

UBC ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS

VOL 16 ISSUE NO.4, APRIL 2021



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CONGRATULATIONS



✚ Congratulations Dr. Speller for her promotion to Associate Professor with tenure! This accomplishment recognizes Dr. Speller's globally recognized scholarship, especially in the area of ancient DNA, her stellar teaching record, and her key contributions to service in the Department and beyond.



✚ Dr. Tracey Heatherington received a SSHRC Connections Grant to support a digital conference on the theme Un/Predictable Environments: Politics, Ecology, Agency. The conference is co-organized with colleagues at Queen's University Belfast and the University of Allahabad, and co-sponsored by the UBC Public Humanities Hub in connection with its launch of the Environmental Humanities Working Group.



✚ Dr. Sabina Magliocco and Dr. Heather Robertson received the [Open Champion's Award](#)! For the past two years, the AMS has been working with Open UBC to gather student nominations of instructors for the Open Champion's Award. This award is given to individuals who have made meaningful contributions to Open scholarship and/or have used Open resources in their course to reduce barriers for students. At the virtual event held in November, all champions were commended for their work and the wide array of incredible Open projects created across UBC was celebrated.

✚ Dr. Wade Davis received the Public Service Award, Lifetime Achievement in Canada-Latin America Relations, Canadian Council for the Americas 2021. [See more](#)

✚ PhD student [Maya Daurio](#), along with [Stephen Chignell](#) (Institute for Resources, the Environment, and Sustainability, UBC), are recipients of the 2021 Esri Canada GIS Scholarship for their work on Ecologies of Harm: Mapping Contexts of Vulnerability in the Time of COVID-19 in collaboration with Dr. Leslie Robertson.



MA student [Heather Burge](#) received the Wilson Duff Memorial Scholarship for her work on culture and language revitalization among Tlingit. [Read more](#)

[Elias Alexander](#) completed his MA thesis in April 2021. His thesis title is: "Seoul's Gay Districts: Space, Place, and Identity".

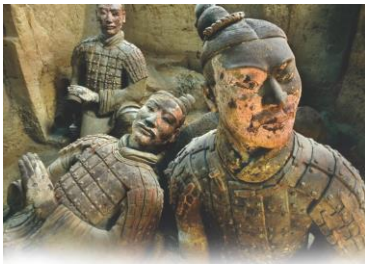
MA student [Emma Jing Li](#) received the Michael Ames Scholarship in Museum Studies for her work on eco-museums in China.

MA student [Erika Balcombe](#) received the Francis Reif Scholarship for her work combining art and design with First Nations contemporary work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anthropology of Media: Now offered in-person or in a live virtual course

Anthropology of media (ANTH 378) is a sub-field of sociocultural anthropology that explores cultural aspects of media production and consumption. This summer, this course will be offered in a concurrent hybrid format for 2021 Summer Term 2. We've created a quick FAQ to answer your questions about this new course delivery format. [Read more.](#)



NEW COURSE

Archaeology of Ancient China

ANTH 202B

This course presents the thrilling tale of ancient China from its earliest beginnings to the first empire through iconic excavations and recent archaeological discoveries – from Peking Man to the Terra-Cotta Army, and from enduring jades to enigmatic bronzes. It explores how archaeology has transformed our understanding of what makes the Chinese culture distinctive.

COURSE DETAILS

Offered virtually
2021 Winter Term I
Tuesdays and
Thursdays
9:30 am – 11:00 am
Registration opens
in May

New course: Archaeology of Ancient China

Archaeology of Ancient China (ANTH 202B) presents the thrilling tale of ancient China from its earliest beginnings to the first empire through iconic excavations and recent archaeological discoveries – from Peking Man to the Banpo village, from Erlitou to Sanxingdui, from Lost Shang City to Terra-Cotta Army, and from enduring jades to enigmatic bronzes. It explores how archaeology has rewritten history and transformed our understanding of what makes the Chinese culture distinctive. [Read more.](#)

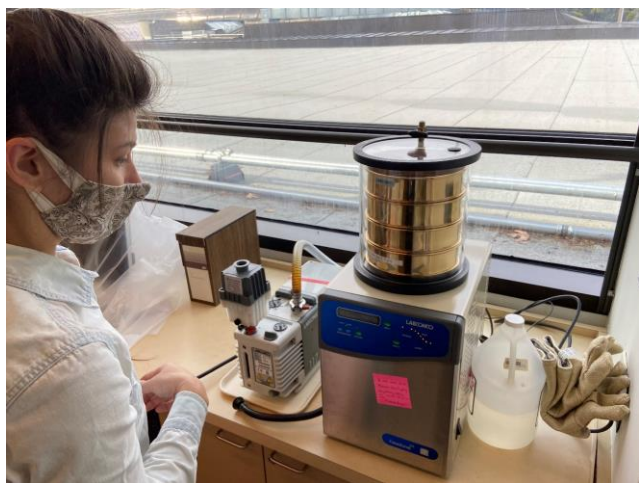


Photo credit: Heidi Swierenga, MOA

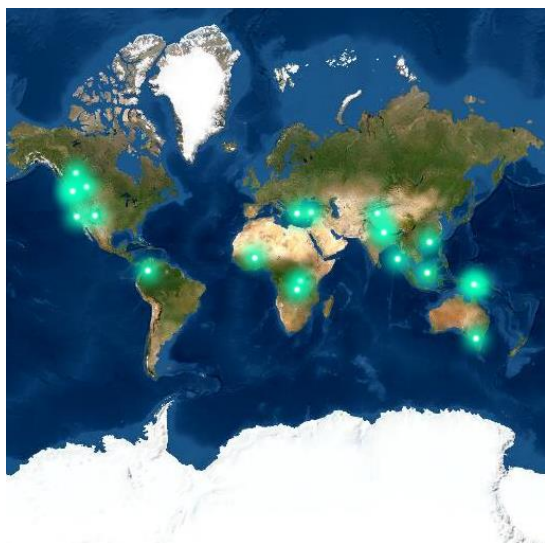
Welcome to Hope La Farge, LOA conservator

The Lab of Archaeology (LOA) team is delighted to have conservator Hope La Farge join us. Hope obtained her Masters in Art Conservation from Queen's University in 2020 with a specialization in objects and a primary interest in Indigenous ethnographic and archaeological materials.

Before coming to LOA, Hope was the conservation intern at MOA where she conserved a house post fragment for Musqueam. She is excited to have been selected for the conservation of Nottingham Farm wet site materials as the project is a partnership between Musqueam (representing a number of First Nations), LOA and MOA. The 280 belongings in this collection include basketry, cordage and modified wood artifacts. They will be preserved for long-term display, research and storage. Hope makes conservation

treatment recommendations to the partners and then follows the approved treatment processes. These include: careful documentation and cleaning of belongings; calculating wood material densities to determine species; and recommending the appropriate polyethylene glycol (PEG) ratio and bath duration for each belonging. Once PEG treatment is completed, belongings are freeze dried and ready for storage. The picture shows Hope observing wet-site basketry in the freeze dryer.

Hope's work with LOA will help inform what future wet-site conservation projects may entail as more and more belongings are being unearthed during archaeological work in the region. As Hope says, none of this would be possible without the support and guidance provided by Musqueam, LOA, and MOA.



Dr. Leslie Robertson, Maya Daurio (ANTH) and Stephen Chignell (IRES) are collaborating on a witness atlas focused on questions about overlapping contexts and conditions that have made life harder for people during the COVID-19 pandemic. We invite researchers and culture workers to contribute.

Ecologies of Harm: Mapping Contexts of Vulnerability in the Time of Covid-19 is open access, intended as a public resource. Here is the project website: <https://blogs.ubc.ca/ecologiesofharmproject/>

It works through an Invitation document (attached) that describes intentions, ethics and working definitions. The last page has the live links to a brief survey that uploads directly to the global map on the website. We intend the surveys as something that may also be done relatively quickly in dialogue with interlocutors / colleagues in various locations. The (attached) Project Information sheet is helpful for that.

We hope the project will gain traction as it moves through different networks of scholars, advocates, culture workers ... - witnesses / people who feel comfortable adding observations about contexts that reveal structural inequalities and make visible social and political determinants of harm. So far, several witnesses have contributed to the beta version (2020) that is visible on the website. We are gearing up for a new round.

It would be wonderful if you might collaborate on the atlas and / or if you know researchers or other witnesses who might wish to collaborate. The survey is very short but we think the descriptions might be useful for complicating ideas about "vulnerability" in the midst of this public health crisis. Please feel free to send on these documents to others. The project is designed to travel.



ALUMNI DISPATCHES



✚ **Gregory Gan** (PhD 2019) was awarded a SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship for his project "Picturing Postsocialism: A Visual Anthropology Study on the Affective Dimensions of "Renovation" of Five-Storey Panel Homes in Moscow and Berlin." The postdoc will be held with CRC 1171 Affective Societies: Dynamics of Social Coexistence in Mobile Worlds at Freie Universität Berlin, supervised by Univ. Prof. Dr. Birgitt Röttger-Rössler, and during his time in Berlin Greg will also be affiliated with the Centre for Anthropological Research on Museums and Heritage at Humboldt-Universität.

✚ **Gregory Gan** was also awarded first prize for his "Impossible Cities" piece submitted to the Migration and Mobility Art Competition sponsored by the UBC Centre for Migration Studies in March. [See more.](#)

✚ **Dr. Kyunghyo Chun** recently received a tenure track position as Assistant Professor at Ewha University in Seoul. Ewha University is a prestigious historic women's university in South Korea.



✚ **Anastasia Rogova** (PhD 2020) has received a post-doctoral fellowship from the University of Houston, Department of Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences. She will be working at Social Determinants / Health Disparities Lab on a variety of research projects focusing on social determinants of health behavior and health disparities among minority and underserved populations.

✚ **Dr. Marlee McGuire** (PhD 2019) has taken a position as Implementation Scientist at the BC Provincial Health Services Authority.



IN THE NEWS

❖ Ubyssy Online: "[Dr. Charles Menzies](#), an anthropology professor, said that he wants to stay away from the "course and a half phenomenon" — referring to instructors who made their classes more difficult now that they're teaching online. "Hope on a post-it note: Students, faculty reflect on a year of COVID-19". [See more.](#)

❖ Dr. [Diana Moreiras](#) was interviewed for a Reuter's news article in relation to Aztec (Mexico) sacrificial practices. Her recently published research was also featured. See article [here](#).



Un/Predictable Environments Digital Conference, May 20 & 21, 2021. The conference aims to explore how we undertake to predict and avoid socio-ecological harm and disasters. How do we frame the issue of 'un/predictability' in our narratives, solutions and practices, and how un/predictable are the intended outcomes? This international conference encourages dialogues around critical and emancipatory practices around research, scholarship, art, and activism. With four distinguished keynote speakers from Delhi, New York, Toronto and Sydney, special film screenings, and multiple participants and organizers representing our own distinguished department, this event transcends disciplinary boundaries, while deeply engaging anthropological interests. Attendance is free and open to the public, but requires advance registration. To learn more: <https://unpredictable-conf-2021.sites.olt.ubc.ca/>

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ANTHROPOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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

Anthropology News is published monthly.

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

The material in this bulletin was contributed by the faculty, students, emeriti, postdocs, alumni, visitors and staff at the Department of Anthropology, UBC.

Production and design details:

E. Pourmohammadi

Coordinator:

E. Asuncion

Faculty Advisors:

A. Bloch and N. Levell

Email Addresses:

Anth.Dept@ubc.ca

Anth.Grad@ubc.ca

Anth.Ugrad@ubc.ca

Website: <http://anth.ubc.ca>



[@anthropologydept.ubc](https://www.facebook.com/anthropologydept.ubc)



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