Welcome from the Head

The start of an academic year often inspires a sense of hope, renewal, and possibility for new perspectives. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone into this common endeavor as I embark on the first year in my Headship of the Department of Anthropology. The start of the year is also, inevitably, a time of change. As new and returning graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, and staff settle into the 2019/20 academic year, I especially want to recognize the leadership and commitment that Prof. Michael Blake, brought to the Headship over his three-year term. On September 20th we will also be honoring Prof. Pokotylo’s retirement from UBC after more than 40 years of dedicated service in the Department of Anthropology. His calm presence and wisdom will be very much missed. As our Department weathers all these changes, we are fortunate to be supported by a dedicated and hard-working staff.

Our diverse community of 26 faculty, 5 staff, multiple sessional faculty and post-doctoral fellows, at least ten work-learn students, over 70 graduate students, and hundreds of undergraduates are an oasis in an otherwise troubled world. Here in the Department we can continue to grow a space of respectful, intellectual inquiry and thereby fortify ourselves to take on the hard questions facing us today, such as: What gives some people the right to cross national borders and not others? How can societies rethink their relationships to natural resources and reevaluate what it means to be human? And what does reconciliation mean for those who have been disenfranchised from their ancestral lands? In a time defined by extremes of inequality, climate crisis, and ever tightening borders, the world needs anthropology more than ever as we work on creating spaces of refuge where ideas and meaningful communication can flourish.

As we move through this year and you are faced with pressing deadlines and winter rains, I encourage you to take time to get to know our Anthropology community. This year there are any number of ways to do this. You can join faculty, staff, and students gathering every Tuesday morning, 10:30-11:30 for Coffee, Cookies, and Community in the faculty and graduate student lounge (the “lino” lounge). In addition to our periodic seminars scheduled on Thursdays, in mid-November for the first time in Canada a joint meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) and Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) will be held here in Vancouver. Then in early March we are excited to be hosting Dr. Sherry Ortner who will deliver the 2020 Hawthorn lecture. In 2019/20 there will be numerous opportunities to become rooted in our local anthropology community while also engaging with a deeply committed, globally connected world.

Best wishes in 2019/20 for a productive year full of creativity and inspiring, and maybe even transformative, connections!

Dr. Alexia Bloch
Head of Anthropology
26 September: Dr. Daniel Ruiz-Serna
11:30 am-1:00 pm | AnSo 134
"When Forest Run Amok: Violence and its Afterlives in Indigenous and Afro-Colombian Territories"

10 October: Dr. Michael Love
11:30 am-1:00 pm | AnSo 134
"Early Monumental Architecture and Public Ritual at La Blanca, Guatemala"

19 November: Laura Rival
11:30 am-1:00 pm | AnSo 134
"A Career Dedicated to Researching Human/Plant World Making: The UBC Roots"

19 November: Dr. Alpa Shah
5:00-6:30 pm | C. K. Choi 120
"Ground Down by Growth: Tribe, Caste, Class, and Inequality in 21st Century India"

28 November: Dr. Margaret Bruchac
11:30 am-1:00 pm | AnSo 134
"Reverse Ethnography: Strategies for Recovering from Anthropological Search and Rescue"

3 December: Dr. Chan Yuk Wah
2:00-3:00 pm | AnSo 134
"Reluctant Exiles to Voluntary Diaspora: Post 1997 Migrations from Hong Kong"

Part of the UBC Department of Anthropology Colloquium 2019
~ Light refreshments will be served at the reception in the ANSO lounge following the talk ~
Why has India’s astonishing economic growth not reached the people at the bottom of its social and economic hierarchy? Travelling the length and breadth of the subcontinent, this book shows how India’s ‘untouchables’ and ‘tribals’ fit into the global economy.

India’s Dalit and Adivasi communities make up a staggering one in twenty-five people across the globe and yet they remain amongst the most oppressed. Conceived in dialogue with economists, the impact of global capitalism on their lives. It shows how capitalism entrenches, rather than erases, social difference and has transformed traditional forms of identity-based discrimination into new mechanisms of exploitation and oppression.

Through studies of the working poor, migrant labour and the conjugated oppression of caste, tribe, region, gender and class relations, the social inequalities generated by capitalism are exposed.

Alpa Shah was raised in Nairobi, read Geography at Cambridge and completed her PhD in Anthropology at the London School of Economics, where she now teaches as Associate Professor. Her most recent book Nightmarch was shortlisted for the 2019 Orwell Prize for Political Writing and New India Foundation Book Prize.

She has reported for BBC Radio 4 and the World Service and co-curated the photo exhibition, Behind the Indian Boom.
The 2019 Faculty Brown Bag series kicked off on Tuesday, September 17, 11:30-12:30pm with Dr. Nicola Levell giving a curatorial tour of the Museum of Anthropology exhibit "Shadows, Strings, and Other Things: The Enchanting Theatre of Puppets".

Looking ahead, several presentations are scheduled this term; the following presentations will be in AnSo 134:

**September 24, 12-1pm, Dr. Andrew Martindale** spoke on “Recent Explorations in Aboriginal Law: An Archaeological Perspective”

**October 22, 1-2pm, Dr. Darlene Weston** discussed her ongoing bioarchaeological research

**November 12, 12-1pm, Dr. John Barker** will present his research on “Eco-politics in Collingwood Bay, Papua New Guinea”
Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

Application submissions for the UBC Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship are now open.

Killam scholars will receive a $50,000 annual stipend for a maximum of two years, plus a travel research allowance of $4,000 over two years.

Please send in completed applications to anth.head@ubc.ca by Monday, October 21st, 2019.

Congratulations

Killam Doctoral Scholarship
Patrick Morgan Ritchie

Patrick Morgan Ritchie has been awarded a 2019-2020 Killam Doctoral Scholarship for his research on the homeland of the Sts’ailes people in the mid-Harrison River Valley.
Green College Interdisciplinary Series

Indigenous / Science Partnerships: Exploring Histories and Environments

As university-based researchers, we must find ways to move beyond the acknowledgment of historical and ongoing injustice in the treatment of Indigenous peoples in Canada. We aspire to equitable, respectful and transparent partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and, in the context of such partnerships, offer our research capacities in support of Indigenous-defined and led initiatives. These commitments were the catalyst for forming the Indigenous/Science Research Excellence Cluster at UBC—a collective of archaeologists, natural and materials scientists, and philosophers and social scientists who study science practice. With this seminar series our aim is to showcase emerging projects and deepen our exploration of foundational questions about how, through community-engaged work, we can best take up the Calls to Action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

All talks are at Green College in the Coach House and open to the public without charge.

Term I

Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh Nations on First Nations Sovereignty of Cultural Heritage Resources in an Urbanized Environment

Aviva Rathbone, Senior Archaeologist, (Musqueam); Gitxvew Tsoniello, Cultural Heritage Program Manager, Tsleil-Waututh

Wednesday, September 18, 2019, 5:00 pm

First Nations sovereignty over the definition, protection and management of cultural heritage is by and large not recognized by those who hold legislative control over the management of heritage in British Columbia. This is despite the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples’ recognition of the right for Indigenous Peoples to “maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites.” Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations have instead found that this sovereignty can be attained through relationships with municipal governments, archaeology consultancies, academic institutions and other First Nations. These relationships promote the co-management of heritage resources according to Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh’s stated values and goals and exemplify a new model of heritage management in which settler colonialists recognize, support and uphold First Nations sovereignty over the management of cultural heritage without requiring support from legislative bodies.

Working Together to Enhance Ecosystem Sustainability: A Syilx / Settler Science Collaboration

Jeannette Armstrong, Canada Research Chair in Okanagan Indigenous Knowledge and Philosophy, UBC-O; Lael Parrott, Okanagan Institute for Biodiversity, Resilience, and Ecosystem Services, UBC-O

Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 5:00 pm

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and renewed pressures on nation-to-nation treaties (for example, the Columbia River Treaty) have created new opportunities to transform Indigenous-Settler relationships across Canada. UBC Okanagan is demonstrably committed to these goals. UBC has a memorandum of understanding with the Okanagan Nation Alliance and a memorandum of agreement with the Eriel dokhin Centre, both supporting the co-production of ecological knowledge through a respectful partnership between Syilx knowledge holders and western scientists. Still, the pathway towards reconciliation continues; co-production of knowledge is an ongoing process. Drs. Armstrong and Parrott will discuss their shared experiences in leading the development of a collaborative Syilx/UBC research cluster in ecosystem sustainability and resilience. The research cluster is focused on key ecological concerns of Syilx communities, generating evidence, developing capacity to work as partners, and fostering innovative pedagogical initiatives (especially those engaging Syilx youth). Projects within the cluster seek to bridge academic and Indigenous workspaces to co-develop an enhanced understanding of socio-ecological interactions in Okanagan traditional territory. Through this work, a process of collaboration is emerging that may serve as an innovative, international model of respectful research-based collaboration between Indigenous and academic communities.

Listening to Object Witnesses: Decolonizing Research in Museum Collections

Margaret Bruchac, Anthropology Coordinator of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative, University of Pennsylvania

Co-sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Histories Research Cluster

Wednesday, November 27, 2019, 5:00 pm

How do Indigenous objects in museum collections speak to those who collect, curate, observe and claim them? Material traces and techniques obviously reflect particular ecosystems and eras, but do these objects also retain memories of their component parts, of the artisans who created them, and of the intentions spoken into them? Can certain objects communicate across cultural and temporal boundaries, or between human and other-than-human beings? In this talk, Margaret Bruchac discusses strategies for recovering object histories through both material analyses and critical reassessments of imposed categories (art, artifact, trade good) that have distanced objects from their origins and isolated them from others like themselves. Case histories will feature new research into iconic creations – such as a 17th century wooden war club embedded with brass and wampum, and a shell bead wampum belt with a single glass bead – that function as “object witnesses” to entangled colonial settler/Indigenous encounters. Through her practice of “reverse ethnography,” Dr. Bruchac will also reveal how, in many cases, unknown histories can be recovered by tracking the desires and actions of non-Indigenous curators and collectors who transported these objects and stories to physically and conceptually distant locales.
THE ANNUAL CASCA-AAA CONFERENCE

CHANGING CLIMATES

STRUGGLE, COLLABORATION, AND JUSTICE

2019

CASCA-AAA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 20-24, 2019
VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE
WWW.CASCA-AAA-2019.COM
Open until October 14 – a magical exhibition in the UBC Museum of Anthropology
'Shadows, Strings & Other Things: The Enchanting Theatre of Puppets'
Curator: Nicola Levell (associate professor, anthropology)
Curatorial assistant and illustrator: Erika Balcombe (PhD student)

As its title suggests 'Shadows, Strings & Other Things: The Enchanting Theatre of Puppets' is an incredibly dramatic exhibition. Nestled in MOA's Audain Gallery, it contains over 230 puppets from 13 countries in Asia, Europe, and the Americas, ranging from an extraordinary 12-foot high Coast Salish rod puppet called Meh to the exquisite silicone hand-puppets made by the Indigenous filmmaker Amanda Strong and used in her award-winning stop-motion animations that are screening in the gallery. In the exhibition, there are five theatrical stages: each focuses on a specific type of puppet: shadow, string, hand, rod, and stop motion. The theatricality of the exhibition—the dramatic stages, red velvet curtains, hand-illustrated backdrops, animated lighting, playful graphics, theatre chairs, moving pictures, and sound—reflects the brilliance of the core design team and the organizing principles of wonder, enchantment, and play. The fabulous backdrops and the fascias of the hand-puppet booths were illustrated by the talented Erika Balcombe, a design educator and PhD student (UBC, anthropology), who also acted as curatorial research assistant. Using high-quality graphic markers, Erika created scaled illustrations of the different components, such as the Opera dei Pupi proscenium arch and the elaborate backdrop that depicts the interior of a palace. These were scanned, upscaled, printed onto canvas, and mounted on the wooden stage structures.

When you visit don’t forget to take your UBC student card for free entry and don’t forget to take a photo of yourself as a stringed puppet against the graphic wall.
David Pokotylo’s Retirement Dinner: September 20, 2019, La Piazza Dario Ristorante Italiano Restaurant

Professor David Pokotylo has retired after 40 years of full-time dedicated service at UBC, including seven years as Head of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology.

Thank you for your years of hard work and dedication.

Congratulations on your retirement!
Ten Anthropology majors, plus three additional students from other Arts disciplines and Anthropology graduate student Francesca Pegorer, participated in the Go Global Seminar ANTH 403, “Ethnography of Sardinia: Heritage in a Global Context” with Prof. Sabina Magliocco from 3 - 21 June, 2019.

The group stayed in Bessude, Sardinia (Italy), Prof. Magliocco’s field site, in home-stay B&Bs. The seminar was hosted by the Museo Medioevale del Meilogu (Museum of Medieval Meilogu, or MuMe), headed by Prof. Marco Milanese of the University of Sassari. Students heard lectures by professors at the University of Sassari, visited historical and archaeological sites, participated in educational workshops at agro-tourism enterprises, and conducted ethnographic research on the ways Sardinians are interpreting and instrumentalizing their heritage in the context of global tourism.
Golden Letters Arrayed Like Stars and Planets: The Tibetan Culture of Language and Letters


Tibetan language and its historical and continued importance to global culture.

Tibetans regard every syllable of their language as sacred, imbued with the power to liberate beings from suffering. The Tibetan religious corpus is among the vastest of any literatures in history and the sheer reverence with which Tibetans hold their language has been a defining characteristic of this civilization on the world’s highest plateau. This exhibition, which takes its title from a 13th century Tibetan poem, was curated by doctoral student Patrick Dowd. It features sacred scriptures, calligraphy, and numerous other powerful textual objects gathered from three continents and five countries, all representative of the epic, beautiful and ongoing story of the Tibetan culture of language and letters.

The exhibition featured reflections on Tibetan language and its historical and continued importance to global culture.

Co-sponsored by: The Himalaya Program, Institute for Asia Research, the Liu Institute for Global Issues, School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, and Asian Studies, UBC.
Presentations

Basant Ahmed-Sayed

“Japan and Egypt: Connections via Anime and Other Forms of Popular Culture,” Japan Studies Association of Canada (JSAC) annual conference, Mt. Allison University, Sackville, NB, Canada. October 4, 2019.


John Barker


Alexia Bloch


Millie Creighton

“Historical Context and Contemporary Social Movements Showing Japan’s Constitutional Peace Clause (Article 9) as Emblem of Worldwide attempts to Eliminate or Deter War,” The International Conference on War and Social Movements, CUNY Graduate Center, Martin E. Segal Theater. May 10, 2019.


Evan T. Koike


Jennifer Kramer


Emily Leischner


Sabina Magliocco


Bruce Granville Miller


Sara Shneiderman

Eric Simons


Mark Turin


Ana Vivaldi


Publications

John Barker


Maya Daurio


Ezra Anton Greene


Lauren Harding

2019. “This isn’t Canada, it’s Home’: Re-claiming Colonized Space through the Host-Guest Relationship,” *Ethnoscripts* 21, no. 1.
Vinay Kamat


Emily Leischner


Bruce Granville Miller


Mark Turin


Ana Vivaldi


Rafael Wainer

Awards, Grants, and Recognition

Emma Feltes
2019. Dr. Alice E. Wilson Award, Canadian Federation of University Women.

Evan T. Koike

Emily Leischner

Sabina Magliocco

Sara Shneiderman

Mark Turin

The Department of Anthropology and the University of British Columbia are located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

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Please send future contributions to: anth.web@ubc.ca

The material in this bulletin was contributed by the Faculty, Students, Emeriti, Postdocs, Visitors and Staff at the Department of Anthropology, UBC.

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