

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2012

Chair's Greeting

Dear Member of the LC Sociology and Anthropology Community,

The third floor of JR Howard Hall has been surprisingly active this summer. Several of our faculty members and their student assistants have been busy with research projects. Methods and internship courses have had healthy enrollments for the summer sessions. Visiting professors for the upcoming year have had the chance to meet with students inside and outside of classroom.

This may be surprising only to those of you whose summer plans usually take you away from Palatine Hill. While the pace of departmental activity certainly slows during the summer months, the energetic work of our students, staff, and faculty carries on throughout the year, both on and off campus. As I write, our department is being represented by: students in India, Latin America, and Africa; faculty in France, China, and Malawi; and alumni around the world. Our administrator, Terry Moore, is already hard at work improving our website, organizing fall semester events, and – as always – keeping the department running smoothly.

We're looking forward to having our teaching faculty and continuing students back on campus in the fall and to keeping in touch with those of you who have moved on – more or less recently - from Lewis & Clark College. This summer newsletter offers a glimpse of what's happening in our department and what's ahead for 2012-13. I'll also take this opportunity to welcome our new tenure-track anthropologist, Sepideh Bajracharya, who will join our faculty in the fall, as well as Kim Bernard, Mike Sweeney, and Anna Lim, who will be teaching courses this coming year.

For those of you who will be returning in September, take special note of upcoming events. For those of who will be abroad, keep in touch and have safe, exciting, and enlightening travels. For alumni, we hope you'll visit if you're in the area. For all, enjoy the rest of the summer.

All best,

Oren Kosansky
Associate Professor and Chair
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Newly Added Classes for Fall 2012

Two new offerings have been added to the SOAN course list for Fall 2012. See Webadvisor for details.

SOAN 226 Law and Society
SOAN 281 South Asian Cultures

Faculty and Staff Updates

Professor Oren Kosansky is currently working on his NEH funded digital archiving initiative, "The Rabat Genizah Project." Bringing together a team of scholars in the United States and abroad, this project will result in an on-line archive of materials documenting the social institutions and textual culture of the Jewish communities of Morocco in the nineteenth and twentieth century. Professor Kosansky's article "The 'Jewish Question' in Postcolonial Moroccan Cinema," co-authored with Dr. Aomar Boum (University of Arizona), will soon be appearing in *The International Journal of Middle East Studies*.

Professor Bob Goldman has been working over the summer with student **Laura Houlberg** on a mapping project to better understand the dynamics of the Portland local food economy. They have been mapping the significant farms, ranches, retailers, restaurants, farmer's markets, CSA's that contribute to that economy. They have focused more on the flows of goods that make up this system and the impacts on the cultural economy of food in the Portland metro area. Proponents of local food systems often speak of the benefits that come from shortening commodity chains. Their research aims to evaluate such claims, and advance our understanding of how impactful changing food economies can be on a wide range of urban processes. Professor Goldman will be on sabbatical this fall.

Professor Bruce Podobnik has a number of research projects underway this summer. He is working with an undergraduate student on a social network analysis of a local eco-village called the Tryon Life Community. He is also mapping out global patterns in demonstrations undertaken by people who want governments and corporations to take stronger action to avert catastrophic global warming. And he is also taking part in week-long zen meditation retreats in the mountains surrounding Portland. A sheep was just recently nibbling on his hair as he meditated in a high mountain field...

Professor Deborah Heath has been leading students **Daisy Frearson and Rachael Munkacsi** through the Interdisciplinary Center for Epigenetics, Science, and Society (ICESS) and OHSU to publish an ethnographic analysis of the emerging field of epigenetics as it is understood by members of the research community and beyond. Funded by the National Institute of Health, the team is tracking mass media coverage and engaging in discourse with some of the field's key contributors to foster a better understanding of how knowledge and meaning of epigenetics is generated, shared, and inscribed upon conceptualizations of health and responsibility across disciplines. Their analyses will culminate in a final publication, presently titled: *The Emerging Epigenetic Mystique: Mapping Portrayals of Epigenetics in Social Media*.

Professor Tim Mechlinski will be returning from his spring sabbatical. Tim will be teaching African Migration and Quantitative Methods this fall.

Professor Jennifer Hubbert has been engaged this summer in two projects. The first is a co-authored book called *Policy in Practice: Exploring China's Soft Power Projects* that offers a series of case studies of China's soft power global engagements from China's Chinese language Confucius Institutes to the 2010 Shanghai Expo. The second project is an article on the 1989 Tiananmen democracy movement in China. In this article she is looking specifically at how the "Tank Man" photograph, one of the defining, iconic images of the 20th century, has been used in the West in sources as diverse as *The Simpsons* and political campaign advertising. Having been on sabbatical during the 2011-2012 academic year, Jennifer is excited to be back in the classroom this fall.

Professor Sarah Warren has been working on articles that draw on her research in Chile and Argentina. She is revising for publication an article that deals with the cross-border connections of indigenous Mapuche activists and their attempts to create a single Mapuche nation. She is also writing an article about the regulations about children's names in Argentina and how these impact indigenous people. Sarah also taught a class for the Indigenous Ways of Knowing Academy. When not in her office, Sarah has been playing outside with her son and welcoming friends and family who are visiting Portland.

Professor Sepideh Bajracharya is the department's newest tenure-track faculty member. Sepideh is currently finishing a year-long research project funded by the Institute for Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion (IMTFI). The project examines the social role and value of cash and credit circulation among women in an untouchable-caste neighborhood located in Kathmandu, Nepal. She will be moving to Portland in August. Sepideh will be teaching Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (SOAN 110), and South Asian Cultures (SOAN 281), which is a new offering for fall.

Dr. Kim Bernard is joining the SOAN faculty for the 2012-2013 Academic Calendar as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Dr. Bernard will be bringing an applied sociology perspective with over 15 years of policy and research projects in criminal justice, child welfare, and behavioral health. In her work, Dr. Bernard uses sociological theories and methods outside of academic settings with the aim of producing positive social change through strategic interventions. She is also currently the Policy & Communications Manager for the Department of Community Justice in Multnomah County. She will be offering courses in crime and deviance and quantitative research methods, as well as introductory courses in sociology.

Dr. Anna Lim is joining the department as an adjunct professor this fall. Dr. Lim will be teaching SOAN 285 Culture and Power in the Middle East. Dr. Lim has conducted research on the non-independent postcolonial island societies that constitute "overseas France." Her next project turns to issues of sovereignty, migration, and kinship in the Comoros to ask question about the contemporary global landscape of rights distribution and the choices people make in trying to secure rights for themselves. Her past teaching has included courses on colonialism, science and technology, ethnographic film and ethnographic fiction, identity and personhood, the Caribbean, and French North Africa.

Michael Sweeney is spending the month of July in Malawi, Africa, with the World Education Fund. He was invited last year by Joe Lanning, Anthropology instructor at the University of Rochester, New York and is participating again this summer. The site of the Immersion Seminar's homestay is Gowa with visits to surrounding villages where American students have helped create and maintain irrigation systems to promote sustainable permaculture. Sweeney is chaperoning the students and sharing his anthropological expertise in a presentation on the ritual masquerade of Malawi, and in unofficial discussions with students on the value of Applied

Anthropology. He will be drawing on his experiences from Malawi and a subsequent visit to South Africa when he returns as an adjunct instructor teaching Introduction to Anthropology at Lewis and Clark in the fall.

Terry Moore, the department administrator, has been busy working on web site improvements, updating course schedules, and finding office space for new faculty. Terry is planning a trip to Alaska this summer.

Kate Rubick is the librarian who serves as a liaison to the SOAN department. Most of you will have an instruction session with her (as a part of the Qualitative Methods or the Senior Thesis courses). Part of her job is to help you understand how to do discipline-specific research in Sociology and Anthropology. Kate can also meet with you individually to discuss doing research for any of your SOAN courses. Find her at the reference desk or email rubick@lclark.edu to make an appointment.

Upcoming Events and Student Resources

September 7	Annual Pio Fair
October TBA	SOAN Student Gathering
December 3-4	Senior Thesis Presentations

SOAN Colloquium Series coming this fall! LC and local faculty, and students, will present talks on their research projects. Information to follow!

SAAB Tutors: The department will have tutors available for all core courses: SOAN 100, 110, 200, 201, 300. Please contact our administrator, Terry Moore, for special requests.