

The Monadnock



Clark University
Geographical Society

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Dr. Deborah G. Martin

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Alumni and Friends of the Graduate School of Geography:

This is my first note to you as Director of the GSG (which I think can be subtitled my “thank you note”). First, I’m thrilled to write you from these pages of *The Monadnock*, which offers a delightful look into the contemporary CUGS community; their sociality and research activities, and also to a long chain of connection which all of you, uniting Clark PhD alumni, friends, and students over time. I have watched with enthusiasm and pleasure as CUGS has revived *The Monadnock* into its current digital format with an emphasis on the community and fieldwork activities of CUGS members. As a faculty member at Clark GSG, I have always had a sense of the richness of the CUGS community, which transcends time but is an elite and private club, one I

am not a part of, but which I deeply appreciate. I see obvious parallels between CUGS and my own PhD student experiences (Minnesota, 1990s). But CUGS is also distinct, and the long history and current form of *The Monadnock* offers some hints as to why (and why re-viving and reinventing this journal was so important and meaningful). I am acutely aware of the difference between being a member of Clark GSG and being a member, past or present, of CUGS specifically, nested within the broader GSG. One of the things that I so enjoy at the Clark party at the Annual meeting of the AAG is the opportunity talk to those of you who were CUGS members previously, and who always have stories and insights about the community of Clark GSG that, even if I was here at the same time, offer a different perspective and sense of the overall community. I thank you all for sharing those stories and keeping the bonds among CUGS members, and with the GSG overall, strong and vibrant.

I am so grateful to the members of CUGS for their work on this issue of *The Monadnock*, particularly the commitment of its editors, who this year are David Lukens and Ben Fash. My thanks go also to everyone who has helped to provide stories and photos and to share their many tales from the field and the desk. By doing the usually un-thanked work that has to be done to produce a document such as *Monadnock*, CUGS members amply demonstrate their awareness of the integral role of community building and sustenance that is so vital to the GSG, but also to the field and to the work of geographers everywhere.

I do want to take a moment here to thank Tony Bebbington for his service for seven years as Director of GSG. Tony had the unique perspective of having been a CUGSian (can I make that a word?), and shared some of the spirit and insights that having experienced “the mezz” as a student allows. (Although I’m sure someone out there has a story for me about days when the mezz either didn’t exist, or was closed for some reason.) Tony understood intuitively the value of this journal and its potential place in our collective lives and communication.

Just today, I was speaking to a graduate student about his imminent departure for fieldwork. I always am taken aback when students leave to do their work, because each member of CUGS makes themselves such integral members of our community, it is hard to remember that CUGS members leave, sometimes also come back, and then leave again. You would think I would be ready for this transition every time, but I never am. It speaks to the enduring feeling of community that we all foster together. (I think sometimes in the business/busyness of running the GSG and engaging with CUGS over policy and issues and questions; perhaps we forget we are also constantly reknitting ourselves as a community). For more of a sense of the current CUGS community, please do read on for the stories and research and a snippet of the lives of CUGS this past year. Enjoy, and thanks for all you do to sustain the overlapping communities of CUGS and the GSG over time and space.

FROM THE OUTGOING DIRECTOR

Sitting here in my lair in Melbourne I am still having withdrawal symptoms from serving as Director of the GSG. I find myself wondering how things are going, what the university administration is thinking about the GSG’s needs and requests, what has been decided on this and that, how people are doing, and how many mice Kayla and Rachel have caught in the front office. It will take some time to get proper perspective on the last seven years.

When I first arrived to the GSG in August 2010, deep down I was pretty terrified. I knew I had not been first choice to be the new Director, I knew that some very big personalities, heavy hitters on campus, had left the department and that some people were in wait-and-see mode as they considered their own futures, I knew that there were frissons with other units on campus, and I knew my own limitations all too well. Some faculty were remarkably kind and supportive straight away and helped gently orient me and give me confidence. And Jean Heffernan was my savior. She knew so much, good, bad, and ugly, and she shared that knowledge kindly. She also had a certain look when she was not convinced by something I was proposing, and she helped me avoid many errors. It constantly disappoints me how so many academics and university administrators underestimate the degree to which departments and universities depend completely on the skills, foresight and tacit knowledge of non-academic staff, most of whom are women, at least at Clark. I have my theories as to why this is so, but whatever the case, the “staff” are the lynchpins of the GSG’s and Clark’s continued functioning. The collective university “we” owe them so much more.

And, of course, another strength of the GSG is CUGS. The GSG is unusual in its degree of student involvement in most aspects of department life and decisions. I think all faculty and staff believe that this makes the GSG stronger, though it is probably also the case that nobody believes this all the time. It can be a challenging relationship sometimes, perhaps especially around anything to do with personnel decisions, and it is hard to get the balance right. Everybody is passionate, and so behaves passionately – and, perhaps easier to forget, everybody is also a little bit

vulnerable all the time, and also behaves in ways affected by that vulnerability. No-one likes to be assessed, or second guessed, especially across perceived differences of status. Yet in academia, we are assessing and judging the work of others all the time, it is our gold standard means of ensuring quality and accountability. I believe that one of the merits of the GSG’s way of doing things, with so much CUGS involvement, is that it helps us all learn, continuously, how to do that work of assessing and critiquing in ways that are more sympathetic and constructive, and less likely to create angst. But it is not easy, and the GSG does not always get it right. I suspect most of us can think of one or another experience that makes us smile with hindsight, and squirm with memory, at the same time. But we learn.



Dr. Anthony J. Bebbington

Of course, as a one-time CUGS member I came to Clark already believing in the vital role of CUGS in GSG governance, and I know this affected how I handled issues as Director, not always in ways that everyone agreed with. It took me much longer, however, to recognize that much more space in department governance should also be given to our Majors and Masters’ students. To my great shame, I carried my own sense of hierarchy and presumed expertise with me and it blinded me to opportunities. It is not just that our Majors and Masters’ students are bright and intelligent, they are also fine people who have a better feel of the pulse of certain parts of departmental life, and of the relationship between Geography and the rest of Clark, than do the rest of us. Just as one

example, GSG would not have its Practicing Geography week (an innovation that Deans of College have praised) were it not for our undergraduates who talked with me about their sense of being excluded from the Atwood lecture, the GSG's main public academic event each year. Our undergraduate leaders proposed having a "mini-Atwood" just for the Majors, and also proposed what it should look like. They said that they would find it really useful to have an annual lecture from a recent major who would come and talk about work life after Geography. Our majors made this innovation work and it slowly morphed into our current Practicing Geography week, with the sensitive help and hard work of Colleen, Rachel, Mark and Dominik thrown in there too.

So, one of my takeaways of these last seven years is the recognition that the GSG is everyone's, and everyone has something unique to contribute to make it a better, more enjoyable, more excellent, more efficient, more caring, and more fun place to be part of. Managing to learn from each other, contribute to each other, and do so in a way that is always attentive to each other's vulnerabilities, will continue to make the GSG a special place. We won't do it perfectly, and we must avoid beating up on ourselves when we get things wrong: learn, adapt, forgive, move on, build.

Looking back, I also believe that the GSG is stronger than it was seven years ago. Our faculty is larger and somewhat more diverse, though there is still much to do in that regard; the support we are able to give to graduate and undergraduate students has increased, thanks to gifts to the School; at all levels our student body is more involved in the School; we have more means of communication with students and alumni, including a revived Monadnock; we are more engaged with the wider university; and the space we occupy looks just a bit more dignified than it did (I swear that the hole in the TA Alley carpet in 2010 was there when I was a student). We cannot rest on our laurels – some of our competitor departments are better resourced than we are, and can offer better weather. There is also reason to worry about the environment beyond the GSG, and my sense is that people worry about the implications of that environment considerably more than they did in 2010. But that does not diminish what faculty, staff and students have achieved these last seven years, and it is important to celebrate these achievements. I claim no responsibility for any of this, but it was a privilege to serve as Director during it all.

And Deb Martin will be a superlative Director, just as she was a wonderful Associate Director in my first few years.

Tony Bebbington speaks during the Clark Party at the Boston AAGs. Photo by B. Fash.



*Editors David Lukens and Benjamin Fash with their cohort at "check-in." **Back row (L to R)** Alex Moulton, B. Fash, Jacob Chamberlain. **Front Row (L to R)** Guy Hydrick, Janae Davis, Roopa Krithivasan, D. Lukens, Dylan Harris, Yu Zhou, Kaixi Zhang, Su Ye Leslie Gross-Wyrtzen; **Edge of seat:** Rich Kruger*

FROM THE EDITORS

With this issue of the Monadnock we hope to build on the work that previous editors and contributors have put into its revival. Looking back into the archives to see what the Monadnock has been in the past, we were amazed to find first drafts of papers we have later read in seminars, transcripts of Dick Peet arguing with visiting speakers, and remarkably prescient notes about race and gender in the academy. The demands of academia make it unlikely that the Monadnock will return to publishing full pieces of scholarship. However, we believe that it can serve as an outlet for creative expression, open debate, satire, and a window for alumni to share in the vibrant community that is Clark Geography. To that end, we are trying some new things for the Monadnock, and it's all featured on our new blog: clarkmonadnock.com.

In searching for ways to encourage stimulating debate, our thoughts immediately went to the GSG's colloquium series. We agreed that the post-colloquia discussions in the Mezz and in the hallway are some of the most interesting and challenging we have at Clark. These informal conversations tend to bring together a wide range of perspectives and represent some of the best chances we have to cross sub-disciplinary boundaries and challenge a Marxist urban geographer to think about fluvial geomorphology or a hydrologist to think about object oriented ontologies. Accordingly, we started filming the talks and encouraging students to respond with their thoughts. You can now find videos of each colloquia on the blog along with a handful of student responses which we hope will inspire more participation. Additionally, we decided to revive the practice of interviewing the year's Atwood speaker and we are happy to include our own Leslie Gross-Wyrtzen's interview with Arturo Escobar during his visit in 2017.

The Monadnock blog is still very much a work in progress, but we hope that it can serve to complement the content included in this print version and in the future provide more ways for alumni and current students to connect and serve as a place to keep fruitful discussions happening. This is a time of change at the GSG with a new director and many of the department's longest serving faculty retiring. It is our hope that the Monadnock can help to maintain old connections and build new ones during this important time.

Thanks for reading.

OPEN LETTER FROM DIANNE ROCHELEAU

Twenty eight years ago in August of 1989 I left Nairobi, Kenya with my partner Luis Malaret and our two children Ramon (5) and Rafael (2). We traveled to South Florida to visit with our extended families, celebrated my 38th birthday, bought a car, drove to Worcester, settled into 45 Hollywood St. and I began work at Clark University as an Assistant Professor. If it sounds like an eventful month, it was. It's been a long strange road (with apologies to The Grateful Dead) and well worth traveling. I had great company within and beyond the Clark community. The job description was research and teaching in Environment, Development, Political Ecology, and Africa and I had proposed in my job talk to bring gender into the study of all four. My location in Main South just a few blocks off campus inspired me to do a Worcester-based Urban Ecology field course and Phil Steinberg, then a Ph.D. student talked me into the first New York City 3 day field class and helped set it all up with local activists. I never looked back, taught the course over 20 times and learned more about Urban Ecology, Environmental Justice, social movements and NYC than I could have imagined at the time. Courses in Gender and Environment, Gender and Development, International Political Ecology, Tropical Ecology, Agroecology and Agroforestry, Ecologies of Resistance, and Rooted Networks brought a diversity of undergraduate and graduate students into my classrooms, my research and my life. I learned so much from the people in my classes and from all the reading and observation I did to inform my teaching, as well as from fascinating and rewarding collaborative research with people from communities in Kenya, the Dominican Republic, the U.S. (Adirondacks) and Mexico. In every case I also worked with students, and colleagues, including Luis (and yes, with Rafi and Ramon). The Feminist Political Ecology (FPE) book came out of a fruitful collaboration at Clark with Barbara Thomas-Slayter and Esther Wangari and recent work on postcolonial and decolonial FPE, rooted networks and emergent ecologies has been thought and written in relation with Wendy Harcourt, Arturo Escobar, Robin Roth, Padini Nirmal, and many others.

Now I finally have the time and latitude to write up and publish research that I could not



Dianne Rocheleau, Professor Emerita and affiliated as Senior Research Scientist, retired at the end of Spring 2017. Photo by B. Fash.

fit into the covers of academic journals and the disciplinary regimes that govern them. The fellowship of colleagues, staff and students within the GSG has been complemented by people from Women and Gender Studies, the Difficult Dialogues Program, the New Earth Conversation (on Climate Change) and the International Development, Community and Environment programs. They have brought students and colleagues from across the world, the university and academic disciplines to enrich my classes, research, writing, thinking and social activism. As I write this Luis and I are staying in a collective house in Worcester with 3 alums and their housemates while we work through decades of accumulated possessions, including hundreds of books (winnowed down from thousands) to prepare a shipment to our second home in Mexico. We were proud to join them and other Clark alums at City Hall and on the streets of Worcester on August 14th and will stand with them and other Clark faculty and alums, in Boston on August 19th, in solidarity with antifascist and anti-racist activists, and against white supremacy. I have always been proudest to be a Clarkie when I have been in the company of faculty, staff and students willing to stand with people from our communities in defense of civil and human rights and against the use of privilege and might to wreak havoc and terror, wherever, whenever, and however that occurs. So, I am not really retired from all that matters most, just from the fixed demands of "the job", not from the open-ended challenge of "the work" that makes a life, beyond "a living".

P.S. Thanks to all the students, staff, and faculty (including retired) who so warmly and thoughtfully celebrated with me over the last year and those who accompanied me through the first 28 yrs. at Clark.

50 YEARS OF PRACTICING RADICAL GEOGRAPHY

At the 2017 AAG in Boston, Clarkies participated in several sessions reflecting on 50 years of radical geography at the GSG. Many people are part of this storied history but only one has been at Clark the whole time: Dick Peet. Prior to the AAG, the Development Geography Specialty Group held a pre-conference and honored Dick as keynote speaker, where he spoke about financialization with his unmistakable Marxist conviction. At the Clark party, the GSG presented Dick with some tokens of appreciation and a moment to share some words with our community. Asked for a message to Monadnock readers, Dick said:

"So it's 50 years teaching at Clark. Time passed in an instant, from being kind of a hippie, straight out of Berkeley, to my present status as aged radical, the old guy staggering around the hallways. And as you've heard me say (several times) I loved every minute of it (almost every minute at least), and they paid me to do it!. Still do. For all the friends and comrades Who have passed thru, greetings, and keep doing it!"

Looking back to when it all began, here is an excerpt from a 1970 Monadnock interview:

J. RICHARD PEET

"This is what I am doing - I received my meal ticket (Ph.D.) in August of 1968. I gave a paper to Martyn's meeting of historical geographers (whatever it was called - he will mention full name in his blurb you can be sure). My paper was called "American Agriculture in the Canal Era...". My article "The Spatial Expansion of Commercial Agriculture in the Nineteenth Century: A Von Thunen Interpretation" is to appear shortly in *Economic Geography*. My research interests at the moment lie in the direction of (a) the dynamics of agricultural expansion, and (b) the relationship between migrating agricultural zones and central place systems. I am "preparing" a book on agricultural expansion in the nineteenth century based on the concept of expanding world-scale von Thunen zones".

Dick Peet gives acceptance speech after receiving a plaque commemorating his 50 years of teaching. Photo by B. Fash.





Asha Best (left) and Lyndon Estes (right) have joined the GSG as Assistant Professors..

WELCOME NEW FACULTY: MEET ASHA BEST AND LYNDON ESTES

WHAT DREW YOU TO CLARK? WHAT WERE YOUR IMPRESSIONS BEFORE & AFTER VISITING?

AB: Before last year I had never visited the Clark campus, but I was originally drawn to the fact that Clark is this unique mix between a small liberal arts school and a research institution.

After having the opportunity to visit I was really impressed by the attention to undergraduate research, the collaborative relationships between students and faculty, and the relationship between Clark and the surrounding community. It feels like Clark's faculty and students are really invested in Worcester, which I appreciate because it's important to me to teach at a university that isn't isolated from the rest of the city.

LE: I was drawn to Clark because the GSG is a leader in the major domains of Geography (which to me can be broadly classed as GIScience, human geography, and physical geography/Earth System science), and I was struck by the sense of collegiality amongst the Faculty, students, and staff. These impressions remain unchanged. An added attraction for me is Clark's proximity to Southern New Hampshire, where I grew up (and my parents still live) in the shadow of this publication's namesake.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT IN YOUR FIRST YEAR AT CLARK?

I'm most looking forward to working with a group of smart, socially engaged, diverse students, and contributing to the work over at CGRAS. Also, I grew up in New England, and I'm excited to be back East and to explore Worcester a bit more— I'm told there is a bevy of new restaurant options and some great hiking trails.

At the risk of sounding trite, I am excited to get to know my new colleagues, to start developing the courses I have wanted to teach for some time (but not yet had the chance), and to start building a research group.

WHAT ARE THE MOST INTERESTING THINGS FOR YOU IN GEOGRAPHY NOW?

(This question reminds me that I have a long reading list that I didn't get to this summer.) There's a lot happening in Geography right now-- there is a newly formed Black Geographies specialty group, and an upcoming Black Geographies conference. There will be some exciting and productive dialogues that emerge from it.

As a newcomer to Geography, the most interesting thing to me about Geography is actually not really new. That is, Geography has long been concerned with the type of inter-disciplinary research that is needed to understand global sustainability challenges. Other disciplines (e.g. environmental sciences) are moving in this direction, but are arriving at a place already occupied by Geography. What is new to the field is the rapid growth in next-generation methods and technologies, which are greatly increasing the opportunities for Geographers' to gain fresh insight into human-environment interactions.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN WHEN AWAY FROM SCHOLARSHIP?

I lived in Los Angeles for the past few years and I do enjoy spending time at the beach. I saw a desert super bloom a few months ago, which was amazing. I do yoga (or I try to-- Shavasana remains my best pose). I'm convinced that I'm going to start a garden and successfully grow my first tomato... perhaps even a squash blossom or two.

Mostly hang out with my family (wife and 10 year old daughter), garden, and hike (on rare occasions these days).

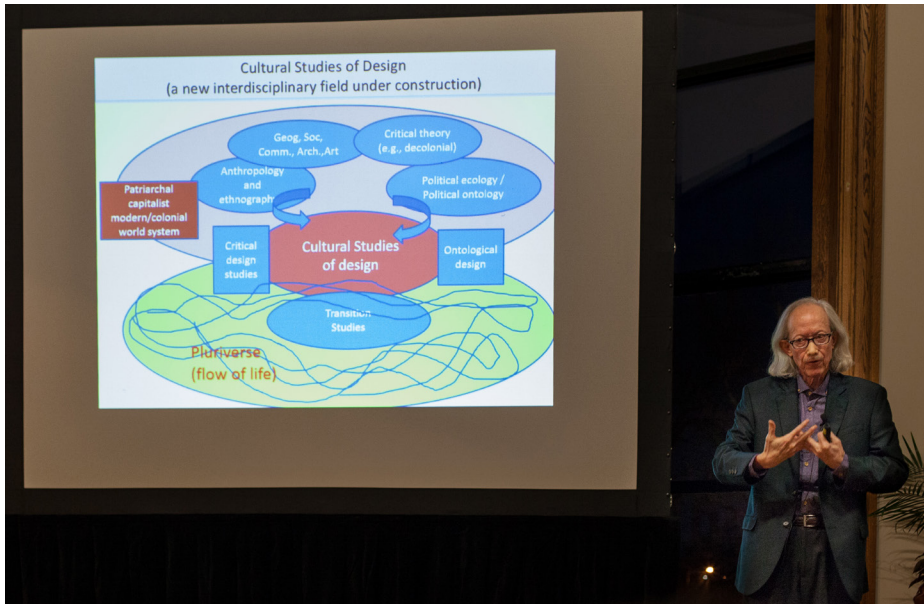
STUDENT AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

You're invited to get engaged at the Alumni and Student Engagement Center (ASEC)!

At the ASEC, a signature building, truly a cornerstone of our community engagement efforts, we showcase Clark's commitment to sustainability. The roof is lined with solar panels, and in case you haven't noticed, we use the power they produce to illuminate them at night so everyone knows we are the greenest. Furthering our dedication to longevity, only the most toxic paint is applied to the unventilated stairways.

With your engagement, we might design and install a proper entrance – currently we rely on a handwritten note on a sheet of white paper taped to the window to point visitors in the right direction.





Arturo Escobar delivers the annual Atwood Lecture. Photo by B. Fash.

COLLOQUIUM AND ATWOOD LECTURE

Each semester, the CUGS Colloquium Series invites several leading scholars and professionals to present original research and meet with graduate students. Seeking to extend the reach of these opportunities, this year the Monadnock editors piloted videography of the talks and calls for responses to talks. To see videos of talks and student responses to them, visit clarkmonadnock.com. Reviving an old Monadnock tradition, we also have an interview with the Atwood speaker below.

Decolonizing design[Y1] : an interview with Arturo Escobar

by Leslie Gross-Wyrtzen

Clark's Graduate School of Geography was very honored to invite anthropologist and critical development scholar Arturo Escobar to give the 2017 Atwood Lecture on March 16. His work interrogates the epistemological underpinnings of development in Latin America, and explores how indigenous social movements based on alternative ways of knowing can guide us to a more sustainable world. He is the author of *Encountering Development* (1995) and *Territories of Difference* (2008), and introduced ideas from his newest book, *Designs for the Pluriverse*, forth-

coming from Duke University Press, during the lecture. I sat down with him before the lecture to talk more in depth about his new thinking around design, as well as some key themes in previous work related to territory, the communal and decolonization.

OK, I'm going to start with your current work, and specifically about the design thinking, and how you are working with that, and what that means for you.

Which is a big question...

Yes, that's what I'm talking about tonight. It's a relatively new topic for me, or for anybody in the social sciences. Social scientists haven't had an interest in design per se, design as a cultural practice, as a political practice, as an ontological practice if you wish, but I've always been around design many, many years. My undergraduate was in engineering many years ago, and then I worked in some quasi-design issues in Colombia in the 1980s, especially around questions about art and education.

I went back to those interests about 6-7 years ago because I started noticing that there are some writings by designers-- especially by designers themselves, not academ-

ics about design-- rethinking design around the lines of making design less expert driven, more participatory, more collaborative, more situated. Realizing that in modernity everything is designed, and that design has become more part of the problem than part of the solution. Because it is, as I put it, the central political technology of modernity. It is a central tool for creating the kinds of worlds in which we live today. And hence, if we agree that these worlds are profoundly unsustainable, and are causing devastation of the earth, social inequality, then the question becomes very simple-- how can we re-think design?

In my case, from a Latin American perspective, from the perspective of social movements, from the perspective of working with indigenous communities, from the perspective of thinking about all the forms of development which is not really development but what in Latin America is called *buen vivir*, collective well-being, a holistic notion of social life. Finally, thinking about design as a potential tool for what many people call today "civilizational transitions." To a different model of being which is no longer capitalistic, individual-centered, globalized, that is no longer intended to create a single world with a single global market, a single global civilization, more or less defined along the lines of the western historical experience. But more intended to foster what we call the pluriverse which meaning by that, as the Zapatistas put it, "a world where many worlds fit."

So the book [*Designs for the Pluriverse*] is concerned with how to build critical sorts of design especially from the perspective of cultural studies, how to reorient design from its conventional orientation. How to make design convey more explicitly the kinds of social policies and social issues that communities have to deal with day-in and day-out, and finally, how can communities in struggle themselves use design as a tool for their political projects.

The question might be-- can design work as a decolonial tool?

Yes, and I guess you are saying it has to be relocated in order for that to happen.

Relocated, yes, reoriented philosophically or ontologically towards non-dualist world-

views, cosmologies, cosmo-visions, that acknowledge and stem from the awareness of the radical interdependence of life. So design for transitions, has these two components to it in my view, one is how design can contribute to these transitions, towards genuine sustainability, not the way which is being defined today by markets and so forth. And another branch is where it can be utilized as a tool to strengthen the autonomy of communities, grassroots communities.

You used a key word that I like—I think both you and Walter Dignolo have been really starting to engage, or allow for productive conversation amongst decolonial thinkers and autonomist European thinkers. And autonomy of migration is a really important philosophical/political tool.

The autonomia thinking that I use particularly, is less the Italian and more the Latin American kind that is derived mostly from—especially southern Mexico, Chiapas, and Oaxaca, autonomous movements, that is very influenced by the Zapatistas-- but not only that. And the Colombian southwest, there are indigenous and black peasant struggles going on for many, many years explicitly conceived as struggles for difference and autonomy.

So there's a connection between writing about autonomy, writing about the communal but in a way that is completely anti-essentialist, it is very historical. It is not an appeal to community as something that needs to be protected and defended no matter what, it's much more historicized, much more talking about actually existing communities, by which I mean entangled with globalization and modernity but nevertheless have not completely defined by globalization and modernity. So this new way of thinking about autonomy is explicitly in the context of grassroots struggles, especially but not only by ethnic minorities. Also they incorporate territories as well.]

I'm interested in this. I struggle with territory especially if we're trying to think ontologically about plurality of worlds, including a world that is mobile. How do you deal with that, and I'm sure in the part of Colombia you research, there are overlapping territorialities.

Definitely.

And so how do you – what did that look like?

Yes, yes. The mobility part, particularly, how do you reconcile territory and the emphasis on place, or the politics of place when people are on the move? And how do you facilitate the communal when people no longer have community in a way?

Right.

So I have more things in this new book than I had in *Territories of Difference*, but it is still insufficient. For those of us that are in-between worlds so to speak-- like many of us that are shuttling back and forth between different worlds. How do we turn that into a possibility for making new kinds of commitments to communities that are not communities as we know them-- traditional communities-- but place-based and transnational, or translocal at the same time?

I think the commitment to place continues to be important—I don't want to say that everyone has to go back to place and community, but that, if the contemporary ecological crisis in many ways is a crisis of de-localization, and globalization, and if the imperative today in many ways-- and you find this in all transition movements in the global north and global south-- is towards re-localization and re-communalization, then we have to make the two things work together.

You know, people that will be fully digital, and fully or partially mobile, but also might be able to maintain that attachment to a territory or a communalist basis on some fashion. That involves the creation of new ways of being communal.

Right, and new subjects, too.

Definitely. New kinds of non-dualist subjects. Which is difficult when you are on the move, it's a challenge. So we have to figure out good ways of trying to put those two things together. Mobility and deterritorialization with non-duality and reterritorialization.

Right and the sense of place- I mean it's intrinsic. Even people on the move bring with them some sort of sense of place. So how do we value that?

So you asked me about Colombia-- migrants

from the pacific coast of Colombia, black people from the pacific coast are displaced by force to Cali or Bogotá-- they continue to have a sense of place from the rivers from which they came. And they keep going back and forth when they can. Some of them don't but many of them keep going back to the river at least for the festivities and things like that.

Ok, final question. Something we've been talking about here at Clark is how can we, as up-and-coming researchers, participate in decolonizing the academy? And can we even do it from inside the academy? Do we need to be elsewhere?

Epistemic decolonization is the concept that you probably know from the decolonial theorists. The academy taken as a whole is under a lot of pressure of just training people to be successful in globalization, and especially the undergraduates. Training people who are going to be successful in marketplaces. And we know that that's a dead end. We know that is the mode that is destroying the earth. So we need to create a space in the academy for people who are going to contribute to rethink life. Social life, economic life, political life. Rethinking science and technology.

And we have to just keep pushing, keep applying pressure, making visible both the historicity of the modernist ways of knowing, and technology and innovation, and its link to devastating ecological events. Ecological and socially devastating practices, growing inequality, land grabs, devastation on the one hand, and all ways of knowing, all visions of the world, *buen vivir*, radical interdependence, non-dualism, other ontologies, and making them viable for students to go into these lines of work. So that's my hope is that design can become one of those spaces-- but we have to create those spaces in geography departments, anthropology departments-- especially those two—which should be naturally interested in these “other academies” – *academias otras* as they are called in Latin America.

Leslie Gross-Wyrtzen is a second year PhD student in Geography researching modes of governance in border and migration management and their impacts on sub-Saharan migrants in Morocco.



The cohort whose first year began in 2016: Back row (L-R): Andrew Riely, Sam Khallagi, Brittany Lauren Wheeler. Middle row (L-R): Helen Rosko, Mario Machado; Front (L-R) Luisa Young, Mara van den Bold, Dan Santos, Sarah SanGiovanni. Photo by Brenda Nikas-Hayes

MEET CUGS

We invited the outgoing first-year cohort of 2016 to reflect on their personal placemaking in Worcester, share their influences (disciplinary and otherwise), and imagine their futures. Here they share about their experience as geographers and their growing interests in the field. Learn about their perspectives on Worcester, the GSG, and plans for year two on the blog at (clarkmonadnock.com)

When/why do you feel like a geographer?

Marc Healy: When I am not around other Geographers! I feel like I have a different mindset in understanding and solving problems.

Sarah SanGiovanni: I feel like a geographer all the time, because at heart all people are geographers.

Helen Rosko: Whether I am actively performing geography through scholarship, hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains, or touring cities, I sense elements of geography all around me that allow me to perform and understand everyday practices. It's remarkable!

Dan Santos: I take pride in exploring the spaces and overlap between disciplines. Being interested in genetics, biotechnology, and the associated emerging commodities and

markets, geography enables me to accommodate all these interests, and the boundaries it prompts us to question.

Sam Khallagi: Whenever I am talking to geographers of course :)

Mara van den Bold: I first felt like a Geographer when I realized there is a name for the things I'm interested in; apparently it's called political ecology! Also, when I try to explain things like the Chthulucene, rhizomes, and panopticons to my non-GEOG friends!

Luisa Young: I'm not sure I actively think I am a geographer. The process of explaining what I do to others and hearing myself struggle to convey the myriad disciplines I traverse gets me thinking about the “identity crisis of geography”: I do feel this “crisis” and that is when I feel like a geographer.

Mario Machado: When people ask me, “What do you do?” and I reply, “I am a geographer,” and they respond with something like, “I didn't know that was a thing still” or, “Oh, you must make lots of maps!”

Andrew Riely: I'm a Geographer because I've had a strong attachment to certain places for as long as I can remember. As I've grown up, I've found that attention to space is particularly important to the way I make sense of change.

Brittany Lauren Wheeler: I feel like a geographer among this diverse cohort; we're a microcosm of all that geography envelops. I also began to feel more like a geographer when I found a niche that resonated--and heard myself stating that I was a legal geographer when trying to talk my way into a university law library in Chicago.

Tell us about a discipline (or sub-discipline), a particular text (or genre of text), or a person (or group of persons) that have made a significant impact on you and how you perform geography.

SS: My master's degree was in Urban Planning, so as I learn about geographic Urban Theory, I reflect on connections/differences between these disciplines.

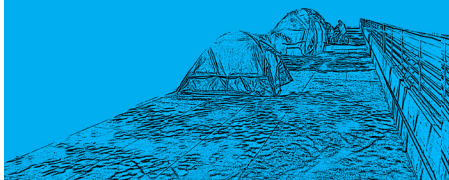
HR: The power of discourse! Foucault, Lefebvre, Marx, Numeroff, and Pat Conroy's novels. The power of knowledge! The myriad mentors I have had within the discipline and greater academia, but also the invaluable "non-geographers" outside. I also follow a lot of productivity and life improvement blogs: Rands in Respite, Wait But Why?, Brene Brown and Chris Winfield. For me to be the best geographer possible, I have to maintain the best Helen Rosko possible.

DS: I'm interested in grounding my work in the intersection between geography and science and technology studies. Actor-network-theory and Donna Haraway's concept of the 'cyborg' have been particularly influential. I'm also considering drawing upon literatures on the social construction of scientific knowledge, posthumanism, new materialism, neoliberal natures, and economization.

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SK: I'm interested in computer science and the issues of managing geographic data in the digital world. If I want to name one book that was very important in shaping my mind, it's "GIS: A computing perspective" by Worboys and Duckham. This is one of the best books explaining the special architecture of spatial databases and the issues of representing and querying spatial data.

MVDB: My background in anthropology and development studies plays a role in how I think. Memorable texts: Haraway's Situated Knowledges, McCarthy's First World political ecology, Bruce Braun's Buried Epistemologies, Kosek's Purity and Pollution, Wapner's Reimagining climate change, Pulido's Reflections on a White Discipline, Carney & Voeks' Landscape legacies of the African diaspora in Brazil. Inspirations: Donna Haraway, Judith Butler, Gibson-Graham, Dianne Rocheleau, Carolyn Finney.

LY: I'm informed by people's stories, and art in all shapes or forms--especially those that act/appear under the radar. Other sources of information have transformed me, including "Ayurvedic, Art of Being", engagement with food not only as a source of nutrition but its history, and the importance of seeing through political discourses of other regions and cultures. What I find most transformative is speaking to people outside academia, from Kwame at Clark to people from back home on the bus.

MM: Science Fiction, increasingly, but before that, literature more generally. I love reading outside of academia and try to make it a serious part of my broader "studies" (an excuse to read things that are not for class, orals, or anything else geography related).

AR: Working with my historian colleagues as a high school teacher strengthened my resolve to rely on inductive methods. I admired their insistence on using primary sources (textual, human, or landscape) and tethering analysis to evidence. The book Reading the Forested Landscape, by the ecologist Tom Wessels, opened a lot of possibilities to me.

BW: I'm fascinated by the shape of the legal landscape in all disciplines of study and walks of life, an influence largely born of 1) my work repatriating cultural material from a natural history museum and 2) the (theoretical) consideration of the gaps in protection related to different forms of regional migration.

SNAPSHOTS FROM CUGS SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES



CUGS members with graduate students from other departments discuss student labor unions and the possibility of forming one at Clark. Pictured: Kaner Atakan Turker, Michelle Wenderlich, Amy Zhang, Rich Kruger, David Lukens, Dylan Harris, Alex Moulton, and Laura Sauls. Photo by B. Fash.



CUGS and friends at the Women's March, Boston. Back (L to R): Carlos Dobler, Emily Sturdivant, Brittany Lauren Wheeler, Mara van den Bold, Mario Machado, Rich Kruger, Renee Tapp, Teresa Bornschlegl, Alan Wiig, Dan Santos, Mukadder Okuyan; Front (L to R) Ashley York, Alex Moulton. Photo courtesy of Brittany Lauren Wheeler.



(Left) Music night to celebrate Juan Luis Dammert's (guitar and vocals) dissertation defense. Also pictured: Elisa Arond (cello and vocals), Kristen Shake (dancing), Ashley York and Jacob Chamberlain (watching attentively), and Carlos Dobler and Melishia Santiago (tableside). Photo by B. Fash (also on vocals)



(Above) Ashley York wins the award for Best Concept for "The God-Trick" at Explanation in Gastronomy, the annual conceptual potluck. Photo by B. Fash.



(Above) Friendsgiving in the Mezz: (front to back) Rachel Levitt, ?, Kayla Peterson, Tong Jiao, Mara van den Bold, Dylan Harris, and David Lukens. Photo by Alex Moulton.

(Right) Easter celebration: (L to R) Leta Spencer (IDCE), Alex Sphar, Sarah SanGiovanni, Brittany Lauren Wheeler, Helen Rosko, Mara van den Bold, Dylan Harris, Mario Machado, and Rich Kruger. Photo by B. Fash.



(Right) Dinner gathering for the Nature/Society workshop organized by CUGS in September 2017, featuring students and faculty from Clark, Boston University, Cornell, Dartmouth, Georgia, Harvard, MIT, RISD, Rutgers, Penn State, Syracuse, and Temple. Photo by B. Fash.

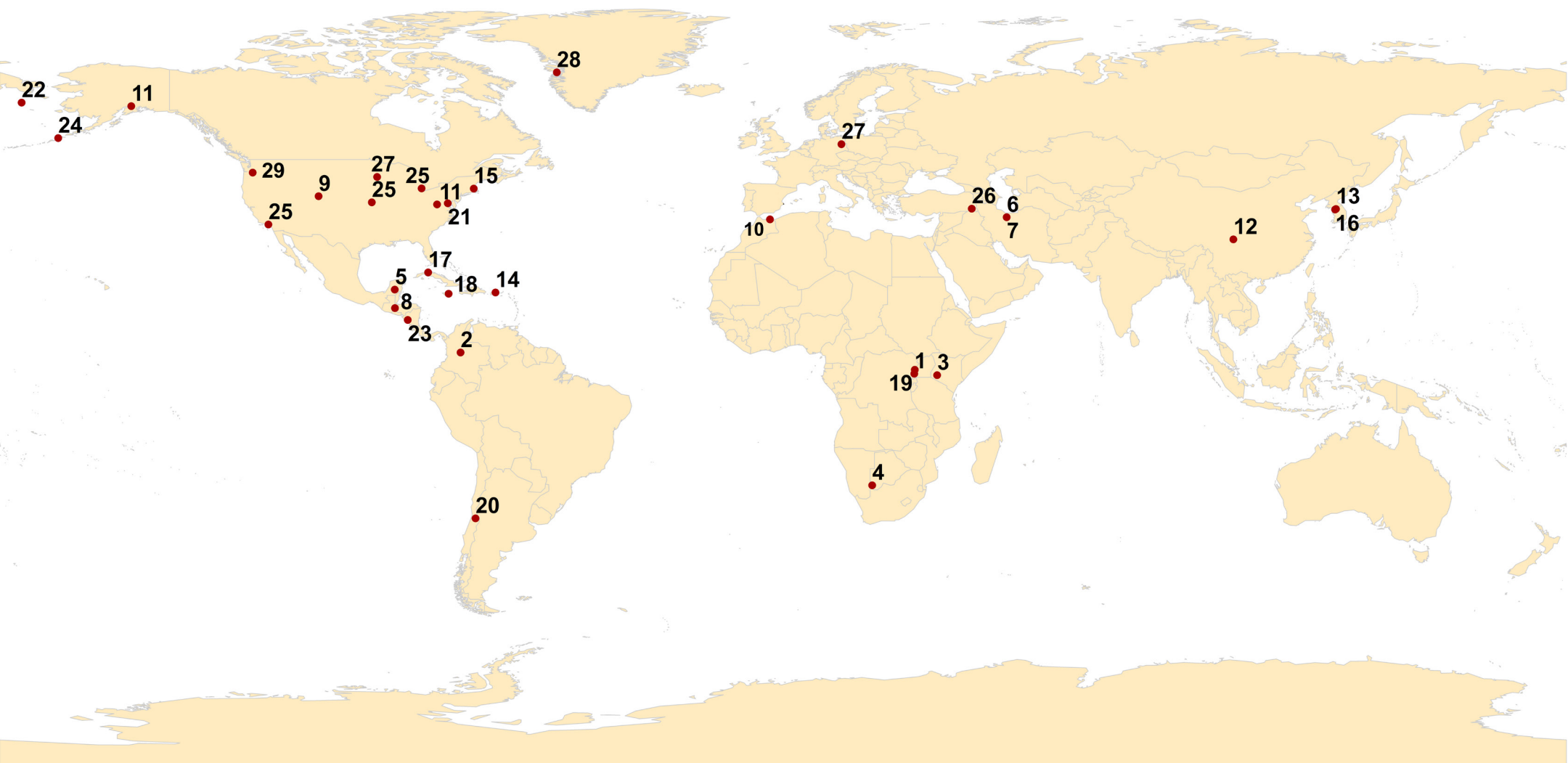


(Left) CUGS stops for a roadside meal en route to the Dimensions of Political Ecology (DOPE) conference at the University of Kentucky. (L-R) Alex Moulton, Dan Santos, Sarah SanGiovanni, Mario Machado, Janae Davis, Mara van den Bold, Helen Rosko, and Dylan Harris. Photo by B. Fash.

(Below) February 2017: CUGS shows up en masse at Worcester City Hall to protest the Executive Order "Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States" and rally to make Worcester a "sanctuary city". Photo by B. Fash.



RESEARCH SITES OF CURRENT DOCTORAL STUDENTS



Map by Ashley York Based on a partial CUGS survey in June 2017. Geographic Coordination System: WGS 1984. Projection: World Robinson

1. Bernadette Arakwiye, Rwanda

2. Elisa Arond, Bogota

3. William Collier, Bomet County, Kenya

4. Janae Davis, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

5. Carlos Dobler, Southern Yucatán Peninsular Region

6. Azadeh Esfahani, Tehran

7. Alireza Farahani, Tehran

8. Benjamin Fash, Copán Ruinas, Honduras

9. Nathan Gill, Colorado Rockies

10. Leslie Gross-Wyrtzen, Fes, Morocco

11. Dylan Harris, Circleville, WV and Anchorage, Alaska

12. Wenjing Jiang, Sichuan

13. Young-Long Kim, Seoul

14. Richard Kruger, San Juan, Puerto Rico

15. Son Ca Lam, Boston

16. David Lukens, Seoul

17. Mario Machado, Matanzas, Cuba

18. Alex Moulton, Jamaica

19. Patrick Mutegeki, Kabarole District, Uganda

20. Scott Odell, Santiago

21. Andrew Riely, Mount Pleasant, D.C.

22. Melishia Santiago, Bering Sea

23. Laura Sauls, Managua, Nicaragua

24. Kristen Shake, Alaska

25. Renee Tapp, Kansas City, MO; Los Angeles, CA; Detroit, MI

26. Kaner Turker, Northern Kurdistan

27. Michelle Wenderlich, Berlin, Germany and Minneapolis, MN

28. Ashley York, Disko Bay

29. Yu Zhou, Pacific Northwest

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIELD

Complementing the summaries of research activities in the Geography Newsletter, current doctoral students reflect on surprises, challenges, lessons learned, and more.

Son Ca Lâm

My research is about how displaced people (re)make home. I am following the lives of Vietnamese women in 10 families through three generations: grandmas in the U.S. and Việt Nam, mothers (first displaced generation) in the U.S. and granddaughters (second generation) born in the U.S. My field work involves interviewing, shadowing, and filming the daily lives of each woman for three to five days. The motivation behind my research question about the impact of displacement on practices that establish a sense of home for a displaced people, is the desire to understand how people can heal. How do they grapple with the things they have given up/left behind/lost, and rebuild their lives?

The women I follow often warn me about the mundaneness of their daily lives, that it is nothing noteworthy. Some have fled

their homeland with nothing but the clothes they wore, running through the jungle in the middle of the night on a path only lit by moonlight, not knowing where the ocean led, or if they would they live to see next day. Yet, these women agreed to let a stranger follow and film them not because they think their stories are important, but because they wanted to support my work. To the next generation, these lived experiences are just distant memories filled with static.

No one talks about the intimacy of relationships built “in the field,” fearing that it would compromise our “objectivity” as researchers. Every week, I feel like I get to glimpse the different lives I could have had, if my circumstances were different, through the women who have opened up to their lives to me. When I wrap up shadowing a family, I feel like I have witnessed a whole collective life journey from grandmother to mother to granddaughter. Sometimes, I become part of the family. This process has been the most transformative and humbling experience in my life. I have come to realize that my research is really about honoring the wisdom, stories, and insight that is being offered to me in the most mundane unassuming contexts.

A glimpse into a day in the life of a Vietnamese mother on her only day off in the week:

8:30 AM: WAKE UP & get coffee
9:00 AM: Wash work towels at the laundromat; leave them there to dry
9:45 AM: Take grandma (who needs an interpreter) to the doctor
10:45AM: Take grandma to the garden center to shop for plants
12:00 PM – 3PM: Run errands (go to the bank, go to the market, get information about a caretaker for grandma, stop by the auto body shop, visit various people, etc)
3:00 PM: HOME
4:00 PM: LUNCH (rice & fish)
5:00 PM: Go buy work supplies
7:00 PM: HOME & cook dinner
9:00 PM: DINNER (rice & stir-fry beef + watercress leaves)
12:00 AM: SLEEP

Two Tales of ‘Resilience’ OR The Chicken Truck and The Elasticity of Time by Will Collier

‘Resilience’ is a popular, although elusive, term used nowadays in development studies, environmental sciences, and geography, among other fields. It’s not the focus of my research, per se, but it’s always around in day-to-day life. The short anecdotes below are experiences I’ve encountered while conducting my doctoral research in Rift Valley, Kenya. For me, they bring into question how ‘resilience’ is demarcated in our minds and where upon the spectrum of daily activities the lived realities of the term might exist. The Chicken Truck: The main highway between Nairobi and Nakuru, the A104, is an interesting experience, if we want to talk in euphemisms. Dangerous is more accurate. Between 01 January and 26 February 2017, 466 people died in traffic accidents on the A104, which runs from the port of Mombasa on the Kenyan coast through the Rift Valley to Uganda. The A104 is filled with freight trucks, lorries, private cars, and public vans, all operating under what would be considered minimal – or non-existent – enforcement of traffic laws and hazardous road conditions. During one recent trip from Nairobi to Nakuru, we ran into gridlock. Not uncommon on the A104. When accidents occur, two lanes of traffic quickly turn into eight lanes, on and off-road. Stangers-by gather at the scene of the accident to see what’s happening, and crowds grow quickly. On this occasion, we asked a young man walking through the traffic what was going on. Kuku, he said in Swahili. Chicken. We thought, surely, he was joking with us, and continued our wait. Thirty minutes later, we arrived at the scene of the accident. A freight truck, in fact, filled with frozen chickens had jackknifed, spilling the product along the highway. Also at the scene, some twenty to thirty people immediately, albeit unexpectedly, became refrigerated chicken salespeople. Business was booming! Cars passing through the site were buying chickens wholesale. This is common occurrence with freight accidents in Kenya. One minute, traffic proceeds as normal, and the next, a micro-enterprise emerges from

thin air. While this is more commonly referred to as opportunism, and theft, perhaps it’s also something else, something overlapping – working within the constraints of the situation.

The Elasticity of Time: One morning in Nakuru, I needed to get a quick physical exam for a grant requirement. I identified a physician’s office in town that offered the service and booked an appointment for the following day.



Will Collier gets a visit from Prof. Jim Murphy in Kenya.
Photo courtesy of Will Collier.

I simply needed a doctor to sign a document saying I was healthy enough to travel to Kenya, which is funny, since I got the signature in Kenya. But anyway. To get the paperwork signed, I needed to print a form. Unfortunately, the printer in the physician’s office wasn’t working that morning. I offered to print the form at the university and return the following day; but the physician’s assistant, determined to succeed, offered to fix the printer while I waited. Over the course of the next two hours, I watched the assistant disassemble the printer piece-by-piece, on occasion calling-in external help when needed. Long story short, it took a while, but the printer was fixed, the document printed, and the signature received. For me, it was an example not only of determination, but also the necessity of time elasticity, given the circumstances. Many people refer to the elasticity of time as “Kenya time” or “Africa time,” most often having the negative connotation that it takes a long time to accomplish even simple tasks. My experience at the health clinic, in my opinion, shows otherwise; the elasticity of time can also be a resource.

THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF VIETNAMESE WOMEN

**ARE YOU A
VIETNAMESE OR
VIETNAMESE
AMERICAN WOMAN
OVER 18 YEARS OLD?**

**DID YOUR
FAMILY COME
TO THE U.S.
AS REFUGEES?**

**ARE YOU A CURRENT
OR FORMER
RESIDENT OF
DORCHESTER, MA?**

DO YOU HAVE 3 LIVING GENERATIONS OF WOMEN IN YOUR FAMILY?

**1. Grandmother living
in the U.S. or Viet Nam**

**2. Daughter living
in the U.S.**

**3. Granddaughter living
in the U.S.**

If you answered **YES** to all of these questions, you are invited to participate in this exciting research study!

Each participant will be compensated for their participation.

My name is Son Ca Lâm and I am a Vietnamese American PhD student in Geography at Clark University. I am researching the experience of Vietnamese women as part of my research. I hope to be able to document the stories of our community.

CONTACT: SON CA LÂM | SONCA.LAM@GMAIL.COM | 617-620-3085

Son Ca Lâm's post for research participant recruitment.

**Null Hypothesis or how to check yourself
before you wreck yourself**
By: Renee Tapp, PhD Candidate

Fifteen years ago I was researching my undergraduate honor's thesis, today I'm researching my doctoral dissertation. On the surface there's not a lot of similarity between the two projects: then, an ethnography of Sufism in northern India; now, a mixed-methods investigation of historic tax credits and modernist architecture in the US. While I'm not entirely certain what the conclusion of my undergraduate thesis was, I do remember discovering that interviews reveal as much about your own assumptions as they reveal information for your project.



Park Hill Flats in Sheffield, UK
Photo by Renee Tapp.

Or in other words: the answers you get might not be the answers you expect. That hard-learned lesson quickly fell through the cracks when I started formulating the primary research question for my dissertation. The enthusiasm I had for the subject—the rehab of buildings built between 1945-1970—eclipsed any sense of reason I had. “Of course property developers care about modernist architecture...it's political,” I said to myself and anyone that would listen. When I finally started to ask policymakers, bankers, and developers why they were rehabilitating so much modern architecture (it was for the politics, right?) or to describe my project to other geographers, I was met with blank expressions. Unnerved, humiliated, and teetering on the edge of panic, I thought maybe

they didn't know what they were talking about. They must be wrong, I tried to console myself, they don't get my project. This slog continued for months, through grant application after grant application and interview on interview, I persisted. Until one day, when an architect, of all the people, mentioned a tax credit for rehabilitating historic buildings. It turns out that not many, if any, developers care about what type of architecture they're rehabbing, they care about the credit! Suddenly it was as if the stars aligned and the world was crystal clear; I could now converse with interview subjects in meaningful ways and I could talk about my project to social scientists. I felt confident in my research and excited to learn the ways finance works, even if it meant letting go of the assumption I had that the love of modernism was the driving force for its redevelopment.

Do I have more questions?
Sure! Right now, they range from technical questions like how exactly is depreciation deducted from taxes, to the more theoretical like where is the federal state in all of this? Some of those questions I know I need to answer to finish my dissertation, others I am using as seeds for my next project. But I learned from my dissertation that a research question is just a hypothesis masquerading as query. You don't actually have the answer until you've asked the question and then,

when you ask the question, you learn that the premise your hypothesis was based around was flawed from the start. I hope that putting it in writing will commit it to my memory, but I'm pretty sure I'll forget this lesson (again) soon enough. Lucky for me, I never tire of asking questions.

**An unexpected finding of my first six months
in the field, or a tropical researcher's meditation
on Shakespeare's Hamlet***
by Laura Sauls

To take malaria prophylaxis or to not take malaria prophylaxis – that is the question: Whether 'tis nobler of the mind-body to suffer the risk of



Laura Sauls at protest in Nicaragua. Photo by Laura Sauls.

The fever and pains of mosquito-borne infection
Or to take arms against the disease,
And by opposing it, suffer ongoing nausea and lightheadedness. To vomit – to sick up – No more; and by sick up to say we end The stomachache, the daily system shocks That prophylaxis makes one heir to. 'Tis an outcome
Devoutly to be wish'd. But to not take preventive measures,
To contract the parasites – perchance to hallucinate: ay, there's the rub!
For in that sleep of malaria what dreams may come
When we have contracted a disease in a region with limited hospital facilities,
Must give us pause. There's the challenge That makes calamity of eschewing oblong blue pills.
For who would bear the shivering and sweats of p. vivax,
The mosquito's prick, the parasite's proliferation,
The pangs of undiagnosed fever, the doctor's delay,
The sudden lack of running water the day you feel most sick, and the prostration
That the patient must then take,
When (s)he (her)self might illness avert
With a mere pill? Who would these pains bear,
To grunt and sweat under a wearing fever,
But that the dread of persistent nausea –
The too well discovered territory, whose burden
Too many travelers endure – puzzles the will,
And makes us rather bear that chance of illness,
Than to adhere to the regular regimen that we

know too well?
Thus daily discomfort makes cowards of us all,
And thus the malaria avoidance resolution
Is sicklied o'er with the desire to be a functioning human being,
And enterprises of great value and moment
With regards to disease control turn away,
And lose to inaction (and the ability to comfortably prepare for fieldwork in the morning, regardless of whether Ophelia steps softly).

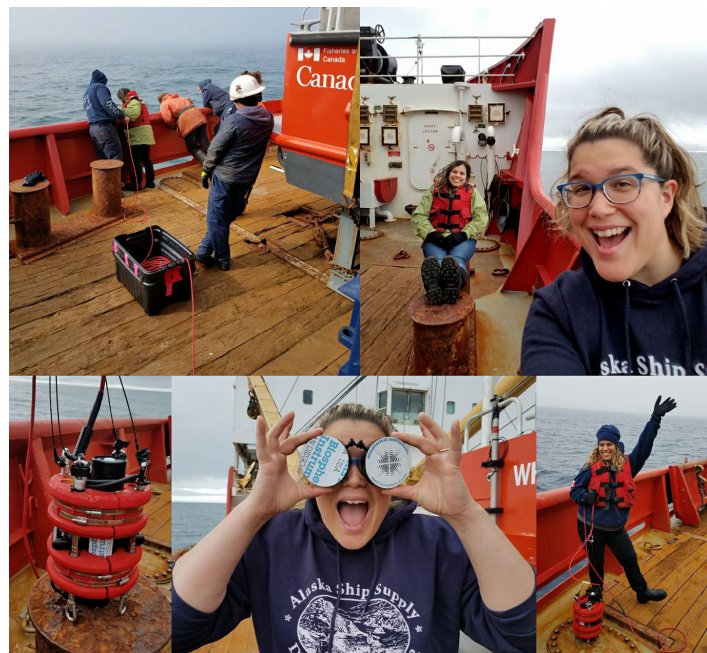
* Malaria is a deadly disease that kills one million people a year across the globe. This 'meditation' is not meant to belittle the seriousness of the disease, but rather to point out that a) the side effects of certain medicines can negatively affect our ability to do fieldwork and b) it is in a way a privilege to have the choice whether to take prophylaxis or not. While there are other anti-malaria drugs out there besides the doxycycline I was prescribed, none of them are approved for long-term use. After weeks of nausea and a few unexpected bouts of vomiting, plus considering that other vector-borne illnesses like dengue and chikungunya are not prevented by any malaria prophylaxis, I decided to stick with the tried and true method of regularly applied insect repellent (lemon eucalyptus oil-based, which the CDC approves along with DEET, picaridin) plus long-sleeved clothes and pants. So far, so good... knock on wood.

**An unexpected finding of my first six months
Kristen Shake**

My research explores the relationship between sea ice, law and living marine resources in the dynamic spaces of the Bering and Beaufort Seas. In the initial stages of my work however, I was limiting my scope to just focus on issues of sea ice within the bounds of disputed marine territories. With funding provided by the Geller Award through the Marsh Institute, I traveled last February to the remote community of Unalaska and the Port of Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Islands for what was initially a side project to see

how fisheries systems, regulators, workers and industry leaders interact with and are impacted by changing sea ice conditions in the Bering Sea. Unalaska and the Port of Dutch Harbor are a site of intersection between human social systems, industry, law and a rapidly changing marine environment. After a few weeks in Dutch Harbor, actively engaging with my interview subjects, it became readily clear that fisheries law and regulations offer a fascinating window to how law plays out in real (mari)time and space. So, after a few weeks of interviews, I hiked up to a rocky outcrop overlooking the azure blue waters of Captain's Bay on Unalaska Island. In one hand I cradled a hot mug of freshly brewed coffee, in the other hand, a pen was tapping against a very full notebook that was balancing on my knee. Curling tendrils of steam that escaped the contents of my warm mug were quickly whisked away by a coming breeze. I felt the wind around me gain momentum, and looked on as it created fussy brushstrokes across the surface of the bay hundreds of feet below, eventually creating a few stray waves that lapped gently at the shore, disrupting a few migratory ducks from their lazy wake. I watched as a group of factory trawl ships, anchored in the harbor a mile away, eventually began to rock slightly back and forth in response to the change in sur-

face conditions. It was a subtle, yet prompt chain reaction of events, and indicative of the types of connections I consider in my work. The ocean is a fluid space of connections between the material components of the marine ecosystem, living resources, and human social, cultural and economic systems; it is not a passive, blank, expressionless or empty space between expanses of land. Sea ice has a presence in this system, not only as an agent (or symbol) of change in the eyes of my interviewees, but as a bounding element that limits where and when fleets and go. Sea ice influences, changes, and impacts the various ways in which these groups use, go through, transit and even conceptualize movement in this vibrant ocean-space. These are things that I had been trying to think about from a legal geography point of view, but lacked a lens to fully explore in a novel way. I remember feeling really inspired in that moment. I was excited to be surprised by what I don't yet know, or what I might discover in the coding of my data. And I think that has been a central motivating element for me moving forward into the later stages of my dissertation. So, keep being inspired, and keep challenging yourself to think about your data in a new way, because it just might provide you an opportunity to move in a richer, more creative direction.



Kristen Shake (bottom center), Melishia Santiago (bottom right), and the crew of CCGS Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the Frey Polar Science Research Lab's Summer expedition to the Northern Bering and Chukchi Seas for the Distributed Biological Observatory (DBO) long term monitoring project. Photos by Kristen Shake.

PROGRESS TO THE PHD: DISSERTATIONS AND MILESTONES AY 2016-17



Padini Nirmal receives degree from advisors Jody Emel and Dianne Rocheleau.

Photo by Brenda Nikas-Hayes.

Dissertation Titles

For abstracts, visit clarkmonadnock.com

Padini Nirmal
Disembodiment and Deworlding: Taking Decolonial Feminist Political Ecology to Ground in Attappady, Kerala

Arthur Elmes
Assessing the Impact of Asian Longhorned Beetle in Worcester, MA: Thermal Effects, Community Responses, and Future Vulnerability

Dexter H. Locke
A New Look at Residential Ecosystems Management: Heterogeneous Practices and the Landscape Mullet Concept

Teresa Bornschlegl
Three snapshots into complexity. A political ecological analysis of the regulatory enforcement of environmental laws in the oil and gas sector in Ecuador

Juan Luis Dammert
Contested booms: The politics of oil palm expansion in the Peruvian Amazon

Miles Kenney-Lazar
Resisting with the State: The Authoritarian Governance of Land in Laos

Dissertation Defenses

9/26 Miles Kenney-Lazar
4/3 Teresa Bornschlegl
4/10 Juan Luis Dammert
4/24 Dexter Locke
4/27 Padini Nirmal
5/8 Arthur Elmes

Dissertation Proposal Defenses

9/6 Patrick Bright Mutegeki
10/13 Kaner Turker
12/2 Bernadette Arakwiye
12/13 Laura Sauls
12/15 Yifan Cai
12/20 Wenjing Jiang
12/20 Melishia Santiago
2/27 Scott Odell
3/13 Carlos Dobler
3/22 David Lukens
4/19 Michelle Wenderlich
5/9 Tong Jiao -ABD

Doctoral (Orals) Examination

12/9 Tong Jiao
12/13 Patrick Bright Mutegeki (ABD)
1/12 Laura Sauls -- ABD
3/31 Kaner Turker -ABD
4/4 Bernadette Arakwiye - ABD
5/8 Wenjing Jiang -ABD
5/8 Yifan Cai -ABD
5/10 David Lukens - ABD
5/11 Michelle Wenderlich -ABD
5/15 Scott Odell -ABD
5/15 Carlos Dobler - ABD
5/19 Dylan Harris



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CUGS Buddies Ashley York and Sarah SanGiovanni
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by Benjamin Fash