

SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS

FALL 2020



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STAY CONNECTED

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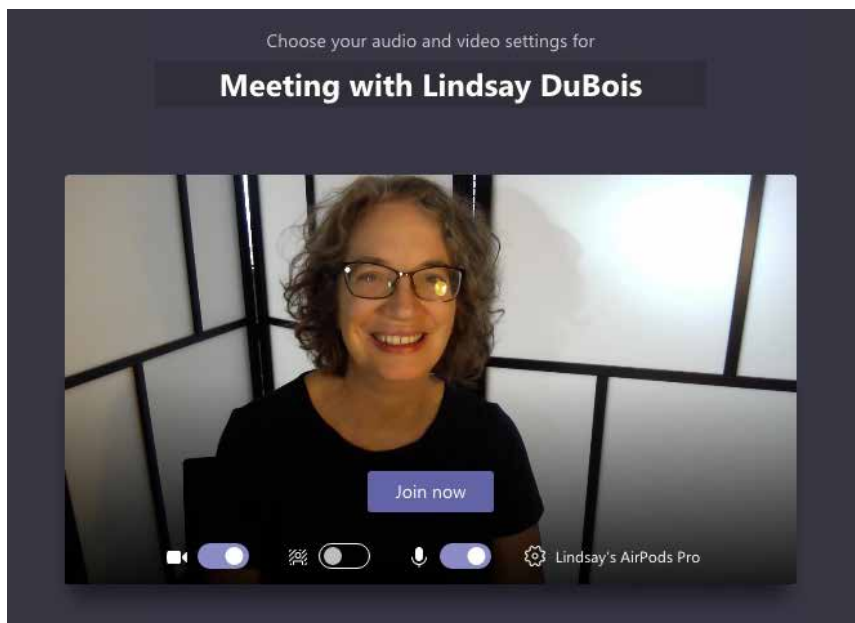
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CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Chairing amidst a pandemic.

I HOPE THAT THIS NEWSLETTER finds you and yours safe and well. These are trying times, and as such ripe for sociological and anthropological analysis. C. Wright Mills anyone? (As many SOSA alum will recall, C. Wright Mills called on us to employ our 'sociological' imaginations by turning our trained gazes on the problems that confront the world we live in.) Sitting down to write this greeting which opens a newsletter about what the SOSA community has been up to for the last two year seems odd. I find myself engrossed in the peculiar present and near future of social change and online EVERYTHING. Yet there are a lot of changes in SOSA --some exciting, some bittersweet-- that we want you to know about. Our faculty, students, visitors and alumni have been up to diverse and impressive things.

Bittersweet first, I think. In 2019 Pauline Gardiner Barber officially retired from Dal... to become an Emeritus Professor, complete with PhD students, ongoing research grant, and her usual energy. Nonetheless the department took a moment to thank Pauline for her transformative role in SOSA (see photos page 11). In July 2020, Howard Ramos moved on to take a position as Chair of

the Department of Sociology at Western University, in London, ON. Howard has truly left his mark not just on SOSA, but on Dalhousie more broadly and our local community. Howard's commitment to informing public debates on pressing issues of the moment (C. Wright Mills again) means that you may well have

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE *cont'd*

heard his voice, or read his op-eds, not just in the local Nova Scotia media, but on the national stage. We thus look forward to continuing to be informed by his incisive commentary on current social issues – even though not in front of our SOSA photocopier anymore. We wish him very well.

We more wholeheartedly celebrate other transitions. We have been joined by two tenure track faculty, Tim Bryan and Michael Halpin bring new, and compelling teaching and research expertise to the department. Tim's work on how police deal with hate crimes could not be more timely. Michael Halpin, for his part, takes up the pressing question of how life scientists explain social problems. In the last two years we have been fortunate to host two eminent visiting scholars. In 2018-19 anthropologist Smadar Lavie held Dalhousie's Simon and Riva Spatz Visiting Chair in Jewish Studies. In 2019-20 we hosted another anthropologist, Jessaca Leinaweaver, Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Society and Culture at Dalhousie

University. (See inside to learn what they got up to while here.). We are also very fortunate that Tsafrir Gazit will continue to teach with us full time, while Jonathan Amoyaw begins a two-year stint with us this fall.

Then Coronavirus hit. In-person classes switched to online with only a week's hiatus to get organized. Our honours and graduate students had their final presentations remade by the virus. The honours students presented their final work to each other online, while MA students made online presentations of their research proposals to the wider department. It is quite amazing how well everyone has adapted to our weird circumstances. I think you will be impressed by the array of topics our students are working on (see inside pages).

Which brings us to the present. As you may have heard, Dalhousie is pretty much all online this year. SOSA faculty have worked tirelessly (well maybe we got tired, but you know what I mean...) over the summer to figure out how to offer our engaging, relevant and

rigorous curriculum in online formats. It is a big experiment, we are learning a lot, but we hope it ends soon. As hard as we are trying to recreate the magic, I doubt there is anything like the personal face-to-face connections that make working, teaching and conducting research in our SOSA community so rewarding.

Something tells me 2020 will be a watershed moment. And of course, it isn't just coronavirus and its fallout that I am thinking of here. Urgent conversations about race, racism, and colonialism are front and center in the wider society. Amidst these multiple crises, our sociological (and anthropological) imaginations are imperative. We hope that you, our SOSA alumni, find yourselves well served by the tools for critical enquiry and engagement which our disciplines offer.

Wishing you strength and health.

Lindsay DuBois, Chair

FACULTY UPDATES

TIMOTHY BRYAN

This past year was Dr. Timothy Bryan's first year at Dalhousie University and in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology. Dr. Bryan had an exciting and eventful year which began with his move to Halifax from Toronto. In the fall, he successfully developed and taught two courses: SOSA 2181 Explaining Crime and Criminal Behaviour and SOSA 3285 Sociology of Law. He also received the Dalhousie University Belong Fellowship Award and began a new research project that examines the policing of hate crimes in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Building on his previous research, Dr. Bryan's new research project examines how law enforcement and non-law enforcement agencies collaborate to combat hate crime in Halifax. In November 2019, Dr. Bryan presented his research at the panel discussion and workshop entitled Policing Black Lives; is this too Much Noise about Nothing held at Dalhousie and in June 2020 Dr. Bryan was featured in Dalhousie's Ask an Expert series where he discussed police violence, race, and racism.

AFUA COOPER

In Sept. 2019, Afua Cooper as chair of the scholarly panel, that examined Lord Dalhousie's History on Slavery and Race, launched the report of the same name. The *Report* delved into the founder of the university, Lord Dalhousie's troubled relationship with the Nova Scotian Black community, and the links of the university to Caribbean and Atlantic slavery. The *Report* was based on three years of historical research. It stands as a great contribution to Dalhousie's curricular interventions, and EDI initiatives. This report makes Dalhousie the first Canadian university to investigate the imbrications between race, slavery, and higher education. As a result of the *Report* Dalhousie joined the Universities Studying Slavery (USS) Consortium. [<https://www.dal.ca/dept/ldp/findings.html>] The *Report* inspired the Army Museum of Halifax to donate Richard Rudnicki's painting "*Freedom Halifax, 1814*" to Dalhousie. Ken Hynes, the curator of the Army Museum explains that after reading the *Report*, "he was inspired to do something beyond just

giving permission to print an image— instead, he would deliver Rudnicki's original painting to Dalhousie to display publicly for a long-term period." The painting shows the arrival of some of the Black Refugees of the War of 12 landing at Halifax Harbour. Dr. Cooper had used the painting as one of the images in the *Report*.



Afua Cooper with Richard Rudnicki's "Freedom Halifax, 1814."

In addition, Dr. Cooper helped in the creation of "Jamaican-Nova Scotian Connections" Exhibit which opened at Pier 21 Immigration Museum in Feb. 2020. It will run until Oct. 2020. The exhibit highlights the almost three hundred-year connection between the island of Jamaica and the province of

FACULTY UPDATES *cont'd*

Nova Scotia. The Jamaican Maroons who were deported off the island by the British after the Second Maroon War in 1796 are featured in this exhibit. The Maroons were transported to Halifax, Nova Scotia. They helped in the construction of the Citadel Fortress. In April 2019, Afua received the Canadian Muslim Women Who Inspire award from the Canadian Council of Muslim Women, for her work in Black studies, poetry, and human rights. In Sept. 2020, Roseway Publishing (an imprint of Fernwood) releases *Black Matters: Poetry and Photography in Dialogue*. *Black Matters* is an artistic collaboration between Afua Cooper and German scholar and artist Wilfried Raussert.

LINDSAY DUBOIS

Much of Dr. DuBois' time has been taken up with chairing a lively department. But time still permitted continuing work on Argentina's important conditional cash transfer program. One of the highlights over this last while was participating in a Symposium marking the 10th anniversary of the conditional cash transfer program in Buenos Aires in July of 2019. The conference made possible a quick trip to revisit colleagues and friends in Argentina, and to touch base on the ever-shifting terrain of Argentine politics and social policy. It was gratifying that that symposium offered an opportunity to publish in Spanish, in the form of a book chapter with former student Justine Correia. Later that year, DuBois presented on the CCT as class warfare, at CASCA/AAA conference in the spectacular Vancouver conference center. Work with graduate students has been particularly varied and engaging and educational over the last while. She has had the pleasure of supervising students on such varied topics as Cuba's double currency system, Acadian popular memory, the Canadian middle class imperative to own a home, the political possibilities of freelance digital workers, and the place of play for marginalized Brazilian youth (apologies to the students whose work was just reduced to a phrase!)

LAURA ERAMIAN

Dr. Eramian is delighted to have been awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor this year. She published two peer-reviewed journal articles that appear in *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale* and *Housing Studies*, and she co-published a third article in *Genocide Studies and Prevention*. She also co-organized a session on the anthropology of friendship and co-presented a paper on her collaborative research on difficult friendships at the 2019 joint conference of the American Anthropological Association and Canadian Anthropology Society. At the conference, she was awarded an Honourable Mention for the Labrecque-Lee Book Prize for her monograph, *Peaceful Selves: Personhood, Nationhood, and the Post-Conflict Moment in Rwanda*. In teaching and supervisory activities, she thoroughly enjoyed working with several wonderful graduate students this year and three groups of enthusiastic students

in her introductory and advanced undergraduate courses. Finally, in more personal news, Dr. Eramian is thrilled to have given birth to a baby girl in June 2020.



Laura Eramian receives 2019 Honourable Mention in the Labrecque-Lee book prize from Richard Lee himself.

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SOSA people (and friends) at a Zoom baby shower for Laura and Peter.

FACULTY UPDATES *cont'd*

ELIZABETH (LIZ) FITTING

Liz Fitting has started two new, overlapping, research projects: the first examines debates about social reproduction by focusing on the experiences of Jamaicans and Mexicans in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program on Nova Scotian farms; the project is funded by a SSHRC Insight Grant (2019-2024) and expands on research she started twenty years ago with Mexican migrants and farmers. Liz is also a Co-Investigator on a second project exploring the global political economy of Nova Scotia's local food movement, with two Dal colleagues, Dr. Catherine Bryan and Dr. Karen Foster, and in collaboration with, and funded by, the Mobile Lives Forum. Over the past two years, Liz taught three new courses: one on Migration and Identity, another on The Environment and Culture, which focuses on political ecology and environmental racism, and a third called Globalizations, co-taught with Dr. Ruben Zaiotti, as an introductory course to sociology, anthropology and political science. Liz has finished a couple of publications recently: a chapter on GM crops and the remaking of Latin America was published in *Placing Latin America: Contemporary Themes in Human Geography* (eds. Bosco and Jackiewicz, 2019) and a co-authored chapter examining Colombian seed activism is currently in press for an edited collection called *The Social Life of Standards* (eds. Graham, J.E., Holmes, C.P., McDonald, F., and Darnell, R., 2021). Two of Liz's graduate students have completed, or are about to complete, their degrees during the COVID-19 pandemic: congratulations to Lexie Milmine, who wrote a sociology thesis entitled "Don't Throw Glitter on our Carpet": Cultivating Queer Safe Space(s), and to Martine Panzica, an MA student in International Development Studies, who defends her thesis on the use of information and communication technologies among queer refugees in Canada this summer.

KAREN FOSTER

Since the last newsletter, Karen has been crisscrossing the province conducting interviews for her Insight-funded project on rural family business succession, sometimes with a photographer in tow, experiencing the best parts of being a social researcher, occasionally getting stuck on muddy farm roads and, in one

instance, knocking over a giant planter with a monstrous rented pickup truck. The Rural Futures Research Centre has been busy conducting several telephone surveys, thanks to a team of amazing undergraduate interviewers and graduate interviewers and supervisors. It also has a shiny new website at www.rfrcc.ca. In 2019, Karen, Dr. Fitting and Dr. Catherine Bryan (Social Work) received a \$170K grant from the EU Mobilities Forum to conduct mixed methods research about the global footprint of the local food movement in Nova Scotia. All components of the project have been proceeding apace, with support from research associate Jason Ellsworth, despite the curveball thrown by COVID19. With the soon-to-depart Dr. Ramos, Karen is also a co-investigator on an OFI-funded study of social perceptions of climate change, which hired a post-doctoral fellow. The PDF, Dr. Gillian Kerr, will join us at Dalhousie in August. Two other projects—a survey of Sociology graduates about their career pathways, and a survey of young adults with Autism about their housing desires—were stalled by the pandemic but are now picking back up. As of July 1st, 2020, Karen will go on her first sabbatical with a naively optimistic plan to get a bunch of things done. She has also been enjoying bike rides and hikes near home.

LIESL GAMBOLD



Drs. Tonya Canning, Liesl Gambold and Brian Campbell at SOSA graduation reception.

Dr. Liesl Gambold has been quite focused on bringing two of her Social Anthropology PhD students (Canning and Campbell) and an MA student (Peel) through to completion. This is always a very celebratory time for the

entire department! As Coordinator of the Gender and Women's Studies (GWST) Program, she chaired the Unit Review of the Program which resulted in recognition that GWST is a critical program at Dalhousie and needs to maintain strong support to meet the needs of DAL students who continue to enrol in GWST classes in large numbers. Liesl also presented papers at two international conferences: the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) joint conference with the American Anthropological Association - "Senior Housing and the LGBTQ Community" in Vancouver, and; the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) conference in Gothenburg, Sweden, "Meeting the Needs of Older LGBT Persons through Specialized Community Housing". Both papers were developed through research that Liesl carried out in the European Union. She also had the exciting experience of teaching a class for senior students in the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie focusing on Qualitative Research Methods and Interviewing Techniques. In 2019 Liesl became a Board Member of the Access to Justice and Law Reform Institute of Nova Scotia. She continues work as a co-investigator on the CMHC/SSHRC funded project funded "Housing Policy and Older LGBT Adults" and will be a co-author on upcoming publications. Finally, Liesl is working on a manuscript examining "Aging by Design" and various forms of senior housing.

TSAFRIR GAZIT

Dr. Gazit has been working on several projects over the last year. The first encompasses the social science component of the Ocean Tracking Network with a final paper discussing the history and development of the OTN written with Dr. Apostle, a SOSA emeritus professor. The second paper analyzes the funding-research-policy process as well as the links between government funded scientific endeavors and the resulting scientific knowledge and its transition into policy (sociology of knowledge). This research followed the ways OTN data and technology are being presented to and are used by different actors, such as external scientists, fishery management, NGOs, coastal and inland communities, and the like. During the past three years, Dr. Gazit has been studying the impact

FACULTY UPDATES *cont'd*

of the “Overlanding” movement in the USA and in Canada. This study has many faces as our social and environmental landscape change. The main focus is on the impact of overlanding on semi/nonregulated open spaces from a policy perspective as well as from a cultural phenomenon perspective. This summer Dr. Gazit was planning to do his fieldwork. However, due to Covid-19 the initial plan postponed to next year. One unexpected outcome of Covid-19 was the exponential rise of local overlanders due to international and provincial / state border closures. This forced an adaptation of the original research plan. Other ongoing projects include environmental, risk perception, and activism in the energy sector, and the shifting patterns of formal and informal environmental activism.

JEAN-SEBASTIEN GUY

Despite the pandemics, this last year has been a great year for Jean-Sébastien for two main reasons. First, his book with Palgrave-Macmillan was released in September 2019. You can now get your copy of *Theory Beyond Structure and Agency: Introducing the Metric/ Nonmetric Distinctions*. Second, he has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor! In addition, Jean-Sébastien has published (1) an article entitled “Sexuality and systems theory: from symbiotic mechanism to functional differentiation” in the Italian journal *Sociologia e politich sociali*; (2) a chapter (in French) entitled “La sexualité comme système social” in the volume *Intimités et sexualités contemporaines* edited by Chiara Piassezi, Martin Blais, Julie Lavigne and Catherine Lavoie Mongrain (Presses de l’Université de Montréal); (3) a book review of Peter Baehr’s *The Unmasking Style in Social Theory* for the *Canadian Journal of Sociology*. Moreover, he has submitted an article entitled “Durkheim meets Cthulhu: the impure sacred in H. P. Lovecraft” to the *Journal for Cultural Research*. Jean-Sébastien was planning to attend the Canadian Sociological Association’s conference this year, for which he had created three sessions. When the conference was cancelled due to COVID-19, he organized in replacement for it a virtual mini-colloquium with other members of CSA’s relational sociology research cluster. The colloquium was held on June 12 on

Zoom.

MICHAEL HALPIN

The big news for me is that my daughter, Audrey, was born on May 4th 2019. She’s super curious and wonderful. I am also excited to join the SOSA department as an Assistant Professor (as of July 1) and look forward to contributing to the department for years to come. In terms of research, my paper detailing how neurobiologists explain social issues has been accepted for publication in *Social Problems*, while another paper on disadvantage and prodromal Huntington Disease has been accepted at *Society and Mental Health*. With a colleague of mine at the University of Texas – Austin, I’ve published a paper in the *Sociology of Health & Illness* on doctor-patient interactions involving experimental medications for terminal cancer. I was also very happy to co-author an encyclopedia entry on social isolation with Kayla Preston (one of our SOSA grad students). Kayla has been my RA for a SSHRC Explore study on socially isolated men, and she is an all-around a great collaborator. Most of my conferences were cancelled due to COVID-19, but I will be doing a virtual presentation at the Society for the Social Studies of Science in August.

CHRISTOPHER HELLAND

In February 2019, Professor Helland’s former spouse (Dr. Sandra Alfoldy) passed from Cancer. Professor Helland took leave at that time for mental health issues and to care for their two teenage boys. He is thankful to the support he received from Dalhousie University’s Human Resource Department and is happy to be returning to work in September 2020. While on leave, Professor Helland, at the request of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, presented a paper on his current research project for a panel on Religion and Innovation in Washington, DC. Helland’s research examined the use of Computer Mediated Communication by the Dalai Lama and new ritual activities in 3D virtual reality environments. [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9-e6i9oBrA&list=LLavmdHwmYM9l7-jbm75rK6w&index=47>] Starting this Fall, Professor Helland will be returning to the Luce Funded project “Public

Religion and Public Scholarship in the Digital Age” centered at the University of Boulder Colorado. He will also continue his work on a Collaborative Research Grant supported by the American Academy of Religion for the project “Video Games and Value Systems” with the University of Helsinki.

FIONA MARTIN

Over the last two years, Fiona has worked on several local, national and international projects. She has been collaborating with colleagues in the Maritimes on a CIHR-funded CBR grant based in Nova Scotia, titled “Preventing the spread of HIV: The critical role of addiction treatment services,” while also continuing her own research on the provision of OST to pregnant women in Nova Scotia. She and local colleagues also recently submitted an application to CIHR to undertake a ‘rapid-response’ study of drug addiction treatment transformation due to COVID-19. She has also participated in a Michael Smith Health Research Foundation-funded learning alliance to address the needs of caregivers for those engaged with the substance use treatment system in Canada. She and colleagues from the U.K., the U.S. and Australia were recently awarded a three-year ESRC (U.K.) grant to conduct a relational ethnography of parents who use opioids’ experiences of the health and social care system. In terms of writing and publications, Fiona co-edited and contributed to a themed section of the *International Journal of drug policy* on the governance of parenting and substance use, published in the Winter 2019, and co-authored a recent paper on policy responses to parental substance use in the journal *Contemporary Drug Problems*, to be published this year. Fiona has also enjoyed working with excellent graduate students over the last two years, as a supervisor and as the graduate co-ordinator for the SOSA Department.

BRIAN NOBLE

Over the last year, supported by a SSHRC Exchange grant and a FASS Burgess Research Award, Dr. Noble has continued to advance the “Crows, Coyotes, Humans, Treaty” collaborative

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research project. The project brings together Indigenous knowledge holders from three First Nations – Mi'kmaq, Piikani Blackfoot, and Secwepemc – guided respectively by Dr. Sherry Pictou, Elders Reg and Rose Crowshoe, and Kukpi7 Judy Wilson. This intensive multi-year collaborative exchange is a new, socially- and politically-pressing interdisciplinary, Inter-epistemic research initiative drawing knowledge holders of these Indigenous Nations into direct conversation with Biological and Social Scientists / legal experts, activating around Settler Canadian and Indigenous Peoples Treaty and Earth-sustaining obligations. Crows and Coyotes – or corvids and canids – are amazingly present and highly adaptive beings both ecologically and eco-socially in the life and storied worlds of Indigenous Peoples, as they are indeed in circuits of Settler Canadian, “cosmopolitan” life and scientific worlds. The aim of these intensive conversations, between peoples and engaging non-human species, is to learn from critical human-creature relations, both how to live well with them, with each other, and to activate our shared and contrasting knowledges in reconciling relations on the threatened lands we inhabit together so precariously. The research seeks to embody decolonial action, support Indigenous Peoples' territorial authority, aligning in turn with the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Dr. Noble has partnered as Co-PI with PI Dr. Colin Scott at McGill University in submitting a Letter of Intent via the NFRF-Transformations program, to gather strong funding support for this project, under the umbrella of the international initiative “Territories of Life: Indigenous Visions for a Future Worth Living”. He welcomes queries from prospective students to engage in this research!

On other fronts, Dr Noble was very pleased to learn that his Co-edited volume *Transcontinental Dialogues: Activist Alliances with Indigenous Peoples of Canada, Mexico and Australia* has been chosen to become an open access e-book through the international program “Knowledge Unlatched”. It is also going to be translated and republished in Spanish by the Mexico City based academic / activist publisher, IWGIA-Pochote Press-CIESAS. Proceeds of the Spanish language volume will be

donated to the youth-focused language restoration and activist project *Hablemos Chatino para que Siga la Palabra* (“Speak Chatino so our word will prevail”) in Oaxaca, Mexico.

ROBIN OAKLEY

Robin Oakley has a paper in press exploring colonial-era reserves, health and well-being and published one book review in *American Ethnologist*. Among some of the courses taught were Health and Culture, Health, Illness and the World System, Myth, Meaning, Ritual and Symbol, Qualitative and Field methods and Aging Cross Culturally.

MARTHA RADICE



Martha Radice chats with Ed Liebow, Executive Director of the AAA (photo credit: AAA)

Dr Martha Radice has been continuing her SSHRC-funded ethnographic research on carnival practices in New Orleans. Framed as a contribution to the anthropology of happiness, this project has led Martha to develop an upper-level seminar called ‘Happiness, Play, and Celebration,’ which has been as enjoyable to teach as the name suggests! Relatedly, she also won the competition to host the next MacKay Lecture Series on the topic ‘Happiness in Troubled Times,’ which has been postponed to 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Martha’s earlier research is still making waves: her article ‘Putting the Public in Public Art’ (Radice 2018) was one of the top 20 most downloaded articles in the urban anthropology journal *City & Society* that year. Martha was kept busy serving as Past President (2017-2018) of the Canadian Anthropology Society/ Société canadienne d’anthropologie (CASCA) and co-organizing CASCA’S unprecedented joint conference with the American Anthropological Association, held in Vancouver in November 2019. After this grand

effort, Martha took a welcome six-month sabbatical leave to carry on her research in New Orleans, where MA student Briana Kelly joined her to conduct fieldwork during the last two weeks of carnival season. Covid-19 cut Martha’s fieldwork short in mid-March, an experience she wrote about for the CASCA newsletter *Culture* (Radice 2020). New Orleans was hit hard and fast by the disease, and carnival celebrations in 2021 will take a very different form. Ethnographic research methods also have to change, shifting to online, mediated social worlds for now.

Radice, Martha. 2018. “Putting the Public in Public Art: An Ethnographic Approach to Two Temporary Art Installations.” *City & Society* 30 (1):45-67. doi: doi:10.1111/ciso.12155.
Radice, Martha. 2020. “Doing/Undoing/ Redoing Carnival in New Orleans in the Time of COVID-19.” *Culture* 14 (1): online. [<https://cascacultureblog.wordpress.com/2020/04/20/doing-undoing-redoing-carnival-in-new-orleans-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>].

HOWARD RAMOS

During the last year Dr. Ramos has been active publishing a new edited book with Jill Grant and Alan Walks on *Changing Neighbourhoods and socio-spatial income polarization across Canadian cities*. He has also published a number of peer-reviewed research articles on methods for studying neighbourhood change, scoping reviews on research on refugee children and youth, and funding of organizations at the municipal level. He has likewise been active in working on a project looking at hockey as a multicultural space with Dr. Lloyd Wong, who is the principal investigator at the University of Calgary, and Master’s student Patrick Bondy at Dalhousie University. He continues to also work with Doctoral students Emma Kay and Rachel McLay on his perceptions of change project. During the year he has likewise presented his research on immigration at Harvard University with Dr. Yoko Yoshida and at the University Osnabrück in Germany. He has also begun a project funded through the Ocean Frontiers Institute with Dr. Karen Foster, as well as with Dr. Mark Stoddart at Memorial University, looking at perceptions of environmental

FACULTY UPDATES *cont'd*

change in Atlantic Canada. During the year he has also actively engaged public issues in print media as well as radio and television in English and French and since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic has written op-eds on its implications for race and ethnocultural health statistics, affordable housing, and online teaching.

MARGARET ROBINSON

In 2019 Dr. Margaret Robinson accepted a probationary tenure-track position as Assistant Professor, cross-appointed in English and SOSA. She was also awarded a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Reconciliation, Gender, and Identity, and is now partnering with fellow CRC holders Dr. Karen Foster and Dr. Kiran Banerjee to develop a research training initiative for social science students. She co-authored a forthcoming article in *Signs* about queer women's experience of embodiment, and a literature review of poverty among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and two-spirit populations in Canada. In December of 2019 Margaret shared her work on two-spirit poverty with scholars and policy makers at CIHR's Best Brain Exchange. She will apply her learning from that event to her current work with Dr. Maryam Dilmaghani at Saint Mary's University, examining hiring discrimination in a SSHRC-funded experimental study. Margaret delivered six talks, including one to environmental advocacy group Nation Rising, but her planned trip to Rostock, Germany had to be cancelled due to pandemic restrictions.

Margaret produced eight book chapters, half of which explore Indigenous food sovereignty and treaty responsibilities to other animals. With Mi'kmaw filmmaker Brett Hannam Margaret co-authored a chapter to appear in *Insiders/Outsiders: The Cultural Politics and Ethics of Indigenous Representation and Participation in Canada's Media Arts*, edited by Dana Claxton and Ezra Winton, coming from Wilfrid Laurier University Press. A chapter on two-spirit mental health, published in *The Oxford Handbook of Sexual and Gender Minority Mental Health*, was co-authored with undergraduate Naomi Bird, and a chapter on associations between religion and mental health published in *Bisexuality, Religion, &*

Spirituality, from Routledge Press was co-authored with Shayan Asadi, an undergrad psychology student at the University of Toronto. "Last Night A DJ Saved My Life: Hip Hop, Cultural Continuity and First Nations Suicidality," will appear in *We Still Here: Hip Hop North of the 49th Parallel*, edited by Charity Mash and Mark Campbell, coming in October from McGill-Queen's Press. Margaret is now designing a new course, ENGL 4840, *Queer Representations in Detective Fiction*, and revising INDG/CANA 3050, her Indigenous Research Methods course, to function asynchronously online. As help her in the coming year, Margaret took online learning modules from Dalhousie's Centre for Learning & Teaching, and the College of Continuing Education.

EMMA WHELAN

Emma Whelan's news is mostly pandemic-related. She continues work on a book, tentatively entitled *Health in Your Hands: Handwashing and the Responsible Individual, 1920-2020* (under contract with the University of Regina Press's *Exquisite Corpse* series, on cultural histories of the body). The book presents an historical sociology of handwashing education in England and Canada, from the campaigns of the interwar years to the present COVID-19 pandemic, which provided lots of additional source material, some sent to her by her fantastic *Morality & Health* seminar students, with whom she experienced a kind of living lab at the end of the winter term. (Special thanks to Briana Kelly for her photo of sidewalk art in Halifax!). Emma hopes the pandemic is over soon so that she can visit the UK to finish research at the National Archives in London and soap corporation Unilever's archives in Port Sunlight. She was to present a paper in early June at the Canadian Sociological Association conference in London, Ontario, on representations of the normal and natural child in Canadian mothercare literature but, well, that got cancelled. She did have a chapter published in the edited collection *Media Analysis and Public Health: Contemporary Issues in Critical Public Health* (Routledge). Most of all she wants to congratulate the Honours students she supervised with this year—Emily, Kristen, Mackenzie,

Morgan, and The Two Victorias—for their inspiring stick-with-it-ness; they started in a hurricane, finished in a pandemic, and still produced amazing theses. You're all superstars.



Possible cover image for Emma Whelan's work-in-progress?

YOKO YOSHIDA

Dr. Yoshida continued to work on the research pertaining to the retention and integration of immigrants (as the Principal Investigator of a SSHRC Insight Grant) as well as refugee children and youth (as the Co-Investigator of a SSHRC Partnership Grant). Working with colleagues, she published a few articles in academic venues, including *International Migration*, and *Applied Psycholinguistics* (accepted), as well as in a book, titled *Refugees in Canada and Germany: From Research to Policies and Practice*, published by the GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences. Working with Jonathan Amoyaw (a new colleague in SOSA) and Rachel McLay (SOSA PhD student), Yoko also produced a short report on refugee retention in four Canadian provinces, which explains how community groups or government agencies can use Statistics Canada online resource on the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB). She was also active in delivering talks. With her colleague, Dr. Howard Ramos, Yoko delivered a talk titled "Why immigration is a solution, not a problem in Atlantic Canada" at Harvard University's Canada Program Seminar (October 21, 2019). She was also invited to speak at GESIS Leibniz Institute's German-Canadian Conference on Migration and Integration in Osnabruck, Germany; as well as the Migration and Ethnic Relations Program's Speaker Series at Western University in London, Ontario. On this high note, however, Dr. Yoshida is taking a leave from Dalhousie to join the Department of Sociology at Western University. Reflecting on her 10 years in SOSA, she says, "I am very

CHANGING CLIMATES - CASCA AND AAA HOLD JOINT CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER

In November 2019, almost all the anthropologists in SOSA participated in the first ever joint conference of the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) and the American Anthropological Association (AAA), which was held in Vancouver's Convention Centre. With an overarching theme of "Changing Climates: Struggle, Collaboration, and Justice," the conference was co-chaired by SOSA's own Dr Martha Radice, a former president of CASCA, with Dr Pam Downe (CASCA, U Sask) and Dr Nicole Peterson (AAA, UNC). The conference was a huge success, featuring over 1100 events, including three presidential sessions, 15 executive sessions, 742 regular sessions, nine late-breaking sessions, 171 gallery poster presentations, 29 workshops, 19 installations, and over 150 board, business, or committee meetings. The conference also saw CASCA's membership numbers rise to an unprecedented 1100+.



Martha Radice, centre, with Nicole Peterson, UNC, left, and Sabrina Doyon, U Laval and CASCA President 2019-2020 (photo credit: AAA)



Changing Climates- conference with a view.

FACULTY UPDATES *cont'd*

lucky to have been with SOSA. Thank you all for all the support, collegiality and friendship. I will definitely miss working with you! But I am hopeful that our paths will cross in conferences and research. And to SOSA students, good luck in pursuing your dream; I look forward to encountering you in various venues!"



Yoko Yoshida and Howard Ramos bid farewell to Nova Scotia.

GRADUATE STUDENT UPDATES

PATRICK BONDY (MA Social Anthropology)

Patrick finished data collection for his research just before lockdown began in March, and he has analyzed data and begun drafting since then. While conferences he was planning to attend have been cancelled due to COVID-19, he has been working on an article manuscript along with his supervisor, Dr. Ramos. The article is currently titled "Textures of Solitude: Social Forms, Boundaries and Community in Hockey Arenas".

JASON ELLSWORTH (PhD Social Anthropology)



PhD students Jason Ellsworth, Daniel Salas and Ulises Villafuerte.

In addition to spending time lecturing at SOSA and continuing to try to finish a pesky dissertation on value, social enterprises, and global Buddhism as part of his SSHRC funded doctoral research – in early 2020 Jason started a position as a Research Fellow. He joins Drs. Fitting, Foster and Bryan's project on local food movements and international labour migration. His co-edited volume "Fabricating Authenticity" (Equinox Publishing),

bringing 28 scholars into conversation, is on schedule for the press later this year. Recent publications also include two book chapters: "Glocalization of Buddhist Food Projects on a Small Canadian Island" and "Religion is the Opium of the Scholar." One notable highlight took place at the AAAs in Vancouver, where Jason had the pleasure of co-organizing two panels uniting 10 researchers from around the globe on "The Climate of Commodity Discourses: Values We Produce, Market & Consume," where he also presented his own paper."

ADAM GREARSON (PhD Sociology)

Over my first year at Dalhousie, I have completed the coursework requirement for my PhD. I am now beginning the process of outlining my comprehensive exams and drafting a reading list for my methods exam. In April, I learned that I was awarded the Outstanding Graduating Student Award, provided by the Canadian Sociological Association, for my Master's degree achievements at McMaster University. I submitted a co-authored journal article with my MA supervisor based on my thesis findings, as well as helped to submit a co-authored methods article concerning my past research assistant role for my MA supervisor in a longitudinal study. I co-authored a book review with fellow members of the Mad Studies Reading Group from McMaster University which was published in the journal *Disability & Society*. I was awarded the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship upon entering my PhD.

EMMA KAY

(PhD Sociology)

In 2019 Emma completed her comprehensive examinations and began work on her dissertation proposal. This past year, through her work as the Atlantic Representative of the Canadian Sociological Association's Student Concerns Subcommittee, she assisted in planning and hosting nine webinars. She also presented survey data from her master's research at three conferences in the summer of 2019, including CSA@Congress, the Qualitatives, and "Because of Her" hosted by the Association Françaises d'Études Canadiennes (AFÉC) in Bordeaux, France. The paper she presented in Bordeaux is being published this summer in issue 88 of Canadian Studies/Études Canadiennes.

KATIE MACLEOD

(PhD Social Anthropology)

Katie has spent much of the last year drafting and revising her doctoral dissertation. She has forthcoming publications on Acadian rural language rights, Indigenous Research Ethics in Mi'kma'ki, and Eastern Metis identities in Nova Scotia. She also gave paper presentations at the joint annual meeting of AAA and CASCA, Heritage Interpretation in Atlantic Canada conference, and as part of the oral history and archival session of Songs, Stories and Sacred Fire: Fostering Reconciliation through Collaborative Research in Unama'ki. Katie lives in Sydney, Nova Scotia and has been working as a Research Associate with Unama'ki College and teaching in the Department of L'nu, Political, and Social Studies at Cape Breton University.

HANNAH MAIN

(PhD Sociology)

In the 2019-2020 year, I was busy with research and other activities. In October 2019, I travelled to St. John's, NL for the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) conference, where supervisor Karen Foster and I presented a paper on rural tourism, and I also presented on "The Right to Rural Schools." This conference was also the launch of State of Rural Canada III: Bridging Rural Data gaps, a project that I coordinated. In March, I presented my dissertation proposal: The heart of the community? The conflicting roles of a rural school. This research focuses on reasons and consequences

of school closures in small Nova Scotia communities. I was forced to rethink my research methods in the face of COVID-19. Meanwhile, there is a new article by Karen Foster and me in the Journal of Rural and Community Development: Last resort: The promise and problem of tourism in rural Atlantic Canada.

KATIE MERRITT

(MA Sociology)

Katie began the MA program this past fall, completing her coursework and area essay examinations. She has also been working as a TA for introductory level Sociology courses. In the spring she presented her MA research proposal to the SOSA department virtually via Zoom. Additionally, Katie was accepted to present at the Canadian Sociology Association's annual conference, but it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Katie is currently finishing up her written MA thesis proposal. Her research focuses on lesbian representation on television.

MAEGHAN TAVERNER

(MA Sociology)

Maeghan is coming to the end of her first year in the program after a challenging and educational year. Her research interests include rural youth outmigration, rural queerness, and queer youth identities. She is currently working on completing her area essays and thesis proposal and her research will be focusing on the reasons rural queer youth out-migrate to city centres, in the Atlantic Canadian region. She is navigating the Covid-19 world as she prepares to start her research in the upcoming year. Maeghan is also a queer, disabled artist and educator and hopes to raise awareness and improve accessibility in the arts and academia.

DANI SALAS

(PhD Social Anthropology)

During the past year, Dani continued working in his dissertation centred on the politics of value of rural Cuba, while also carrying out teaching and research assistant activities in FASS. For Dani, the year's highlight was the publication of his article "Practices of double currency: value and politics in rural Cuba" in *Dialectical Anthropology*. This paper won the Roseberry-Nash Award of the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology. Dani also presented a paper to the AAA-CASCA 2019 conference in Vancouver and

drafted parts of his dissertation. In the summer term, Dani taught a distance course that focuses on the politics of socialist transition and development in Cuba. He also contributed a literature review to a rural development project coordinated by prof. Karen Foster, and TA-ed in several courses offered by the department.

BRENNA SOBANSKI

(MA Social Anthropology)

My fall and winter semesters involved coursework, area essays, preparing my research proposal, and the delightful surprise of being awarded the George Cooper Killam Master's Prize. I am currently recruiting and interviewing participants for my M.A. research on employees' experiences of work in social justice non-profits. I'm engaged in research assistant work for Dr. Radice looking at how people in the Halifax Regional Municipality speak about community, and I am beginning work as a research assistant on a project with Drs. Ramos and Foster on perceptions of climate change in Atlantic Canada. Outside of school, and prior to the pandemic arriving in N.S., I was volunteering at the Halifax Refugee Clinic. I gathered information to support refugee claims, researched provincial healthcare policies, and accompanied people to appointments. I'm attempting to combine both thought and action in my work.

BROOKE THOMAS-SKAF

(MA Sociology)

Beginning her SSHRC funded MA in Sociology this fall, Brooke has spent the past year completing course work, area essay examinations, and preparing a proposal for her thesis research which explores how 'trauma' discourses are mobilized by registered social workers in Alberta and Nova Scotia to morally regulate children and youth. She is currently awaiting ethics approval to begin collecting data for her study. Throughout the past year, she has also enjoyed her role as a TA for two first-year SOSA courses, celebrated the publication of her first journal article titled "Bringing social justice into focus: 'Trauma-informed' work with children with disabilities" in *Child Care in Practice*, and was awarded a Scotia Scholars Award to continue her studies this upcoming year. Currently, she is helping to edit a short volume of stories of former children in care in Alberta.

SOSA SPEAKERS' SERIES 2019-2020

SEPTEMBER 20: Dr. Jessaca Leinaweaver, *Solidarity Problems: Kinship and International Adoption in Spain*

OCTOBER 25: Dr. Susan Vincent, *Planning for retirement in Peru: Family, Pensions and the State*

NOVEMBER 29: Dr. Lesley Frank, *Infant food insecurity in Canada: The breastfeeding paradox, politics of infant food charity, and second-hand baby food environments*

FEBRUARY 28: Dr. Peter Lenco, *Gilles Deleuze: From Fancy French Philosophy to Serious Social Science*

MARCH 6: Dr. Janice Graham, *Faultlines in Regulating Emerging Health Technologies: evidence, expertise and authority*

SOSA SPEAKERS' SERIES 2018-2019

SEPTEMBER 21: Dr. Jeremy Schmidt, Assistant Professor of Geography, Durham University, *WATER OUT*

OCTOBER 30: Dr. Smadar Lavie, *Single Mothers of color, Bureaucratic Torture, and the Divinity of the Nation-State*

NOVEMBER 2: Dr. Daniel Tubb, *Simulacra of extraction: Transforming cocaine with gold in Colombia*

NOVEMBER 9: Dr. Ted Rutland, *Displacing Blackness: Power, Planning, and Race in Twentieth-century Halifax*, Co-sponsored with the Canadian Studies Program.

JANUARY 25: Dr. Holly Pelvin, *YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO BE ARRESTED: The Punitive disruption of arrest and detention*

FEBRUARY 8: Dr. Ross Boyd, *AI IN SOCIOLOGY- SOCIOLOGY IN AI*

FEBRUARY 12: Dr. Tim Bryan, *Policing Hate: Race, Diversity and the Politics of Hate Crime Response.*

FEBRUARY 15: Ciara Bracken-Roche, *Policing the skies: navigating regulation and deployment in the Canadian dronescape.*

MARCH 6: Dr. Smadar Lavie, *The War on Gaza and Mizrahi Feminism*

MARCH 29: Dr. Michael Halpin, *A Prelude to Illness: How neuroscience is reshaping mental health*

APRIL 5: Dr. Rachel Barken, *Age, Disability, and Encounters with Care: Contested Meanings of (In)dependence*



Photo APTN Wet'suw't'en Conflict

<https://www.aptnnews.ca/topic/wetsuweten-conflict/>

TWO SOSA PROFS (FITTING AND NOBLE) HELPED WRITE A STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY with the Wet'suwet'en, which became a CASCA resolution, found here: [<https://cascacultureblog.wordpress.com/2020/04/15/resolution-2/>]

For more information about Wet'suwet'en Land Rights and Self-Determination, and on the anti-pipeline struggle, check out the Unist'ot'en camp webpage: [<https://unistoten.camp/about/wetsuweten-people/>]"

REFLECTIONS ON A CAREER IN SOSA

By *Pauline Gardiner Barber*



2020 IS THE FIRST FULL YEAR of my retirement which began last July. It is the year no-one will forget. I know I won't. New Year's Day saw me dodging forest fires in Australia, enroute to visit family in New Zealand. By the end of January during the early days of the Corona Virus, I was in South East Asia, transiting through Hong Kong during Chinese New Year. Masks were ever present and socially accepted, setting a global example from one of the most densely populated cities in the world; an example for which we now know to be grateful. Back in Halifax at the end of February people were living normally but not for long. Retirement and a pandemic happening simultaneously are not the best combination, especially for those of us with dispersed families and far flung research sites. The boredom and anxieties of the lock-down certainly allowed time for reflection on being retired from the SOSA routines which have ordered my daily life for nearly thirty years. Can it really be so long? Some SOSA duties are happily no

longer but to paraphrase Chris Murphy, also recently retired and renowned for his oratorical talents, I will miss students and talking with them, but I will not miss teaching per se, especially not now, in this unprecedented time of unease. The pandemic shift to on-line teaching would not have suited my teaching style so that at least is a matter of relief. Good luck everyone for the challenges 2020/21 brings!

And, on a brighter note, 2020 also bought news that I was awarded a new SSHRC grant – "Fast food, slow migrations: Canada's temporary workers at home in the Philippines". As a Professor Emeritus with a continuing appointment in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, I will lead this project, working with Catherine Bryan (PhD SOSA 2017), now Assistant Professor in the Dalhousie School of Social Work and two Philippine colleagues, one a successful Dalhousie alumnae, Clarence Batan (PhD SOSA 2010) Professor of Sociology, University of Santa Tomas in Manila. Together

with two graduate students, one from each country, we will explore the implications of the rapidly growing presence of Tim Hortons' cafes in the Philippines. More so than in Canada, Tim Hortons in Manila is strikingly upscale, yet still branded as Canadian. We ask how this example reflects the multi-generational arrivals of Filipinos on temporary labour contracts to Canada. What are the gender, generation, and class consequences of the circulating mobilities (of capital and labour) along the ever-shifting migration corridor connecting the Philippines to Canada?

CAPTIONS

- 1. Retirement party for Pauline Gardiner Barber and too many friends to mention.**
- 2. Margaret Robinson and Emma Whelan**
- 3. Howard Ramos and Barbara Cottrell**
- 4. Jean-Sebastien Guy, Peter Mallory and Laura Eramian**
- 5. Sinziana Chira, Pauline Gardiner Barber and Karen Foster.**

REFLECTIONS ON A CAREER IN SOSA *cont'd*

Research aside, retirement provides opportunities for publically remembering one's career highlights which in my case, include participation in some major definitive changes in SOSA's *modus operandi* – in curriculum, graduate teaching, departmental priorities, and indeed in what anthropologists like to call departmental culture. At the time of my appointment, when I was a relatively new Canadian and mother of two young children, a major restructuring of the undergraduate curriculum was underway, one of a number of changes necessitated by external reviews. Revisions were much debated and when finalized included new additions to the core curriculum, including classes that focused on gender, alongside of those that focused on the social inequalities of racism and class. At the time, these new feminist priorities were not uncontroversial anywhere in the academy, nor in any workplace and public institution. SOSA's changes came with struggle and even moments of what felt like subterfuge. Suffice it to say, I and a small cohort of like-minded colleagues worked tirelessly and sometimes anxiously, on the new curriculum structure and logics. To everyone's credit, that curriculum plan succeeded, as have subsequent models, sometimes inspired collectively within SOSA which has developed one of the most collegial academic cultures on campus. Nowadays curriculum modifications are more routine as universities undergo corporate-style strategic planning, not necessarily popular, nor at times sensible, but mostly, with collective commitment and good leadership, SOSA collegiality and good humour prevails, aided by the occasional social gathering. May this long continue!

In response to the kind words of FASS and SOSA colleagues at the several retirement events in my honour, I rehearsed the rapid passing of time noting that as a young kiwi woman from a country where at that time only two percent of the population attended university, I never imagined how my life would unfold as I travelled abroad after MA study at the University of Auckland. A PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Toronto, a SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship located at Dalhousie following on from my doctoral project

in Cape Breton, followed by a one year appointment at Mount Saint Vincent, and then finally the dream appointment at SOSA. In those early days at Dalhousie, the academic wife of the then University President, hosted networking events for women faculty; awkwardly contradictory but of the times. And as the tenure and promotion clock moved forward, so too came the long days (and years) of teaching, research, conferencing, publishing, and grant writing. A sequence of successful SSHRC research grant applications funded several Philippine research projects to include annual trips to the field. After an initial workshop on Philippine coastal communities where I represented Dalhousie during my first year at SOSA, invitations followed to contribute to various international initiatives (CIDA funded). This work has been life-altering, both a pleasure and a privilege. The projects were all university partnerships consisting of multi-disciplinary teams including Filipinos, other South East Asian colleagues, and occasionally, colleagues from the University of the West Indies. My contributions as an anthropologist helped fine tune my expertise in livelihood, gender and development issues. The international friendships forged through these projects continue though the files are long closed.

Later came collaborations with European partners and the amazing opportunities afforded by the Atlantic Metropolis Centre of Excellence through several phases of research funding focused on citizenship and immigration issues. The Metropolis project's collaborative umbrella allowed numerous opportunities for other SOSA colleagues and graduate students over the years, including their participation in local, national, and international networks. How much we all learned from those exciting exchanges; including lessons about how SOSA research can contribute to political and public policy dialogues. In addition to Catherine Bryan's project, several excellent PhD theses and successful careers were nurtured through Metropolis and related collaborations. For example, Natasha Hanson (PhD 2013), Sinziana Chira (PhD 2016), Shiva Nourpanah (PhD 2017). And most recently, as a co-investigator for "On the Move: Employment-related Geographic

Mobility", a SSHRC funded partnership based at Memorial University, I was able to introduce Natasha (studying mobile truckers in PEI), Catherine (studying temporary foreign workers in Manitoba hotels) and Shiva (studying foreign nurses in Halifax) to that project. All three made excellent contributions in various formats to the very productive OTM network; they represented Dalhousie and SOSA with distinction.

Aside from those early heady days of SOSA curriculum reform and my ongoing research projects, the standout things I am most proud of include my many wonderful graduate students and especially those who were international students or immigrants to Canada. I am forever grateful for the many things I learned from them. Which is not to say I am not also very proud of the numerous other students I have taught over the years, most of whom impressed me with their efforts to learn, some of whom even contacted me years later to reassure me I was more successful as a professor than sometimes seemed to be the case based on their assignments. And, in terms of graduate teaching, I am equally proud of my leadership role in the implementation of SOSA's balanced graduate programming, with MA and PhD degrees in both disciplines. Gaining approval for the PhD in Social Anthropology was an important milestone in the history of the department, not without various challenges but again, a collegial endeavour. Fast forward in time, I cannot close without noting that I believe I was the first woman Chair of the Department (2010-2016), and this I am more certain of, the first Social Anthropologist to hold that position. As I said, time flies, or rather the temporalities defining our lives and through which we perceive life, occur in particular contexts. Currently we, or should I say I, inhabit the strange rhythms of COVID as a speed-up (the grant and research clock ticking as research travel is stalled) and an incredible slow-down, day by day, checking the news for updates on the pandemic and the political struggles that define our present. Thank you all, colleagues, friends, students, wonderful SOSA staff, and alumnae. Let's keep in touch.

SOSA HONOURS SYMPOSIUMS



Members of the SOSA community at 2019 graduation reception.

April 9, 2020 Introduction by Dr. Emma Whelan

Emily Alward *The Double Burden of Motherhood: Balancing Maternal Role Expectations with the Pressure of Responsibility to Care for the Self: Self-Care Talk Amongst Mothers on the Online Parenting Forum BabyCentre.ca*

Mackenzie Cormack *"You Can Curate Your Own Experience": Individuality and Social Interaction Within the K-Pop Fandom*

Morgan Herbert *"It's a Gift and a Burden": The Non-Patrilineal Surname as an Alternative Representation of Kinship Ties*

Kristen Levesque *Madness in the Media: News Coverage of Police Lethal Force on Persons with Mental Illness*

Victoria Mak *Negotiating Utopia: 'Come From Aways' and the Production of Rural Idylls in Digby County*

Victoria R. Michels *"Open Yourself to the World": Reasons for Studying Foreign Languages in University*

April 9, 2019 Introduction by Dr. Laura Eramian

PANEL 1: RELATIONSHIPS, CARE, AND WORK

Briana Kelly: *Getting Acquainted: The Hidden Value of (In) Significant Others*

Rena Vanstone: *"Finding Joy in the Act of Giving:" Volunteering Amidst Tensions of Altruism and Egoism*

Shekara Grant: *What's the Deal with Small Talk?: A Sociological Analysis of Self-Help Books*

Cheyenne Manhas: *"A Paradoxical Need to Care and Control": Exploring Emotional Labour and Professionalism in Social Work*

PANEL 2: CONTESTED PUBLICS

Maeve Morin: *'Inoculated by White Privilege': Exploring White Students' Reluctance to Discuss Racism*

Patrick Bondy: *The 95%: Identities, Groups and Boundaries in Organized Hockey in Halifax*

Melissa Slauenwhite: *"How Do We Better Prepare for the Future?": Political Ambivalence and Income Guarantees in Canadian Media*

PANEL 3: MODERN SOCIAL IDENTITIES

Charisma Walker: *"The Home I Never Knew": Understanding how Blacks' Connection to Africa Transcends an Interaction with Africa and its Culture*

Lauren Coutts: *"I Wanted to Know if I was Right in Thinking Who I Was": User Negotiations of Genetic Ancestry Testing*

Michael Davies-Cole: *Gender Expression in a "They" Generation*

Jillian Ramsay: *"I'm Just a Nature Person": How Nature Lovers Make Their Identities in an Urban Environment*

PANEL 4: HEALTH, RISK, AND REGULATION

Asrar Haq: *"Why are We Prescribing a Plant?": Nova Scotia Doctors' Perspectives on Cannabis in the Era of Legalization*

Mackenzie Maeland: *Canadian Citizens, Immigrants and Health: the Role of Strain and Capital*

Mary-Ellen Murray: *O Cannabis: Managing Risks and Purveying Pleasures of a Newly Legal Substance*

ALUMNI UPDATES

MARK AYYASH (BA Hon SOCI 2003), is now Associate Professor of Sociology at Mount Royal University in Calgary. In 2019 he published *A Hermeneutics of Violence: A Four-Dimensional Conception* at University of Toronto Press. The book draws on theories from the disciplines of sociology, anthropology, international relations, and philosophy in order to advance a dialogical analytic for the study of violence. This approach reveals four dimensions of violence: instrumental (violence as an instrument for politics), linguistic (violence as communicative and formative), mimetic (violence as dialogical), and transcendental (the unknowability of violence). This four-dimensional conception opens up a rich landscape of analysis whereby social scientists can examine the often-overlooked transformative dimensions of violent acts.

CLAUDIA CHENDER (BA Hon. SOAN and POLI 1999) was elected as an MLA for Dartmouth South, Nova Scotia in 2017. In addition to her MLA duties, she is NDP House Leader and Critic for Finance, Business, Rural and Regional Economic Development, Justice, Education, and Energy and Mines.

SARAH ENGLAND (BA Hons SOAN 2017) graduated with an MSc in Anthropology and International Development Management at the London School of Economics (LSE) in December 2019. Her dissertation explored how and why gendered, racialised, neoliberal, and nationalistic discourses are actively promoted, shaped, and (re)produced by the Philippine state and its migratory infrastructure, affecting the lives of Filipina migrant domestic workers. It won LSE's Lucy Mair Prize for Anthropology and Development Management for best dissertation in the graduating class. While at LSE, Sarah worked as a consultant for the International Labour Organization researching Mutual Recognition Agreements in Caribbean and Southeast Asia. She then returned to Calgary and completed a strategic communications and public affairs internship. After COVID hit, Sarah pivoted completely to open a small business, "bysarahe", designing and creating jewelry with epoxy resin. She also volunteers for United Way Calgary

and mentors young immigrant women for the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association.

HALEY FARRAR-MUIR (BA Hons SOCI 2013, MA SOCI 2016) and her co-authors at the Canadian Centre for Vaccinology recently published their qualitative work on British Columbia's influenza prevention policy for healthcare workers (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31922460/>). Haley contributed to this project while writing her graduate thesis. She is currently living in Boston working as a Clinical Research Program/Project Manager in the Division of General Academic Pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital, focused on health disparities research and social determinants of health.

MATTHEW HOWE (BA Hons SOAN 2015). After three years working as research assistant manager for Bermuda Tourism Authority, Matthew has moved to Washington, DC, where he works for Hanover Research in their qualitative team. He is responsible for sample development, in-depth expert interviews, and focus groups for corporate and education research. He most enjoys the education projects, especially moderating focus groups.

DAVID G. JONES (MA SOCI 1973) is an active volunteer with CESO - the Canadian Executive Service Organization. David collaborated with the staff of the National Library of Mongolia, with whom he led a workshop in the subject of Knowledge Management. He continues his

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Peruniak

(BA SOCI 2016) writes:

"I finished my MA at University of Toronto in 2019. My thesis constructed a theoretical framework that applies to transracial adoptees and how they negotiate their racial identities within white adopting families (there are huge holes in the literature which I hope to address with my PhD dissertation). Last year at this time I was presenting at the CSA and ASA conferences; this year's plans were cancelled by Covid. I am going into my second year of my PhD in Sociology at University of Toronto, where I am researching transracial adoptees, racial identity, positionality, and contested motherhood within the family unit. I won OGS, and guest lectured for a class on sociology of violence, I continue to TA and RA here under very interesting professors. In a happy place in Toronto, I love the city and the diversity and am working under really cool people. Halifax



always has a special place in my heart though. On a more personal note- between Dal and my MA, I worked in social work-which was very difficult because I was working with sexually abused children. So I took off on a 7 month backpacking trip around Southeast Asia. After that I spent a year in Vancouver working in the film industry until I got into grad school! Grad school has been pretty amazing, and stressful, but I've met some amazing people and it's cool to think we will continue to grow together in these next 4 to 6 years. I'm super excited to audit 2 of my dream PhD film courses this year (one on post colonialism and cinema and one on black identity and cinema)."

research and writing on the subject of the events related to the first Empire of China and its emperor, Qin Shi Huang.

MIRIAM KARREL (BA Hon SOAN and ESS 2015) completed her MA in Anthropology at McMaster University in 2019 with a thesis entitled "An Exploration of Death Cafés in Canada."

TAMEERA MOHAMED (BA Hons SOCI 2015; MA SOCI 2018) is working at the University as the Cultural Diversity Advisor, supporting BIPOC students at the University of Guelph and running programming and educational events. This role includes facilitating workshops and trainings around EDI, recently dabbling in webinars for students, staff and faculty. She is a certified trainer for the Instructional Skills Workshops and is very interested in critical pedagogy and pedagogical approaches to social justice education.

DRU MORRISON (BA Hon SOAN and FILM 2013; MA SOCI 2017) is pursuing a PhD in the Department of Sociology at University of Waterloo.

PARKER MUZZERALL (BA Hons SOCI 2017) has relocated to Vancouver to start an MA in Sociology there this fall. His research will build on the questions he addressed in his Honours project on social responses to climate change, investigating how climate change will exacerbate existing inequalities and create new ones in its wake.

MOLLY RYAN (BA Hons SOAN 2018). After graduating, Molly continued working with Dr Janice Graham (Pediatrics, Dalhousie) and published an article in BMJ Global Health on the role of trustworthiness in epidemic response (<https://gh.bmj.com/content/4/1/e001272.abstract>). In June 2021, she will complete a Master's of Public Health at the University of Toronto (supported by an Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2019-2021). Molly has been putting her SOSA skills to excellent use, working as an interviewer for a Toronto-based study on vaccine hesitancy and as a qualitative data analyst for the Positive Plus One mixed methods study of couples where one partner is HIV-positive and the other is HIV-negative. Molly has also just submitted a new manuscript reanalyzing her Honours thesis data, on how doctors and funeral directors manage their emotions around death, from an institutional ethnography perspective. If published,

this will be Molly's second article based on her Honours research. The first one came out in 2019 in the Journal for Undergraduate Ethnography vol. 9 no. 1 (<https://doi.org/10.15273/jue.v9i1.8884>).

NETHRA SAMARAWICKREMA

(MA SOAN 2012) successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in anthropology, *Speculating Sapphires: Mining, Trading, and Dreams that Move Gems across the Indian Ocean*, at Stanford University on August 18, 2020 (via Zoom). Her research is an ethnography of gem mining and trading in Sri Lanka and across the Indian Ocean, following the gems as they are passed through many hands along ancient maritime routes to new sites of global capital. By exploring everyday worlds of work in the gem trade – from miners who work without wages for a share of gem revenue to traders who exchange stones on credit across ethnic and religious lines with little recourse in the event of default – *Speculating Sapphires* reimagines speculation through ordinary forms of risk taking in labour and trade. If you are curious to know more, you can read an accessible richly illustrated essay that Nethra wrote about her research at <http://desiwriterslounge.net/articles/papercuts-nomad-nethra-samarawickrema-indian-ocean-sapphires/>

CHARISMA GRACE WALKER (BA Hons SOAN & PSYC 2019) became Saint Mary's University's first African Nova Scotian/Black Student and Community Liaison in February 2020. She provides support to current African Nova Scotian and Black students; builds relationships with local Black communities; and works collaboratively in university policy reviews and development. In addition, she is starting a Master of Education in Counselling online through Acadia University.

MA students' proposal presentations

APRIL 15 AND APRIL 16, 2020

Emily Taweel *The Construction of Sex Offenders in Canadian Media and Policy*

Brooke Thomas *Social Workers' Conceptions of Trauma and Practice with Children and Youth in Canada*

Bryce Anderson *Colonial Sentiments: Examining Canadian Depictions of Indigenous Suicide and Health*

Brenna Sobanski *Dealing with Contradiction: Employees' Narratives of Work in Non-Profits with a Social Justice Mission*

Katie Merritt *Representations of Lesbianism in The L Word and The L Word: Generation Q**

Patrick Bondy *Rinks of Change: An Ethnographic Study of Morality and Ethics in Canadian Hockey Arenas*

Briana Kelly *Making Meanings: Material Culture in New Orleans' Carnival*

APRIL 5, 2019

PANEL 1 ~ THE CHANGING WORLDS OF WORK: PRECARIETY AND (UN)PREDICTABILITY

Jo Minx *Deep learning: The educational and occupational skills of students entering the AI economy*

Kris George *On-Demand: Worker career narratives in the gig economy*

Kate Crane *Everyday moments of political possibility among precarious digital workers*

PANEL 2 ~ (RE)CREATING SPACES, OBJECTS AND IDENTITIES

Lexie Milmine *Queer safe spaces: Everyday successes and challenges in Halifax*

Jenny Davison *Ritual objects: Spirits, health and decolonizing the study of African power figures*

Alastair Parsons *AA groups: Spiritual sickness and the value of comparison*

PANEL 3 ~ HIDDEN CURRICULUMS (MCCAIN 2198)

Betty Chukwu *"10 Nigerian Food Blogs I ♥": Food and Nigerian culture*

Hailie Tattrie *Teaching Coloniality? The education system and Indigenous/ settler relations*

Kayla Preston *Identity and belonging: A discourse analysis of Canadian right-wing extremism online*



The 2018/19 Grad Class: Left to right: Hailie Tattrie, Alyssa Gerhardt (PhD student), Kris George, Kate Crane, Jo Minx, Alastair Parsons, Betty Chukwu, Lexie Milmine (not pictured: Jenny Davison)



2018-19 SIMON AND RIVA SPATZ VISITING CHAIR IN JEWISH STUDIES: SMADAR LAVIE

I've Gone Back to San Francisco with an Aching in my Heart

IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/19 I spent eight exciting months at the Dal SOSA department as the Spatz Visiting chair of Jewish Studies. In March 2020 the world as we know it ceased to exist. Having lived through 168 days of sheltering-in-place, my Dal time has morphed into such a heavenly reverie.

I came to Dal out of great respect for the scholarship and community engagement of its anthropologists who work for the collective land, water, economic, and cultural rights of indigenous peoples and disenfranchised populations. I'm forever grateful to Brian Noble and Ajay Parasram for the invitation.

The classroom experience was so rewarding. I taught two classes, 'Comparative Borders and Diasporas: Israel-Palestine, U.S.-Mexico' and 'Intersectionality and Israeli Feminisms.' I adored my students, all of whom came from a wide variety of backgrounds including anthro, IDS, gender studies and even science majors, ranging from children of Arab immigrants and refugees, Toronto elite, and first generation in working class families to attend university. They were hardworking, original thinkers, and deeply engaged with the course materials.

The top students in my fall class requested an independent study with me --their first empirical hands-on ethnographic project on young women from the Global South crossing into Canada. They conducted in-depth interviews with six women their age, drawn from a wide range of immigrants and refugees, employed the course materials, and reviewed the literature on Canada's gendered immigration. They presented their graduate-level undergrad paper at the 2019 Society for the Study of Gloria Anzaldua conference in San Antonio. I was unable to attend so they read my conference paper as well. Right at the end of their panel my colleagues phoned me to report how impressed they were with the data sets, rigorous analysis and poetic writing of these students. Their paper is forthcoming in the *Journal for Undergraduate Ethnography*. My expertise in Islam and Mizrahi Judaism guided them in their discovery that there are few studies on women immigrants' and refugees' religion and spirituality due to what scholars define as Canada's "fundamentalist secularism."

I also got quite a lot of writing done, inspired by my weekends in the sublime beauty of Nova Scotia. I travelled across

the region to Cape Breton, the South Shore, North Shore, Bay of Fundy, and Scott's Bay. Malka, my doggie, enjoyed it too. During my Dal time, my article, "Gaza 2014 and Mizrahi Feminism" went through several revisions and was published in PoLAR (Political and Legal Anthropology Review). It received a plaque for being one of the journal's top downloaded papers for 2019.

I wish us all a creative academic year, and success in the difficult transition from the real classroom to online teaching. My heartfelt gratitude for your generous welcome and hospitality. I hope our paths cross again when the pandemic is over. We must re-enter a better world soon.



2019-20 FULBRIGHT CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN SOCIETY & CULTURE:

Jessaca Leinaweaver
(Brown University,
Department of
Anthropology)

JESSACA LEINAWEAVER began her sabbatical year at Dalhousie with a research project on the debate around the opening of adoption records in Nova Scotia. In keeping with Fulbright's emphasis on cross-cultural engagement, Leinaweaver published two op-eds on the open records debate: [this one](#) for the Herald and [this one](#) for CBC. Inspired by an exhibit at Pier 21, she also completed all the research (interviews, bibliographic research, and text analysis) for a related article currently in preparation, tentatively entitled "Museum Families: Kinship and Material Culture at the Canadian Museum of Immigration."

Jessaca spoke about her research on international adoption in Spain to the SOSA Speakers Series in the fall, sharing the extended version of an analysis of "solidarity problems" that, fittingly, had its earliest roots as a conference paper for CASCA 2016

at Dalhousie. She also continued to advance her various research projects, submitting three article manuscripts on adoption in Spain co-authored with Diana Marre (Autonomous University of Barcelona), and preparing a new article on lay gerontology in Peru. And she traveled to St. FX in February to present on her research about child circulation and adoption in Peru. Aside from writing and public presentations, Jessaca enjoyed giving guest lectures in colleagues' classes – Martha, Liz, and Fiona all invited her to participate in their seminars – and meeting with students.

In March, of course, everything ground to a halt – the Fulbright public talk that Lindsay worked so hard to organize at the Halifax Central Library was cancelled due to COVID, and like so many other academic parents, Jessaca's attention turned to home-schooling, with a specialization in

fractions and provincial flowers. Though her Fulbright has ended and she is now the Chair of the Brown University Anthropology Department, Jessaca will be regularly coming-from-away to Nova Scotia and hopes to stay in touch with colleagues and students from SOSA in the years to come.

KUDOS TO OUR STUDENTS!

PhD Student **Etni Zoe Castell Roldán**, saw her master's thesis published as a book in late 2019; the title is: *Mercancía Dañada: Carne y Carnales al Oriente de la Ciudad de México* (Damaged commodity: Meat and Meatworkers in Mexico's City Eastside).

PhD student **Daniel Salas** has won the prestigious Roseberry-Nash Award for best student paper from the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA). The winning paper is titled: "Practices of Double Currency: Value and Politics in Rural Cuba". The award was presented at SLACA's business meeting at the CASCA-AAA conference in Vancouver.

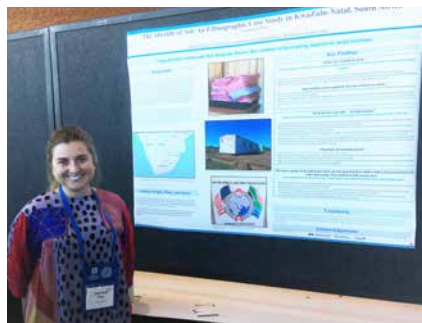


Daniel Salas receiving Roseberry-Nash Award from Ronda Brulotte, President of the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology.

Sociology MA student, **Kayla Preston** was awarded a studentship from the Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security and Society, and was one of the 25 finalists in the 2019 SSHRC Storytellers competition. MA student **Stef Peel** won the 2019 Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) Best Student Poster Prize (Juried) in Vancouver and the 2020 Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) Outstanding Graduating Anthropology Master's Student Award, Dalhousie University. Other Outstanding Graduating Student Award Winners from the Canadian Anthropology Society CASCA were, for Honours, **Briana Kelly** (for 2019) and **Morgan Herbert** (for 2020) and for the doctoral category, **Tonya Canning** (for 2019).

Sociology Honours students **Maeve Morin** (for 2019) and **Rena Vanstone** (for 2020) were recipients of the Outstanding Graduating Student Award from the Canadian Sociological Association. In the graduate student category **Tameera Mohamed** (for 2019) and **Rachel McLay** (for 2020) were the CSA Outstanding Graduating Student Award winners.

SOSA students have won the \$4000 FASS Glovin Essay Award two years in a row. The Irving and Jeanne Glovin Award was set up in 2003 to foster research into the meaning and underlying principles for "good human conduct." In 2019, **Keith MacIsaac** won the prize with his essay 'Happiness and Good Human Conduct: A Cross Cultural Exploration.' In 2020, **Jillian Murphy** scooped the award with her essay, 'Playful Ways of Learning Good Human Conduct.' Both developed their prizewinning essays in Dr Martha Radice's special topics seminar, Happiness, Play, and Celebration in Winter 2019 and Fall 2019 respectively. Coincidentally, both had first worked with Dr Radice in her Introduction to Anthropology class in 2010-2011.



Stef Peel and her award-winning poster.

EXTERNAL GRADUATE STUDENT FUNDING AWARDS:

AWARDED 2018/19

Jenny Davison-SSHRC, NSGS, Killam

Alastair Parsons-SSHRC, NSGS

Kayla Preston- SSHRC, NSGS,

Daniel Salas NSGS

AWARDED 2019/20:

Patrick Bondy-SSHRC, NSGS

Alyssa Gerhardt-SSHRC

Adam Grearson-NSGS

Brianna Kelly-SSHRC, NSGS

Rachel McLay-SSHRC, NSGS, Killam

Zoe Castell Roldan-NSGS, Wenner Gren

Brenna Sobanski-SSHRC, NSGS, Killam

Maeghan Taverner-NSGS

Emily Taweel-NSGS

Brooke Thomas-SSHRC, NSGS

NOTES: SSHRC stands for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. NSGS refers to the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship. The Wenner Gren is the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.

DOCTORAL DEFENCES

December 10, 2018: **REDDI SEKHARA YALAMALA** successfully defended his PhD in Social Anthropology. His dissertation was entitled, *Whose Reality Counts? Valuing Dalitbahujan Knowledge in a Technocratic India*.

December 12, 2018: **BRIAN CAMPBELL** successfully defended his PhD in Social Anthropology. His dissertation was entitled, *Distinctive Dealings: Formal and Informal Entrepreneurship in Halifax, Nova Scotia*.

July 17, 2018: **DIANA (DEE) LEWIS** successfully defended her PhD in Sociology. Her dissertation was entitled, *"Tilino'lti'k – Weji-sqalia'timk: How we will be Mi'kmaq on our own Land Working Together with Pictou Landing First Nation to Redefine a Healthy Community*.

August 23, 2018: **TONYA CANNING** successfully defended her PhD in Social Anthropology. Her dissertation was entitled, *"We Don't Want Hippy Money": Contradiction and Exchange in a Local Currency System*



Left photo: brian Campbell and Reddi Yalamala, having just received their PhDs at the May 2019 convocation. Bottom photo: Tonya Canning, Diana (Dee) Lewis and Paul Armstrong, having just received their PhDs at the October 2018 convocation.



SOSA BABIES!



Audrey Halpin was born May 4th 2019. She loves reading, swings, and stealing her mom's sunglasses.



Natalia Eramian-Mallory was born on June 6, 2020. Her favourite pastimes include constant wiggling, prolonged feedings, and evading naps.

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have an interesting story to share?

Know of a former classmate who is doing something exciting and newsworthy?

Email us at:
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