a personal curiosity: seeing the blocks of flats in my home town change drastically each year, I became curious to see what motivates the inhabitants' drive to close their balconies, change their windows, insulate their apartments with colourful layers of polystyrene.

At the beginning of my fieldwork, I met Mr Bud, a block administrator who had put a great deal of effort and time into caring for his building and who became the gate keeper to my field site, the H2B block of flats. Henceforward, I met him each week for a few hours, and he told me about his everyday life in the block: about waking up at 6 a.m. each winter morning to turn on the block's heating system, about having great difficulties in making ends meet with the utility bills, about how he approaches each neighbour differently about contributing to the common maintenance expenses.

My research project was initially thought through as a photographic endeavour: participant observation was complemented by a plethora of photographs, taken by myself, by my research participants, or gathered from a multitude of archival sources. As an experienced photographer, I trusted my camera to gather still images, but not video: I had never filmed anything with it.

After two months of fieldwork based on discussions with Mr Bud, I realised my research topic was well suited to film, and that the interactions between Mr Bud and his neighbours would make a good observational documentary. I then decided to start filming, and used my footage as a visual research method which allowed me to pay greater attention to the built environment and to conduct film elicitation with the block's inhabitants. Although it started as a fieldwork exercise, it ended up as a one-hour film, edited together with Ileana Szasz, a visual anthropologist based in Bucharest. The film has since been screened at many film festivals all over Europe and has received the [Best Documentary award at Ficarg](#), an Architecture & Film Festival in Spain. These screenings have provided me with opportunity to discuss my research data with varied audiences and to refine my approach to my research project. Although the production and the distribution of an ethnographic film are incredibly time consuming, working with visual material allows anthropologists to disseminate their work widely and in a creative manner.



Our Alumni

[Clare Lorraine Phipps](#), Human Sciences graduate of Somerville (2011), has been elected as Chair of the Green Party of England and Wales Executive. After graduating from Oxford, Clare completed an MSc at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, during which she was diagnosed with idiopathic hypersomnia, which she first became ill with during her time at Somerville. As a disabled feminist, Clare has been involved in national campaigns including the court case to lift the ban on MPs job sharing, and recently in the campaign for the government to reaffirm their commitment to Civil Partnerships and extend them to all couples regardless of gender. Please take a look at the [Human Sciences Newsletter](#) to read Clare's contribution.



Clare Lorraine Phipps

The Oxford Anthropology and Museum Ethnography Alumni Society ([OUAMEAS](#))

The Society was launched in December 2011 and meets at the Oxford & Cambridge Club, Pall Mall. Many alumni have maintained an interest in anthropology and related disciplines and would very much like to support and reconnect with the University's School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography. OAMEAS is now successfully established and meets in London and various places of interest in the UK and overseas. The School's website has been redesigned and we decided for ease of access (and security!) we would connect with the University as opposed to having a separate website. Many members are of other disciplines, but appreciate the experience and expertise Anthropologists and Museum Ethnographers bring to the table.

We have organised several significant trips – most notably forging links with the Pacific Island Society of Great Britain & Ireland's Dr Christian Campbell Clerk to New Zealand, Fiji, the Cook Islands of Mangaia and Eua, as well as RaraTonga, TongaTapu, and the Anthropologist's favourite, Samoa. In 2013, we explored the Highlands and coastal areas of Papua New Guinea with members of Wantak Support, where we hosted a coffee morning in support of Macmillan. On a less grand scale, we have been hosted by overseas members in a number of European countries and capitals, including Naples, Sicily, Budapest, Lisbon, Washington, Jerusalem, and sites around the UK.

OUAMEAS has produced a [fieldwork manual for women](#) – this year we will put through several funding proposals. We are especially interested in developing links with political scientists and medical anthropologists. Applied Anthropology seems to be a direction many alumni are taking, and we welcome enquiries that further this aim and objective. Journalists, filmmakers, and those looking for an Anthropological perspective, as well as general enquiries, please [contact us](#).

[Dr Helen Carr](#)
Founding Chair



Fez, Morocco (photo by Helen Carr)

If you would like to feature as one of our [Alumni Stories](#) in the new [Alumni](#) section of our website, [please contact us](#)

Our alumni

On 17 March 2016 [Dr Darryl Stellmach](#) was awarded the 2015 Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI) Sutasoma Award for the potentially outstanding merit of his doctoral research. Administered by the RAI and the Sutasoma Trust, the award is an annual prize for doctoral students in the final stages of their dissertation. Darryl's DPhil thesis, 'Coordination in Crisis: The Practice of Medical Humanitarian Emergency' follows the evolution of the Médecins San Frontières (MSF) response to the civil conflict in South Sudan, which started in December 2013. Please see page 16 for our feature on Darryl's research and time with the School.

[Dr Nick Shapiro](#), a former DPhil student of the School, has been awarded the 2016 Cultural Horizons Prize for the best article appearing in *Cultural Anthropology* in the previous year. The Society for Cultural Anthropology presented the award to Nick (Researcher Fellow for Chemical Heritage Foundation) for his article 'Attuning to the Chemosphere: Domestic Formaldehyde, Bodily Reasoning, and the Chemical Sublime', which appeared in [Cultural Anthropology 30, no. 3 \(2015\): 368–93](#).

[Dr Cathy Baldwin](#), Research Associate at the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography and former DPhil student of the School, was a keynote speaker during the opening plenary session of the 2016 IAIA Special Symposium. Entitled '[Water and Impact Assessment: Investment, Infrastructure, Legacy](#)', the symposium took place at Bishop Grosseteste University (BGU) in Lincoln, UK, on 1-2 September, 2016.

Governing Global Health

On 11 May 2017, [Dr Devi Sridhar](#), SAME Medical Anthropology alumna (DPhil 2006, 'The Art of the Bank: Nutrition Policy and Practice in India'), launched her book, [Governing Global Health: Who Runs the World and Why?](#), co-authored with Chelsea Clinton, at the [Blavatnik School of Government](#). The Dean of the School, Ngaire Woods, chaired the meeting.



Obituaries

W.S.F. ('Bill') Pickering, (1922-2016)

The Revd Dr William Stuart Frederick Pickering was General Secretary of the British Centre for Durkheimian Studies since its foundation at his initiative in 1991. Throughout its existence the Centre has been based in SAME or its institutional predecessors. In 1987 'Bill', as he was affectionately known, retired from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, where he had been Lecturer in Sociology in the Department of Social Studies; before that, between 1958 and 1966, he taught sociology in Canada.

Originally interested in the sociology of religion generally, this led him to a long-term interest in the life and work of the French sociologist Émile Durkheim and his circle, in which he became a world expert (e.g. [Durkheim on Religion](#), 1975). Although he retired to live in Cambridge, he chose Oxford to set up the Centre and regularly visited the city for the Centre's termly study days and more occasional conferences. He was also very active in publishing work of his own and in editing collections on topics of Durkheimian interest, as well as launching the journal, [Durkheimian Studies](#), and a press, the Durkheim Press, with his longstanding colleague, Willie Watts Miller. He was also an ordained minister of the Church of England. He is survived by his wife, Carole, and a family of step-children and step-grandchildren. His collection of books on Durkheim was donated to the Bodleian.

Merete Demant Jakobsen (1952-2017)

Merete Demant Jakobsen left an indelible imprint on the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology twice in her life. The first was between 1993 and 1996, during which time she completed her doctoral thesis in only three years. It was published by Berghahn in English in 1999 under the title *Shamanism: Traditional and Contemporary Approaches to the Mastery of Spirits and Healing*. The second time was between 2013 and 2017, when she became a research associate with a special interest in medical anthropology and wrote *Den Alvarlige Samtale*, published by Munksgaard in 2015. This book was written to reach primarily non-academic audiences, both sufferers of cancer and other terminal diseases, as well as their carers. Between these two publications, in 2003, she produced an entirely different work, *Gudindetilbederen*, published by Frihedsmuseets Venner. This was her parents' story and recounted the struggle in their youth under the German occupation of Denmark.

Merete was not only striking through her alertness, even in the very last month of her life, but she was also perceptive and considerate. She was a breath of fresh air, so very positive, fun to be with and yet had unusual insights into life, of which she had many varied experiences. She had travelled widely, with a particular love for the Arctic. She spent time in Greenland, two years working in Alaska, and one in Scotland. She spent the entire Hilary Term of 2013 with us, much longer than initially planned, and participated in all aspects of the medical anthropology programme.

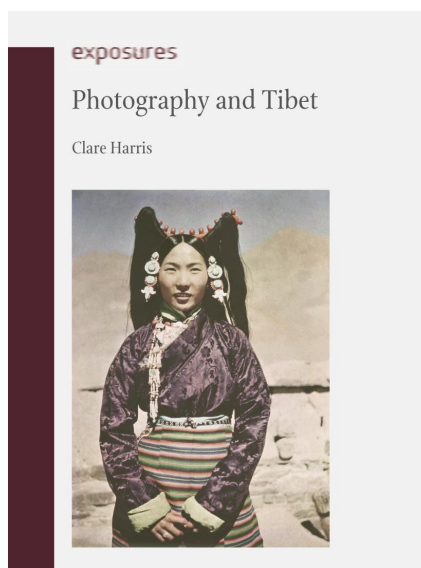
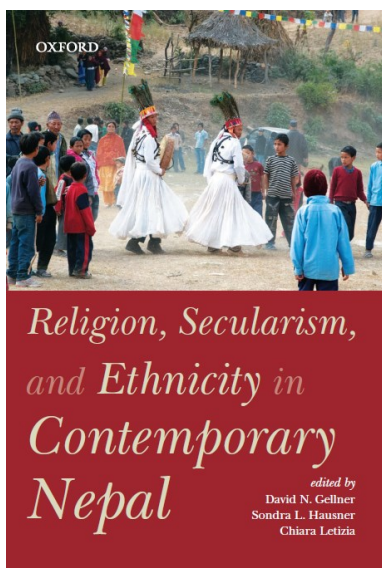
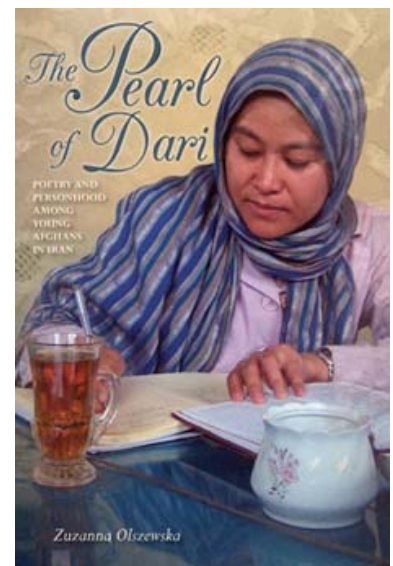
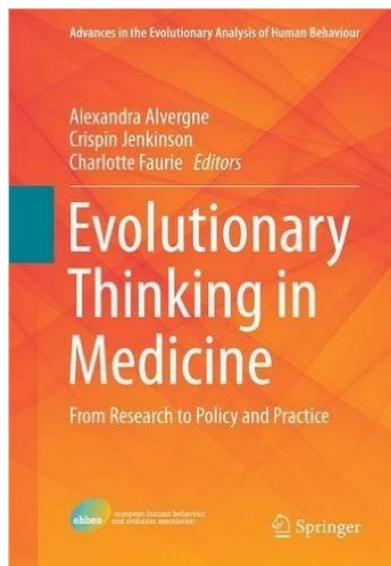
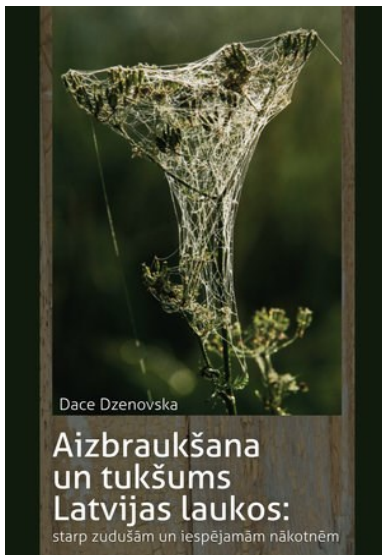
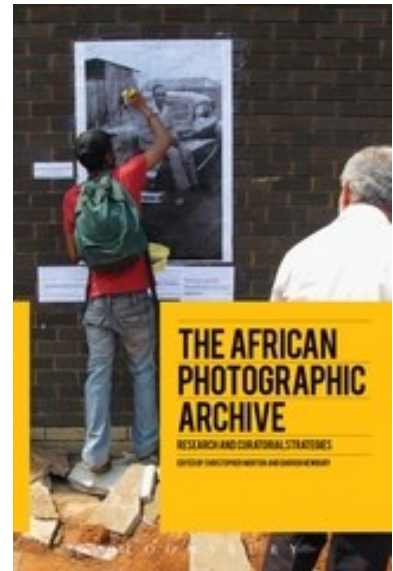
Over many years Merete had been the main carer for her husband, then for her mother, and finally for her father, all of whom suffered from cancer. It is a cruel irony and incredibly sad that Merete also succumbed to the disease, which had taken up so many hours of research during the last years of her life.

Caroline Friend, former colleague from the European School, Culham, and close friend and Elisabeth Hsu, colleague and friend

Brian Street (1943-2017)

We are sad and sorry to inform friends and colleagues of the death of Brian Street on Wednesday 21 June at Hove in Sussex. Brian was a student of Godfrey Lienhardt at the Institute of Social Anthropology in Oxford, lecturer and senior lecturer of social anthropology at the University of Sussex, professor of language and education at Kings College, London, and was made Emeritus Professor when he retired. From 2004-2014, he chaired the Education Committee at the Royal Anthropological Institute where he worked tirelessly for the introduction of anthropology at pre-university level in the UK and elsewhere. *Hilary Callan, Tamara Dragadze, Judith Okely and Joy Hendry*

A SELECTION OF NEW BOOKS



The Tylor Library has a website which provides full details on its lending and reference collections, its e-resources, and its services.

[Visit it here](#)

Our new Tylor Librarian is [Helen Worrell](#)



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http://twitter.com/oxford_anthro

All comments and suggestions for the School Newsletter are welcomed by the editor Kate Atherton
(kate.atherton@anthro.ox.ac.uk)