

CENTRE FOR ETHNOGRAPHY NEWS

Winter 2019 | Issue 1

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Warm greetings for 2019! Anthropology has taken up residence on the third floor of Highland Hall. Our beautiful new quarters include sufficient offices for all faculty and space for sessional instructors and TAs as well as an office for the undergraduate student association. In addition we have a lovely kitchen/lunch room that opens onto the Centre for Ethnography. And last but not least, we have a new teaching lab for Evolutionary Anthropology. Several of the evolutionary anthropologists also had their research labs renovated and enlarged and they open into each other between SW221 and 223.

You can read about the latest addition to our faculty, Professor Waqas Butt elsewhere in the newsletter. All our faculty are as active in research and teaching as ever. To give but one example, Professor Chris Krupa taught an intensive two-day workshop at the Latin American Summer School on Social

Issues in Antofagasta, Chile on "Frontiers of State: Displacing the Borders of Political Life." The workshop included graduate students from fifteen different universities across North America, Latin America, and the UK and was complemented by visits to migrant labor camps in the heart of Chile's mining district and roundtables with local indigenous and migrant activists to discuss the challenges of political organization in extractive economies. I'm sure Chris will be bringing many of his insights back to the classroom at UTSC.

Please join us this term for our talks on suburbia that are linked up to Maggie Cummings' seminar on the topic. And don't miss the forthcoming Annual Distinguished Lecture sponsored by the Centre of Ethnography. This year it will be delivered by Susan McKinnon who is writing a book about the prevalence and decline of cousin marriage in North America during the 19th Century. McKinnon is a distinguished theorist and ethnographer of kinship and Professor at the University of Virginia. Guess which one of our faculty she once taught?

- Dr. Michael Lambek

Anthropology Department Chair and Canada Research Chair in the Anthropology of Ethical Life

NEWS

New Faculty Member: Waqas Butt

In 2018 we welcomed **Waqas Butt** as an Assistant Professor to the University of Toronto Scarborough. Professor Butt has taught three classes at UTSC so far: Urban Anthropology, Anthropology and Psychology, and Culture, Politics and Globalization. In 2019 he will take part in a series of series of panels and workshops entitled “Urban Climates: Power, Development, and Environment in South Asia” that will convene at the American Association of Geographers Conference. He has an upcoming article in the journal for International Labor and Working Class History.

CE Fellowships in Ethnographic Writing 2018/2019

During the Fall semester we had the pleasure of hosting two graduate students as Fellows of the Centre for Ethnography, both of whom previewed chapters from their doctoral theses.



Miranda Dahlin is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at McGill University. Her dissertation, tentatively titled, “To wait amongst shadows: traversing the spectral geography of state-cartel and US asylum violence in Ciudad Juárez/El Paso,” traces the experiences of several Mexican asylum seekers fleeing state-cartel violence and corruption in Mexico, and their subsequent journey through the US immigration system in El Paso, Texas.



Johanna Pokorny is a PhD candidate in socio-cultural anthropology at the University of Toronto. Her doctoral thesis, which is situated at the intersection of anthropology and science studies, follows the laboratory life and knowledge production practices of a group of neuroscientists studying the self in the brain, and how their research participates in shifts in contemporary scientific notions of personhood, knowledge, and the body in North America.

We were also lucky enough to host an outstanding talk by Professor **Mark Geraghty**, who was our last speaker in the old Centre for Ethnography. Professor Geraghty is currently an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto. He previewed his work on the Gacaca court system in Rwanda. He is finalizing a book manuscript on the Rwandan state’s on-going campaign against “genocide ideology” – prohibited in law as “thoughts” of ethnic hatred that threaten the recurrence of genocide.

Michael Lambek Gives Tanner Lecture at University of Michigan

Our very own Professor **Michael Lambek** was invited to give the *Tanner Lecture on Human Values* at the University of Michigan on January 31, 2019. Appointment as a Tanner lecturer is a recognition for uncommon achievement and outstanding abilities in the field of human values. The title of his lecture was “Concepts and Persons.” His paper focused on the need for anthropology to consider conceptual errors. He did this by drawing on his work in Madagascar that focuses on what he calls metapersons (God/s, spirits, demons) considered at once as concepts and persons demanding responses that are both intellectual and ethical.



What’s Behind the Tiny House Craze?

Do tiny houses offer a solution to the affordable housing crisis in Toronto and beyond? Do they invite new forms of sociality, new ethical and political orientations, and new directions in environmental sustainability? **Katie Kilroy-Marac** has recently launched a SSHRC-funded project titled “Dwelling in Possibility: Tiny Houses as conduits for material, social, and ethical transformation.” Working with Kilroy-Marac are three talented UTSC students— Raisa Masud, Natasha Heselden, and Miguel Waltoo. The group is currently conducting ethnographic research related to tiny houses and tiny house communities, and will visit several locations across North America over the next few months.

Above: a Tiny House in Eugene, Oregon (photo by Katie Kilroy-Marac).

Anthropology Department Student Association (ADSA)

We started off the year, holding a painting session at our collaborative winter wonderland event! Our main initiative this semester is our departmental survey to hear from the voices of anthropology students. We will also be hosting two grant-writing sessions for grad school scholarships and activist projects. Keep your eyes open!

Rajpreet Sidhu
ADSA President

The Centre for Ethnography UTSC

This year I have had the pleasure of working with three talented work-study students: Mackenzie Cakebread, Hasan Khan and Zarin Tasnim. Together they have created study times for our students, a highly successful workshop on proper citation practices, and designed this newsletter for the Centre for Ethnography. They bring enthusiasm and energy to all they do. I am especially grateful for their help as we moved into our new digs in Highland Hall.

Donna Young
Director of the Centre for Ethnography UTSC

UPCOMING EVENTS



Distinguished Lecture: March 27, 6:00-8:00 PM HL348
The Stigmatization of Cousin Marriage in Nineteenth-Century America: Transforming the Political-Medical-Hereditary Contours of the National Body Politic by Susan McKinnon

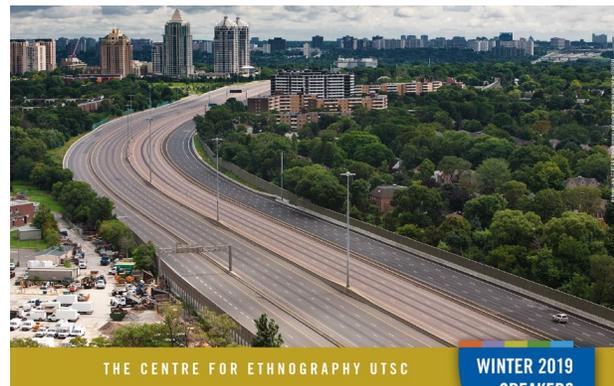
Susan McKinnon is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Anthropology, University of Virginia. Her books include *From a Shattered Sun: Hierarchy, Gender, and Alliance in the Tanimbar Islands* and *Neo-liberal Genetics: The Myths and Moral Tales of Evolutionary Psychology* as well as the co-edited volumes, *Relative Values: Reconfiguring Kinship Studies*; *Complexities: Beyond Nature and Nurture*; and *Vital Relations: Modernity and the Persistent Life of Kinship*. She is currently working on a book about the cultural logic of cousin marriage and its prohibition in the United States.

2018/2019 Winter Speakers Series

This year's theme is "On the Edge: Aspiration, Place-Making, and Life in the Suburbs," inspired by the ANTD15 Frontiers in Socio-Cultural Anthropology Seminar

March 20: 3:00 – 5:00 PM HL348
 Shubhra Gururani, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, York University: *"Life and Death of Ghata Jheel: Arid Hydrology in an Agrarian-Urban Frontier"*

April 3: 3:00-5:00 PM HL348
 Carrienne Leung, PhD, 2019 UTSC
 Writer-in-Residence: *"Space and Identity: Scarborough Stories"*



ON THE EDGE: Aspiration, Place-making and Life in the Suburbs

- March 20**
 Shubhra Gururani, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, York University
LIFE AND DEATH OF GHATA JHEEL: Arid Hydrology in an Agrarian-Urban Frontier 3 - 5pm • HL348
- March 27**
DISTINGUISHED LECTURE
 Susan McKinnon, Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, University of Virginia.
THE STIGMATIZATION OF COUSIN MARRIAGE IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICA: Transforming the Political-Medical-Hereditary Contours of the National Body Politic 6 - 8pm • MW170
- April 3**
 Carrienne Leung, PhD, 2019 UTSC Writer-in-Residence
SPACE AND IDENTITY: Scarborough Stories 3 - 5pm • HL348

For further information contact donnayoung@utsc.utoronto.ca



The Centre for Ethnography was established in 2007 to foster and promote ethnographic research and writing at UTSC. The Centre for Ethnography hosts an exciting annual speakers series, international workshops, undergraduate methods and research seminars, and an annual competition for a fellowship in ethnographic writing. People learning and ethnographic techniques in the Toronto region may all date with the Centre for Ethnography while in Toronto, and are welcome to attend our speakers series and other events.

