

As we wind down the fall semester and the 2019 year, we take a look back at our community in December 2019. We wish you all a restful holiday season and all the best for the New Year!

EVENTS



On December 6, **Mary Leighton**, Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Anthropology and the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, gave the AnthroSeminar series lecture, "Figures Lost And Found: A bio-ethnography of missing data in U.S. – Mexico transnational public health research." Dr. Leighton explored what can be salvaged from field work disasters and missing data, and proposed that much can be learnt from the gaps left behind.



Our department had an opening reception on November 25 for the exhibit, "Incessant," curated by **Laura Garcia**, visiting undergraduate scholar. Visitors can see the exhibit on the second floor of Stone Hall, just outside the main office.



We had a chance to reconnect with alumni and emeriti at the American Anthropological Association meetings in November, held in Vancouver, Canada. Presentations were given by **Myrdene Anderson, Sherylyn Briller, Risa Cromer, Humera Dinar, Andrew Flachs, Sarah Huang, Melissa Remis, Kali Rubaii, Madi Whitman, Elizabeth Wirtz**. Photos courtesy of Ellen Gruenbaum.

Laura Zanotti with @Presence2Influence team members Dorothy Hogg (Northwestern University) and Emily Colon (University of Maryland) joined thousands in Madrid, Spain, to conduct collaborative event ethnography at the 2019 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP25 meetings. Many thanks to the Purdue Climate Change Research Center in providing the credentials.



Stacy Lindshield participated in a planning workshop for the Senegal Chimpanzee Conservation Action Plan in Dakar on December 11-12, 2019.



Holly Okonkwo studies how race, gender, and place affect the experiences of women scientists and technologists of color. The applied anthropologist has worked with women in both the U.S. and Africa to gain a sense of their place within the science community.

In the recent issue of Purdue University [College of Liberal Arts' THiNK Magazine](#), Dr. Okonkwo describes what she has observed.

Erik Otárola-Castillo was recently in Huanuco, Peru, facilitating a budding grassroots initiative to develop a Polytechnic facility including an UNHEVAL Department of Archaeology with laboratory spaces. The project is led by an engaged team of researchers, administrators, and members from Pachabamba community, Anthropology Department - Purdue University, Purdue University College of Liberal Arts, including Amanda Veile, Rocío Esmeralda Chávez Cabello, Carlos Alberto Del Aguila Pérez and Violeta Rojas Bravo, among others.



NEWS

Global Synergy Research Grants

Valerie Miller has been awarded a Global Synergy Research Grant for Students for the research project, "Mothering with Others in Dominica: Effects of Allomaternal Support on Maternal Attention and Stress!" This biocultural project will take place in Dominica and will address the relationships and interactions between mothers' stress, attentiveness, emotional well-being, and social support. It will investigate how allomothering behaviors affect maternal well-being. Results will reveal the ways in which maternal psychology is shaped by biological and sociocultural influences.

Michele Buzon has been awarded a Global Synergy Research Grant for Faculty for the research project, "Foreign and Indigenous Contributions to the Development of Christianity in Medieval Nubia." This project aims to provide new data on the origins of the Christian church in Nubia and the processes of conversion in the local communities via the analysis of markers of geographic identity (strontium isotope analysis) and cultural identity (burial practices and other artifacts).

Erik Otárola-Castillo has been awarded a Global Synergy Research Grant for Faculty for the research project, "Climate Change Effects on the Migration and Subsistence Patterns of the First South Americans." This project is a growing collaboration between Dr. Otárola-Castillo, **Dr. Amanda Veile**, Dr. Francesca Fernandini (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú), and municipal leadership in the province of Cañete in Lima, Peru to shed light on the initial migration patterns of the first human colonizers of the New World.

Exploratory Research in the Social Sciences Grants

Andrew Flachs was awarded an Exploratory Research in the Social Sciences grant for his research project, "Comfort Foods: Biocultural Diversity and Community Resilience in Rural Bosnia." This project will

Erik Otárola-Castillo was awarded an Exploratory Research in the Social Sciences grant for his research project, "Were Humans Responsible for the First Mammal Mass Extinctions in North America 13,000 Years Ago?" This project applies quantitative

ask how the rural Bosnian community is adapting agrarian management traditions to support foodways and montane biodiversity as it rebuilds from the 1990s war, adjusts to high unemployment, and grapples with climate change.

techniques developed by Otárola-Castillo and collaborators to determine whether humans created the marks on the bones of several North American mammoth, mastodon, and other megafauna during hunting and butchery. Results will enhance our understanding of the interactions between humans and Pleistocene age megafauna.

Andrew Flachs has been awarded an Enhancing Research in the Humanities and Arts grant for the research project, “The Interactive Story Map of the Cotton Commodity Chain.” This project will combine spatial data with interactive media and first-hand accounts to illuminate the cotton commodity chain through a free, online Story Map.

Erik Otárola-Castillo has been awarded a Library Scholars Grant program for his project, “Climate Change Effects on the Migration and Subsistence Patterns of the First South Americans” from the Purdue Libraries and School of Information Studies as well as the Class of 1935.

RECIPE

Congratulations, you’ve made it to the end of the Anthropology monthly newsletter! As a reward, you get a recipe for latkes, potato pancakes traditionally served to celebrate Chanukah. *Beteavon!*

Ingredients:

5 lbs. potatoes
2.5 onions
5 lightly beaten eggs
0.5 tsp baking powder
5 tbsp breadcrumbs or matzo meal

Oil for cooking,
preferably peanut oil

Directions:

Using the regular blade on a food processor, grate potatoes then soak for one hour in water.

Grate onions in food processor on the regular blade.

Strain potatoes in colander, and press to remove all water.

Combine potatoes, onions, eggs, baking powder, and breadcrumbs/matzo meal.

Heat skillet with oil.

Spoon mixture into the oil to form pancakes, and fry until brown and crisp on both sides.

Serve with sour cream and applesauce.

Optional: other vegetables can be grated and added for variety: sweet potatoes, carrots, or zucchini.

Recipe shared by Melissa Remis.