

THE PARTICIPANT OBSERVER

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Spring 2014

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University of Rochester
Department of Anthropology

2013 LEWIS HENRY MORGAN LECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
Department of Anthropology

THE VALUE of COMPARISON

Prof. Peter van der Veer

Max Planck Institute for the Study of
Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen

PUBLIC LECTURE
Hutchison Hall
Lander Auditorium
Wednesday, November 13, 7:00 PM



UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER
For information, Tel. (585) 275-8614; email: anthro@mail.rochester.edu

2013 Morgan Lecture

Thomas Gibson, Editor of the Lewis Henry Morgan
Lectures

This year's Lewis Henry Morgan Lecture was delivered by Professor Peter van der Veer on "The Value of Comparison". A life-long student of the interaction between the Indian sub-continent and the British Empire, in recent years Professor van der Veer has turned his attention to the comparative study of the interaction between the empires of Western Europe and other regions in Asia.

(Continued on page 2)

UAC Events

The Undergraduate Anthropology Council is a group of students that utilizes campus and community resources to engage in anthropological discussion outside of the classroom. We meet weekly to discuss topics in the field and plan events. Here are a few of the activities we hosted and participated in over the past year:

On February 19th, UAC co-sponsored an event, bringing **Professor Benjamin Lawrance** from RIT to give a talk titled **“Humanitarianism Claims and African Asylum Seekers”**. The talk focused on how African migrants to Europe employ humanitarian claims to win protection, avoid deportation, and gain access to necessary medical care.

UAC took a trip to see the play called **“Informed Consent” at Geva Theater** on Friday, March 28th. Based on a true story, the play centers on a geneticist who is hired to help a Native American tribe suffering from diabetes. Her research proves to be threatening to their most sacred traditions.

On April 12th, UAC co-sponsored with GlobeMed, DLH, and College Feminists, the screening of the film **“Moolaadé”**. The film addresses the topic of female genital cutting in African Countries.

(Continued from page 1)

He is currently Director of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity at Göttingen, Germany.

In his public lecture, Professor van der Veer argued that every time we use a conceptual framework developed to understand institutional arrangements in one part of the world to understand those in another we are forced to revise, refine and broaden the original conceptual framework. Thus while one might begin with a comparative question inspired by European history about the nature of “church-state” relations in India and China, one would soon realize that neither “churches” nor “states” existed in the same way in the latter two regions. On the other hand, the expansion of European power over the rest of the world led to the appropriation and transformation of cultural practices originating in Europe, such as the English language and the Communist ideology. His conclusion was that comparison is both necessary and fraught with conceptual complexities. An audio-visual recording of the lecture will soon be available on the website of the journal *Hau*: <http://www.haujournal.org/haunet/morganvideos.php>

The lecture was followed by a day-long workshop in which a number of visiting experts commented on different aspects of the book-length manuscript Professor van der Veer is preparing for the Lewis Henry Morgan Monograph series published by Duke University Press. They included Professors Bethany Lacina, John Osburg and Thomas Gibson (Rochester), Joanne Waghorne and Gareth Fisher (Syracuse), and Magnus Fiskesjö (Cornell). In addition, Professor van der Veer taught a master class for a group of graduate students from other institutions that included Mariam Durrani (Penn), Meredith McGuire (Chicago), Courtney Work (Cornell), and Naem Mohaiemen (Columbia).

Symposiums, Events, and Panel Discussions

Violence, Memory, and Social Recovery

On October 4th, anthropologists came to Rochester to participate in a symposium on Violence, Memory and Social Repair, co-sponsored by the Humanities Project, the Frederick Douglass Institute, the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women's Studies, and the Anthropology department. In recent decades, "transitional justice"—the use of legal mechanisms such as international trials or truth commissions to confront the wrongs of past regimes and establish accountability--has become the default solution in post-conflict contexts. This is particularly true in Africa, which has received disproportionate attention from the International Criminal Court, while also commanding global attention for more contextualized, though still predominantly legalized, mechanisms such as the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Rwanda's innovative grassroots genocide trials called *gacaca* courts. Yet, this focus on law makes certain assumptions about what people and nations need in order to move forward, and often overlooks or obscures existing alternative forms of social repair. This symposium drew attention to the range of other social mechanisms through which people cope with violence and social recovery. Speakers shifted attention away from a preoccupation with law as the dominant mode for coping with post-conflict accountability, to instead explore more contextualized ways that people confront the past through a variety of social institutions and practices, at intimate as well as national levels.

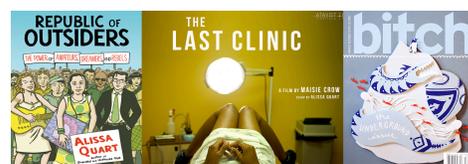
Block that Metaphor

The metaphor of corporate personhood troubles many critics, especially in the wake of the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Citizen United*. Are corporations people? Can corporations speak? Should we expect corporations to act like citizens? The topic of personhood is an established domain of inquiry in cultural anthropology, but anthropologists have rarely addressed the notion of corporate legal personality. The panel series will bring together cultural anthropologists and legal scholars to revisit some of the contested jurisprudence on this subject. Speakers will consider the political possibilities offered by blocking and/or facilitating the metaphor of corporate personhood, and ask whether current rhetorics of corporate social responsibility, including the ascendant trope of corporate citizenship, might generate unanticipated consequences for corporate agents--indeed, put into question who counts as a corporate agent.



Post/Feminism/Media Humanities Project

The three-day series of events (March 18th-20th) offered an opportunity for scholars and practitioners to participate in a dialogue about the state of media and reporting on women in a "postfeminist" age. The events highlighted the work and strategies of media makers who are producing critical stories about women and gender in the context of deepening class and racial inequalities, and ongoing gender discrimination in the journalism industry. This project asked how contemporary media makers produce feminist texts in the context of a postfeminist mediascape, in which feminism is either considered to be no longer pertinent because of the successes of the women's rights movement, or to be out of sync with the goals and values of younger generations of women. What is the purchase of feminism in journalism and media production today? What are the challenges for journalists operating in a media industry that reproduces uncritical notions of postfeminism that often reinforce conservative political agendas? In these ambiguous times, how do cultural producers create critical work on gender that addresses the real lives of people laboring in a neoliberal postindustrial economy? Professor Eleana Kim and the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women's Studies organized the project.



POST/FEMINISM/MEDIA

Post/Feminism/Media brings journalists and media makers to the University of Rochester for Women's History Month to discuss and showcase work that tackles issues of gender equality, reproductive rights, and representation through traditional news venues and innovative media platforms.

FROM OTHERLANDS TO MOTHERLANDS

with Alissa Quart, Journalist and Author of *Republic of Outsiders*
Tuesday March 18 • Hawkins-Carlson Reading Room • 5:00 pm

THE LAST CLINIC

Screening of *The Last Clinic* and Panel Discussion with
Maisie Crow, Filmmaker and Dr. Rachael Phelps of Planned Parenthood
Wednesday March 19 • Hoyt Auditorium • 5:00 pm

CREATING FEMINIST MEDIA

with Andi Zeisler, Founder of *Journal Bitch: Feminist Response to Pop Culture*
Thursday March 20 • Hawkins-Carlson Reading Room • 5:00 pm

Sponsored by the University of Rochester Humanities Project,
The Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women's Studies, The Department of Anthropology,
The Department of Art and Art History, The Program in Visual and Cultural Studies,
and The Film and Media Studies Program.

The Cofán, Oil, and the Ecuadorian Amazon



Oil and Power in the Ecuadorian Amazon

Development class, allowed students to find out about the Cofán people, and also gave them a chance to better understand anthropological fieldwork.

On Friday April 4th, anthropology students had the chance to learn about the people of Ecuador's Amazon and the problems they face through both a question and answer session with Dr. Michael Cepek and a screening of the PBS documentary in progress titled, *Oil and Water*.

Dr. Michael Cepek, an anthropologist at the University of Texas-San Antonio, visited campus to talk about his start in the field, and his fieldwork. Dr. Cepek studies an indigenous group of people called the Cofán, within Ecuador's Amazonian jungle. This informal question and answer session, with students from Professor Osburg's Theory and Method class and Professor Reichman's Anthropology of

Later in the evening, the film *Oil and Water* was shown for the first time to the public. The film focuses on two boys who come of age in the middle of one of the world's worst toxic disasters: the contamination of Ecuador's Amazon region by reckless oil drilling. Hugo fights for the survival of his Amazonian tribe, while David attempts to revolutionize the oil industry. Their journeys lead them to explore what could be a more just future for people around the world born with oil beneath their feet. Filmmaker Laurel Spellman Smith and Dr. Cepek answered questions about the filmmaking process and the current state of the Cofán people, the oil industry in Ecuador and the project.

Student News

Jonathan Johnson Receives Humanity in Action Fellowship

Intensive and demanding, the Humanity in Action Fellowship brings together international groups of university students and recent graduates to explore national histories of discrimination and resistance, as well as examples of issues affecting different minority groups today.

Each program is highly interdisciplinary and features daily lectures and discussions with renowned academics, journalists, politicians and activists, as well as site visits to government agencies, non-profit and community organizations, museums and memorials. The programs seek to highlight different models of action to remedy injustice.

The objective of the Humanity in Action Fellowship is to facilitate a collective exploration of the social and political roots of discrimination, as well as to provide a forum where potential solutions to some of today's most challenging issues can be considered and discussed. The programs are also intended to instill a responsibility among Humanity in Action Fellows to recognize and address the need to protect minorities and promote human rights in their own communities and around the world.

Jonathan will be traveling to Berlin, Germany! He is really looking forward to it.

Jonathan was also selected as a 2013 Public Policy & International Affairs Fellow at Carnegie Mellon's Junior Summer Institute this past summer. He spent seven weeks at Carnegie Mellon's Heinz College in this highly selective summer program designed to prepare students from diverse social and economic backgrounds for graduate study and careers in public policy and international affairs.



Jonathan Johnson Class of 2014

Student News (continued)

Manda Brefo

Manda '14, has been chosen as the Fulbright alternate for their Ghana program.

Katherine Wegman

This summer, Katherine Wegman '15 and John Dawson '13/T5'14, will spend two months in Cape Town, South Africa, building a new community center for the residents of Egoli. Their work will be funded by a \$10,000 grant from Davis Projects for Peace, an initiative that encourages students to design grassroots projects that promote peace and address the root causes of conflict among parties.

This is not Katherine's first time in South Africa, as she studied abroad there previously, and volunteered in Egoli as well. The settlement developed as a result of race-based segregation after apartheid and receives little attention from the government for infrastructure updates and basic municipal services. The current community center has many functions, serving as a library, church, childcare center, and meeting place. The center's dilapidated condition and small size prevent large community gatherings and limit the expansion of additional resources like health clinics. Wegman and Dawson will partner with Egoli residents and the Cape Town non-profit Ikhayalami to design and construct a facility that can promote community engagement.

Katherine was also a recipient for the Student Life award for Campus Contributions! This award is given to a student who has made significant contributions to the University community, including, but not limited to, campus life, academic achievement and leadership, and community service.

Samantha Whalen

A native of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Samantha Whalen '15 is working toward dual majors in anthropology along with health, behavior and society and will spend her Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) experience studying Indonesian.



Whalen was inspired to learn more about Indonesia after listening to linguistics Professor Scott Paauw describe the language and country. "While planning for the summer I knew that I wanted to experience a new culture in a different part of the world," she said, noting that this would be her first trip outside of North America. "Professor Paauw talked about Indonesia with such passion and love that it inspired me to learn as much as I can about their traditions and way of life."

An active member of the campus community, Whalen was selected as a 2012-2013 Meliora Leader, working on a self-designed 300-hour service project that provides support to homeless women and children aided through the Sojourner House. She is a member of the UR Refugee Student Alliance, serves as resident advisor and is the pledge master for the Alpha Phi Omega Community Service Fraternity. Whalen also performs with the Sibir Belly Dance Ensemble and the Ballet Performance Group.

Samantha Whalen, Class of
2015

Undergraduate Research Projects

Honors Program Research

The Honors Program in Anthropology provides seniors in the major the opportunity to conduct a yearlong independent study on a topic of their choice. Under the supervision of a faculty advisor, Honors Program students conduct fieldwork and/or a literature review to create an ethnographic paper of 30-50 pages long. Students create a proposal for their project in April of their junior year. The following December, they present their works-in-progress to the Anthropology faculty in order to receive feedback and direction for further research. In April of their senior year, students present their final research findings and defend them before the Anthropology department. Honors Program students must also take two upper-level courses in addition to the regular degree requirements.

Respect, Responsibility, and the Researcher: An Examination of native American Gender Categorization in Anthropology

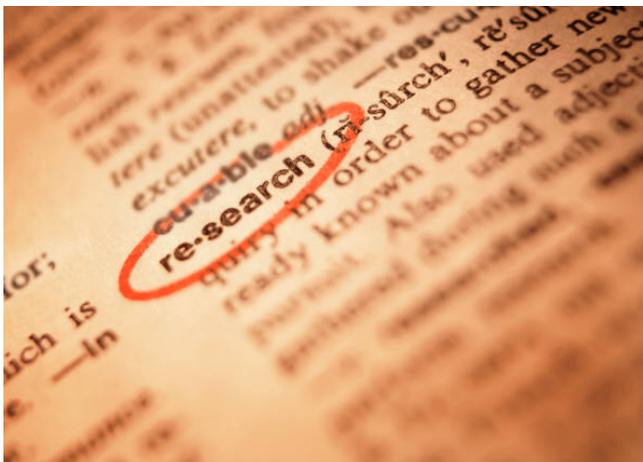
Katie Cross

Identity politics and representation have long been crucial issues in the discipline of anthropology. This paper examines how anthropologists throughout time have constructed and deployed categories to describe Native American gender practice, particularly the category historically known as berdache and recently re-imagined as two-spirit. I analyze both ethnographic literature and its contemporary theoretical paradigms in order to get at issues surrounding the practice of categorization in anthropology, and the steps we have taken to make our categories both intellectually productive and socially respectful. I ultimately argue that increased self-representation in the process of categorizing is the best way to maximize both productivity and respect moving forward.

The Politics of Youth Mobilization and Intervention in Coloured Townships of Cape Town, South Africa

Jessica Nielsen

In a world with ever-globalized definitions of youth, development and mobilization, my senior honors thesis seeks to problematize the universality of these concepts, localize the definitions and the discourse that surrounds it in the coloured townships of Cape Town, and examine the implications of this analysis on intervention on youth by development programs. My research seeks to answer the following questions: When did “youth” become a prevalent and targeted category in Cape Town as the sole change agents of South Africa and what role do people in South Africa assume they can play in the future of the nation? Are youth in coloured townships given the resources necessary to even have an impact on the trajectory of the country? What are the challenges that they still face despite this? What are the implications of using youth as a site of intervention for humanitarian aid and mobilization? I center my argument in an analysis of a common discourse from my informants in Cape Town that youth are “lazy” and not mobilizing, as they should, to change the trajectory of South Africa. I breakdown this discourse by concluding that the residual tensions from Apartheid as well as the socio-spatial segregation by race that persists in Cape Town constructs the structural oppression and marginalization of coloured people. Thus, with these structural issues it is immensely difficult for coloured youth to mobilize to change even their own family’s situation much less the entire country’s. Therefore they are seen as lazy, and youth development programs focus on trying to empower youth to overcome their individual obstacles, rather than recognizing the structural oppression that they face.



Undergraduate Research Projects

Samuels Grant Research

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2014 Samuels
Research Grant:

Katie Cowie-Haskell “The Social Impact of Mines in Loei Province, Thailand”

Katherine Wegman “An Ethnography of Community Development in Egoli
Settlement, Cape Town, South Africa”

The Department of Anthropology gratefully acknowledges the
generosity of the following alumni for their gifts:

Chereeze Yvonne Hall (BA1994, MS1995)

Moshe Kornfeld (BA2004)

Karen Porter (PhD1997)

Bryan D. Rotach (BA2003)

Dr. Louis Samuels (BA1983)

Kate R. Thibodeau (BA2001)

Donations to the department are used for enriching the experience of
undergraduate anthropology students at the University of Rochester. For more
information see: <http://www.rochester.edu/college/giving/> Please designate your
gift for the Deans Fund for Anthropology. Thanks!

Faculty News

Professor John Osburg was awarded a Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Program in China Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship for a project called “Tibetan Buddhism and Moral Personhood in Contemporary China”. The project is a six-month ethnographic study of a group of wealthy, urban Han Chinese who have become followers of Tibetan Buddhism. He will examine the integration of Tibetan Buddhist principles into their moral beliefs and ethical practices. The direct linkages being formed between affluent, urban Han Chinese and Tibetan monks have the potential to dramatically reshape Sino-Tibetan relations.

He will spend half of the academic year in China and half in Rochester writing the results from his research.

Professor Kristin Doughty has been awarded the “Professor of the Year Award in the Social Sciences” by the Rochester Student Association. This award is given annually to recognize a professor in each academic division (Engineering, Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences) who makes a positive and lasting impact on undergraduate student life at the University through dedication to developing relationships with students, creation of an engaging and challenging classroom atmosphere, as well as inspiring the further pursuit of knowledge. Congratulations Professor Doughty!

Professor Robert Foster and Dr. Heather Horst (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) have been awarded a major Discovery Grant by the Australian Research Council for their project “The Moral and Cultural Economy of Mobile Phones in the Pacific.” Professor Foster plans to spend the spring semesters of 2015 and 2016 as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Digital Ethnography Research Centre at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia.

Professor Ayala Emmett was appointed Professor Emeritus of Anthropology in January 2014. The department plans to celebrate Professor Emmett’s change in status in the fall. Stay tuned!

Professor Eleana Kim will be leaving the department to take up a position at the University of California, Irvine starting in the fall. The department thanks Professor Kim for the many and varied contributions that she made during her seven years at UR and wishes her all the best in California!

Welcome to our Newest Assistant Professor!

The Department of Anthropology is pleased to welcome a new faculty member. **Dr. Llerena Searle** will be joining the department effective July 1st, 2014. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Searle is currently at Williams College, where her major interests include South Asia, capitalism and global finance, urbanization, material culture and linguistic anthropology.

Alumni Updates

Margaret Ball, Class of 2011, is about to start graduate school at Cornell! She has been working as a research assistant in the Crop and Soil Sciences department since October, applied during the winter, and found out recently she had been accepted to the Masters program. She will be studying weed-crop competition and soil fertility in the Cornell Organic Grain Cropping Systems Experiment. She and three friends are working on starting a small farm enterprise near Ithaca.

Amy Carvalho, Class of 2009, was married to Archit Gulati in Dallas in May 2013. Amy completed a dual master's degree program, earning a master's degree in public health from the University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston, and a master's degree in social work from the University of Houston.

Carlie Fishgold, Class of 2012, is entering the MA program at Manhattan's Bard Graduate Center: Decorative Arts, Design History and Material Culture in the fall of 2014. This interdisciplinary research institute provokes thought from an object-centered perspective in examining the cultural history of the material world, emphasizing hands-on methodologies. She intends to continue her education with the objective of teaching and/or launching a non-profit organization that provides individuals with alternative opportunities to prepare for and enter secondary education.

Kristin Dowell, Class of 1999, released her book *Sovereign Screens: Aboriginal Media on the Canadian West Coast*. The book was launched at the Vancouver Indigenous Media Arts Festival in November 2013. Kristin is an Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma.



Rachel Odhner, Class of 2010, is entering the PhD program in anthropology at Cornell. She is planning to work on environmental topics in Latin America, and received a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship to support her work.

Alumni Updates (cont.)

Mark Luborsky, PhD 1985, is the Director of Aging and Health Disparities Research at Wayne State University, and has been named adjunct foreign professor at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. The six-year appointment is made by the Institute's Board of Research and is designed to strengthen research collaborations internationally.

Rob McKee, PhD 1995, is in his fourth year as Assistant Professor of Applied Anthropology at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (Dallas, TX). He teaches Cultural Anthropology at the undergraduate certificate level and Area Studies, Religion & Worldview, and Culture Change & Minority Cultures to MA students. He has two current writing interests: lynchings in modern Kenya; and Christian anthropology. Concerning the first, he presented his paper at the SfAA's Denver 2013 conference that he then expanded and has published on GIAL's website. The second (Christian Anthropology) is where he grounds the human rights concern of the first, and it continues a theoretical interest he first developed in Professor Ayala Emmett's theory seminar. He keeps in touch with Kevin Birth (BA 1985) and retired professor Walter Sangree, both of whom he met in Professor Sangree's Psychological Anthropology course in the fall of 1983.

Louisa (Perimenis) Cameron, BA 1983,

"I attended the U. of R. from 1979 to 1983 and graduated with a BA degree in anthropology. I also did a junior year study abroad in Japan. I really enjoyed studying anthropology and as it turns out, eventually earned my doctorate in anthropology as well (Columbia U.). I went back to Japan for my fieldwork in the late 1980's and early 1990's where I studied gender in traditional Shinto rituals and also in large Japanese corporations. I have taught cultural anthropology on and off as an adjunct for the past 18 years at a couple of universities in the city



where I now live, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (I'm originally from the New York area). I am currently teaching at Fairleigh Dickinson U's Vancouver Campus, and thoroughly enjoying introducing new students to the wonderful field of anthropology. The students I teach are quite interesting as they are all foreign students from all over the world, which makes teaching anthropology especially fun and interesting!"

Here's Louisa receiving her degree in 1983 from Professor Emeritus Anthony Carter!

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2014!

ANTHROPOLOGY MAJORS

Manda Brefo	Cody Adam Monday
Katie Cross	Jessica Rose Nielsen
Sarah Erickson	Avery R. Parker
Diamonté C. Hill	Giulia Perucchio
Elisa Ann Hoyos	Ryann Salima Price
Alisa Marie Jimenez	Anna Madison Selby
Jonathan Ray Johnson	Julia Faith Sklar
Robyn Kaufman	Kassandra Diane Viers
Ross O. Kloeber IV	Yuji Wakimoto
Leigh Koszarsky	

ANTHROPOLOGY MINORS

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Robert Henry Bortz
Amanda Nicole Decker
Carrie J. Gulvin
Reed Francis Rising
Elissa Irene Spinner
Jonathan Michael Zuckerman

THE PARTICIPANT OBSERVER

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Undergraduate Anthropology Council

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Business Manager – Brittany Sherman, Class of 2015
Secretary- Leah Schwartz, Class of 2017

Participant Observer Editor – Tara Sullivan, Class of 2016

2014 Undergraduate Research Seminar
Department of Anthropology

MORE THAN MONEY?

The Values of Brands, Managers, and
Corporate Social Responsibility



Wednesday April 30th, 2:00-5:00pm, Lattimore 441

For corporations, creating value is the name of the game. Corporations seek to create value by providing goods and services for consumers; increasing revenue for shareholders; and sometimes promoting the welfare of their employees and communities. But what does value actually mean to corporations? How do we reconcile the often conflicting understandings of value within the corporation? How do companies measure the value of the brands they own? How do CEOs embody the companies and brands they manage?