

# ILLINOIS ANTH ROPO LOGY



FALL 2022

News - Celebrations

Anthropology on  
the News

Karla Harmon

Wendy Wimmer

Anthro Club Special

Dear Anthropology students -current and former-, faculty, supporters and enthusiasts,

We are proud to share an exciting update on what the Department of Anthropology and our people have been up to this year of transition back to 'normal' and our plans for Academic Year 2022-23!

Grab a cup of coffee, tea, or beverage of your choice, and dive in to learn about engaging anthropology, celebrations of accomplishments, mainstream outreach coverage, bittersweet goodbyes, and Anthro Club's activities! Enjoy!

Managing Editor: Dora Kourkoulou

Faculty Liaison: Dr. Jeff Martin



**Faye V Harrison**

Professor Faye V. Harrison had a full year of honors!

On November 17 2021, she gave the Distinguished Lecture at the American Anthropological Association's Annual Meeting. The lecture was streamed live from Baltimore, MD and the Department of Anthropology gathered in person to watch the lecture and celebrate her work!

On March 25 2022, Faye Harrison received the Bronislaw Malinowski Award from the Society of Applied Anthropology and delivered the Malinowski address in Salt Lake City, Utah.

According to the SfAA website, the award is presented annually to an outstanding social scientist in recognition of efforts to understand and serve the needs of the world's societies, and whose career has been devoted to solving human problems using the concepts and tools of social science.

## News, Publications and Celebrations



**Chris Fennell** published a new book, "The Archaeology of Craft and Industry," in the "American Experience in Archaeological Perspective" book series by University Press of Florida, Summer 2021.

Archaeologists investigating sites of craft and industrial enterprise often puzzle over a domain of bewildering ruins. Locations of remarkable energy, tumult, and creativity stand silent. The book provides an overview of the archaeology of American craft and industrial enterprises, outlines developments in theories, research questions, and interpretative frameworks, and presents case studies from a wide range of subjects.

*"Fennell offers us a fresh and exciting expansion of industrial archaeology through the lens of craft production. This book, with its impressive array of case studies, unequivocally demonstrates the relevance of historical and industrial archaeology to the broader anthropological project."* — Charles E. Orser Jr., author of "The Archaeology of Race and Racialization in Historic America."



**Jenny L. Davis**, Anthropology Associate Professor and Director of the American Indian Studies Program has won the Dynamic Woman of the Year Award from the Chickasaw Nation. The award honors "Chickasaw women who have made significant contributions to the Chickasaw Nation and its citizens, served as role models and who have made a difference by enriching their communities and society at large are honored at the annual Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation conference."

Professor Jenny Davis' work to repatriate Native remains on the UofI campus has been instrumental. From starting the process, to co-chairing (along with Professor Ripan S. Malhi) the newly-established NAGPRA office, to meeting with members of tribal communities, Professor Davis has taken on a long, and often painful task.

This process, important on its own right, has set the motion to practices and policies bearing the potential to improve the UofI relations with tribal Nations.

### Professors Ripan S. Malhi and Lyle Konigsberg were elected among the 2021 fellows for the American Association for the American Association for the Advancement of Science



**Ripan S. Malhi** was elected among the 2021 fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Professor Malhi's research involves partnering with North American Indigenous communities on studies that analyze genomic variation to infer their evolutionary histories, including the effects of European colonization. He leads the Malhi Molecular Anthropology lab, and has campus affiliations in the U. of I. School of Integrative Biology, American Indian Studies and in the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology.

Professor Ripan S. Malhi is also the 2022 awardee for the prestigious Robert W. Sussman Award. The award is designed to "recognize meritorious scientific contributions to the field of anthropology by mid-career anthropologists."

In the Award announcement, Professor Malhi is cited as "[exemplifying] the spirit of this award with his remarkable research on human genomics and long-standing commitment to working with indigenous communities."



**Lyle Konigsberg** specializes in developing and improving methods, standards and tools for assessing age, sex and other characteristics from present-day and prehistoric human skeletal and dental remains for application in forensic and archaeological contexts.



**Jane Desmond**

Jane Desmond, Professor in Anthropology and Gender and Women's Studies, spent several months in Goettingen, Germany on a 2022 Fulbright Professorship at Georg August Universitat, teaching in the North American Studies Program there during their spring/summer term.

She writes: I feel very fortunate to have this award, especially because it was delayed half a year due to Covid. Germany's universities just returned to "in presence" (as they say) when their semester started here this April of 2022, and the students are thrilled to be back in the classrooms. I'm teaching courses on ethnographies of a more than human world, and on visual cultures and animals, to students hailing from many different countries--like Iran, Azerbaijan, Morocco, and Ukraine, who are generally not as present on the UIUC campus. They, and my colleagues in the many cities where I've been able to give guest lectures, are terrific--generous, bold and energetic thinkers and wonderful hosts. The past is very present in this town with so much medieval architecture and all the half-timbered houses, and the bronze cobblestones on my street marking the residences and names of Jewish families taken to concentration camps during WWII. At the same time the present is fully felt, especially the Ukraine war taking place so nearby. After more than two years of not leaving the country, it was a joy to be able to work abroad again.

# News, Publications, and Celebrations (continued)



On September 2021, a special issue on Language and White Supremacy was published by the Journal of Linguistic Anthropology.

This groundbreaking contemplation was coedited by our very own Assistant Professor **Krystal A. Smalls**, along with Jonathan Rosa, and Arthur Spears. The special issue features an incredible group of established and emerging scholars and a series of captivating articles, including “*Dis/possession Afoot: American (Anthropological) Traditions of Anti-Blackness and Coloniality*,” co-written by Anthropology Associate Professor **Jenny Davis**, and **Krystal Smalls**.



Professor **Virginia R. Dominguez** was this year’s recipient of the Hazel Weidman Award for Exemplary Service to the Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA), the leading professional association of medical anthropologists!

Established in 2017, the Hazel Weidman Award is presented every two years to a member who has, *over the course of a career, demonstrated extraordinary service to the profession.*

**Paul A. Garber**, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Anthropology, was elected **President of the American Society of Primatologists**. His term as President-Elect of ASP begins in late August. He is also an Associate Editor of the journal Science Advances, which is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has an Impact Factor of 14.14.



Professor **Kathryn Clancy** earned this summer the Provost’s Distinguished Promotion Award.

The award is offered to a small percentage of academics whom the Campus Committee for Promotions and Tenure identifies as “exceptional cases of scholars whose contributions have been extraordinary in terms of quality of work and overall achievement.”

Prof. Clancy’s “truly exceptional” and “stellar achievements” are recommended for “special recognition based on the scope, quality, and impact of [her] scholarship, teaching, service, and engagement efforts.”



Single Use Plastics Elimination and Reuse Protocols for Labs (SUPERLabs), a project by Anthropology Assistant Professor **Jessica Brinkworth** was recently awarded an \$81,865 grant to reduce dependency on single-use plastics by developing protocols for plastics reuse. SUPERLabs is funded by the Student Sustainability Committee, which has funded 316 projects across campus, and allocated \$15.55 million in funds since 2008.

An article by Alisa King-Kemperer at the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology (IGB) features Dr Brinkworth, PhD students **Negin Valizadegan**, **Rachel Rusen** and **Grace Shaw**, undergraduate students **Nichole Mischak**, **Ben Garcia**, **Kamile Aleksaite**, **Katy Simmons**, **Ayaa Tamam**, and **Sofia Rivera**, former undergraduate student **Katie Van Etten**, former undergrads **Kyle Boshardy**, **Alex Alvarado** and **Priya**

**Bhatt**, and former lab member **Heather Hicks**.

Professor Brinkworth, along with doctoral student **Grace Shaw** recently published an article in the Yearbook of Biological Anthropology highlighting sepsis’s unequal effect on Black, Indigenous and People of Color.



UI Clinical Associate Professor, **Korinta Maldonado**, and the collective **Pixan Konob’**, which she founded in 2019, have worked tirelessly through the pandemic to ensure that everybody stays informed. This intricate challenge involves translating, language and units to Mayan languages speaking immigrants and their families from Guatemala. According to the Guatemalan consulate, approximately 8,000 speakers of Mayan language reside in central Illinois. For this work, Professor Maldonado was awarded the 2021 Immigrant Leadership Award from the Champaign-Urbana Immigration Forum.



**Jonathan Larson**, Research Associate in the Department of Anthropology, will be moving from his position as Associate Director of the European Union Center to a new tenure-track faculty position in education at Grinnell College in Iowa.

# News, Publications, and Celebrations (continued)



**Erin P Riggs**, an assistant professor in our Department is a contemporary and historical archaeologist with interests in welfare state initiatives, materiality, national belonging, and displacement in the recent past. Among the talks she gave this year one was titled "Public Memory vs. Patterned Landscapes in Post-Partition Delhi" with the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

The other was titled "Is 'Displacement' Debilitating? An Archaeology of Post-Partition Resettlement in Delhi" and was given at the India Oxford Initiative.



Community engagement and excellence in research and practice are some of the core strengths of the Department of Anthropology. Clinical Associate Professor **Cris Hughes** is contributing to this tradition with a long list of achievements to celebrate! In one of her latest accomplishments, Dr. Hughes achieved Active Diplomate status with the American Board of Forensic Anthropology, after a rigorous certification process. Since 1977, only 163 professionals have been awarded the ABFA Diplomate status, and Dr. Hughes now serves as one of the only two active Diplomates in our state.

Dr. Hughes took her commitment to forensic practice even further. She and Professor Ripan Malhi have been in discussions with the Illinois State Police (ISP) to explore ways in which the university can collaborate to offer expertise and potential research opportunities for furthering forensics science practice within the state of Illinois. As a result, UIUC's Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology recently had the distinguished opportunity to host the inaugural meeting of the Illinois Forensic Science Commission, one of only 11 similar entities across the US. The Commission is tasked with finetuning forensic practices across the state of Illinois, and Dr. Hughes' appointment to the Commission as the academic representative is currently being considered by the state.



Graduate students **Nicole Cox** and **Dilara Caliskan** were awarded an HRI Graduate Student Fellowship for AY 2022-23!

Cox's dissertation research "investigates the presence of dancing in India's cultural relations, a foreign relations practice that connects people abroad with the heritage, people, or cultural practices of India.

Caliskan's dissertation focuses on trans and queer forms of memory transmission and relatedness in Turkey.



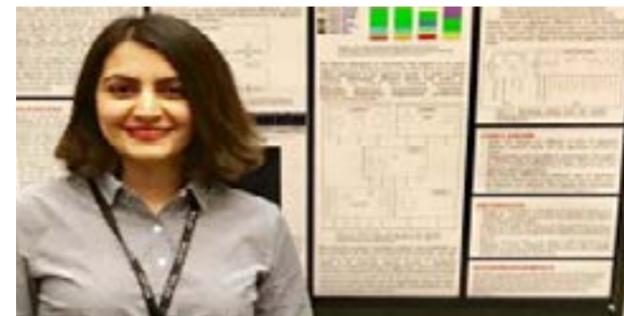
**Grazzia Grimaldi** has been co-awarded the Joseph B. Casagrande - Ethnography Award along with Michelle Patiño-Flores



**Tatiana Niculescu** has been awarded the 2022 Edward M. Bruner Award.



**Brianna Rivera** has been awarded the 2022 Nancy Ablemann Award



**Negin Valizadegan** and **Jeongsu Shin** have been awarded the Demitri B. Shimkin Award for 2022.



**Michelle Patiño-Flores** has been awarded the George L. Beslow Award and shared the Joseph B. Casagrande - Ethnography Award with **Grazzia Grimaldi**.

# Anthropology in the News!

Illinois Anthropology Professors and Graduate students have received significant recognitions this year, including outreach and mainstream media publications! Here is a curated list!



Professor **Laura Shackelford**'s research in the Annamite Mountains of Laos is shedding light to mystery. She and collaborator Fabrice Demeter, a paleoanthropologist at the Lundbeck Foundation GeoGenetics Centre in Copenhagen, Denmark, have uncovered pieces of human remains from the Denisovans, an ancient human group that split from their relatives, the Neanderthals, 400,000 years ago.

According to the National Geographic, which features and partially funded the research, the discovery is important, not only because it offers a much more extended sample of bones and teeth of the Denisovans than the limited ones we had had to this day. The finds confirm that the Denisovans had traveled beyond what we had already known of them, and left their genetic fingerprint in most modern people of Asian descent.

Besides the [National Geographic](#), Professor Shackelford's big discovery has been featured in other very prominent publications, such as the [NY Times](#), and the [Smithsonian Magazine](#)!



Professor Andrew Orta's recent book, "Making Global MBAs: The Culture of Business and the Business of Culture" (2019) is featured in the Home/Field website of the Society for the Anthropology of North America.

In [the feature piece](#), Professor Orta talks in depth to Nazli Azergun about the experience of ethnographic research within MBA training settings, and contemporary globalization and neoliberalism-dictated challenges on institutions of higher education.

Professor **Ripan S. Malhi**'s research on genomic research on present-day members of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe has been featured on the [Illinois News](#). Professor Malhi has also been quoted by the [New York Times](#), along with Professor **Lisa Lucero** for their views on ethics of anthropological and archaeological research.

Professor **Jane Desmond** has also been quoted by the [New York Times](#) for her work on on the contested practices of writing pet lives into the historical record though pet obituaries.

Professor **Jenny Davis**' work on NAGPRA to repatriate Native remains, along with Professor Malhi's contributions to the effort have received attention and coverage by mainstream publications and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences outreach [news publication](#).

# Karla Harmon retired August 31!



This person of honor needs no introduction to anyone who has interacted with the Department of Anthropology in any capacity over the last 32 years! More than an office manager, Karla has been a valued colleague, friend, supporter and champion for our department.

Saying goodbye is bittersweet. She is being dearly missed, but we know she will have more time for her family, home, hobbies and well-deserved time off!

Thank you, Karla, for a lifetime of service! Congratulations on your retirement, and please, keep in touch!

# Welcome Wendy Wimmer!



Ms. Wendy Wimmer is joining the Anthropology Department Office Staff this Fall as our new Administrative Aide.

Wendy comes to us with a wealth of valuable campus experience across the sciences and humanities as well as higher administration, including the Physics department, the School

of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, and the Graduate College.

In 2019, Wendy received an inaugural Gary Kelly Staff Excellence Award.

Welcome Wendy!

# Anthro Club Special!

Our students are the soul of Anthropology, our future and our goals. We cheer on their activities and take pride of their (many) accomplishments! Anthro Club is the student-led organization which embodies collegial support, intellectual inquiry, career development and, of course, fun! As the AY 2021-22 board is passing the torch onto the new one, we share some pictures from this awesome year, and thank President Brooke Blaszyński, Membership Chair, Nico Herrera, and Treasurer Sofia Rivera! Special thanks to faculty liaison, Professor Andrew Orta

Welcome New Board!

Membership Chair: Sara Kiel  
Treasurer: Jocelyn Rubi  
Vice President: Abril Stoddard  
President: Izabel Acosta



**Quad Day**



**Majors/Minors Fair**



**Trivia Night**



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Department of Anthropology is on the lands of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands were the traditional territory of these Native Nations prior to their forced removal; these lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

As a land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution for the past 150 years. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgement and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward for the next 150 years.



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