

# UCLA DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY



## MA Recipients & PhD Graduates **2022-23**



The Department of Anthropology at UCLA acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of **Tovaangar** (the Los Angeles basin and South Channel Islands).

As a land grant institution, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work for the **taraxotam** (indigenous peoples, in Tongva) in this place. We pay our respects to **Honuukvetam** (ancestors), **'Ahihirom** (Elders), and **'Eyoohiinkem** (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging.

# CONGRATS, CLASS OF 2023!

---

On June 14, 2023 the Department of Anthropology held a hybrid event honoring our MA recipients and PhD graduates. Along with our colleagues and very hardworking staff who made the event possible, we were so happy to see many students, graduates, and their family and friends attend this important celebration.

We were very excited to celebrate the accomplishments of our students together and in person after several years of virtual celebrations. When that was our mode, we did a lot of heavy lifting to describe the setting and the vibe for this event. To give the students who had never been to Haines Hall, campus, or even LA a sense of how this space looks, smells, sounds, and feels, we described the snacks and types of small talk that one hears in Southern California (so, in other words, a heavy reliance on cheese trays and lots of commute talk).

But this year's celebration was different, and as stimulating and creative as these descriptive exercises were during our virtual celebrations, we were grateful to celebrate our ability to gather in Haines Hall, the Department's "home", together as a group. As anthropologists, one of our central concerns is studying groups—how are publics formed? What is a nation-state?

How do audiences hear in a particular way? What we're getting at, is that we'd not only like to congratulate the students that were being awarded degrees, but to thank all of you for continuing to come together as a group, over and over again, under very trying circumstances these past few years, as we work together to build and rebuild our community in the Department.

Thank you, graduates, for providing us with the occasion to gather and celebrate your considerable achievements. You have all done exemplary work to craft research whose impacts will be felt well outside the Department.

And thank you, family and friends of our graduates, for supporting them not just during this year's celebration event, but throughout the years.

**Bravo, everyone!**



**Erin Debenport**  
Vice Chair of Graduate Studies  
Associate Professor



**C. Jason Throop**  
Department Chair  
Professor



# MA Recipients

# MADISON AUBEY, MA

---

*Chair: Justin P. Dunnavant*

## THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SOVEREIGNTY: AFRICATOWN, BLACK MOBILE, AND RESISTIVE CONSUMPTION

---

"I would like to thank my family, my committee, and my peers, especially in CBLAAC, for their support throughout this process."



**AMBER KELA CHONG, MA**

---

*Chair: Jessica Cattelino*

**EXPERIMENTS IN  
SOVEREIGNTY: CULTIVATING  
'ĀINA MOMONA AT WAIPĀ**

---

**DANI HEFFERNAN, MA**

---

*Chair: Norma Mendoza-Denton*

**CONSTRUCTING THE  
"CISGENDER LISTENING  
SUBJECT": TRANS-FEMININE  
SPEAKERS' COMMENTARIES  
ON VOICE AND BEING HEARD**

---

**SALLY LI, MA**

---

*Chair: Brooke Scelza*

**RACIAL AND TEMPORAL  
DIFFERENCES IN FERTILITY-  
EDUCATION TRADEOFFS  
HIGHLIGHT THE EFFECT OF  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES  
ON OPTIMUM FAMILY SIZE IN  
THE US**

---

**ROBIN STEVLAND MEYER-LOREY,  
MA**

---

*Chair: Stephen Acabado*

**MANIFEST DESTINY IN  
SOUTHEAST ASIA:  
ARCHAEOLOGY OF AMERICAN  
COLONIAL INDUSTRY IN THE  
PHILIPPINES, 1898-1987**

---

**VICTORIA NEWHALL, MA**

---

*Co-Chairs: Richard Lesure and Gregson Schachner*

**EVALUATING THE ROLE OF  
FOODWAYS DURING LARGE-  
SCALE SOCIO-POLITICAL  
TRANSFORMATIONS AT  
FORMATIVE TRES ZAPOTES**

---

**WANDA QUINTANILLA DURAN,  
MA**

---

*Chair: Jason De León*

**THE FORCE OF INTIMACY IN A  
HONDURAN COMMUNITY**

---

**NICOLE SMITH, MA**

---

*Co-Chairs: Jason De León and Justin Dunnivant*

**FROM EXILE TO EVICTION:  
GARÍFUNA INDIGENEITY,  
LAND RIGHTS, AND HERITAGE  
IN ROATÁN, HONDURAS**

---



# PhD Graduates

**STEVEN AMMERMAN, PHD**

---

*Chair: Monica L. Smith*

**HUMAN-ANIMAL  
INTERACTION AT THE  
ANCIENT URBAN SITE OF  
SISUPALGARH, INDIA**

---

**MEGAN A. BAKER, PHD**

---

*Chair: Jessica Cattelino*

**BUILDING MORE THAN AN  
ECONOMY: HISTORIES OF  
CHOCTAW-U.S. LAWS, LAND  
AND DEVELOPMENT IN  
OKLAHOMA**

---

**SPENCER CHAO-LONG CHEN,  
PHD**

---

*Chair: Paul V. Kroskrity*

**DUBBING IDEOLOGIES: THE  
POLITICS OF LANGUAGE AND  
ACOUSTIC AESTHETICS IN  
TAIWAN'S MANDARIN-  
VOICEOVER PRODUCTION**

---

**KRISTINE JOY CHUA, PHD**

---

*Chair: Abigail Bigham*

**ENVIRONMENTAL,  
BIOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL  
INFLUENCES ON HEALTH AND  
BEHAVIOR**

---

# ULISES J. ESPINOZA, PHD

---

*Chair: H. Clark Barrett*

"First and foremost, thank you to my amazing wife. Thank you to my committee members, to my fellow members of CBLAAC, to my friends and family."

**RODNEY R. GRATREAKS JR.,  
PHD**

---

*Chair: Paul V. Kroskrity*

**TALKING TO THE WIND:  
TOWARDS AN  
UNDERSTANDING OF NUMIC  
VERBAL ART AND LANGUAGE  
PLANNING IN THE VILLAGE OF  
SHAXWAPATS**

---

**RENÉE VERA HAGEN, PHD**

---

*Chair: Brooke Scelza*

**CONVENTIONS AND MORAL  
CODES: A BAYESIAN MODEL  
OF THE SPREAD AND  
MAINTENANCE OF SOCIAL  
NORMS**

---

**EMILY VIRGINIA JONES, PHD**

---

*Chair: Laurie Kain Hart*

**A VIOLENT OPERATION:  
TRAUMA SURGERY, POLICING,  
AND THE POLITICS OF CARE  
IN A LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
PUBLIC HOSPITAL**

---

**SUCHARITA KANJILAL, PHD**

---

*Chair: Akhil Gupta*

**HOME CHEFS: INDIAN  
HOUSEHOLDS PRODUCE FOR  
THE GLOBAL CREATOR  
ECONOMY**

---



**ANDREW E. MACIVER, PHD**

---

*Chair: Li Min*

**THE SHANG-ZHOU  
TRANSITION: IMMANENCE,  
POWER, AND THE  
MICROPOLITICS OF  
ENCOUNTER**

---

"Thank you to my committee for all their help and support and to everyone who supported me through this journey!"

**JOSHUA L. MAYER, PHD**

---

*Chair: Shannon Speed*

**CONJURING TERRITORY:  
AFRO-INDIGENOUS  
AUTHORITY AND SETTLER  
CAPITALISM IN NICARAGUA**

---

**BIANCA ROMAGNOLI, PHD**

---

*Co-Chairs: Salih Can Açiksöz and Laurie Kain Hart*

**PATROLLING NORTH OF 60:  
MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE  
IN CANADA'S ARCTIC  
COMMUNITIES**

---

**THEODORE SAMORE, PHD**

---

*Chair: Daniel M.T. Fessler*

**TRADITIONALISM, PATHOGEN  
AVOIDANCE, AND COMPETING  
TRADEOFFS DURING A  
GLOBAL THREAT**

---

**WILLIAM JAMES SCHLESINGER,  
PHD**

---

*Chair: Salih Can Açiksöz*

**THE PRODUCTION AND  
GOVERNANCE OF RISKY  
SEXUAL SUBJECTIVITY IN THE  
ERA OF PRE-EXPOSURE  
PROPHYLAXIS (PREP) TO HIV**

---

**SALIEM WAKEEM SHEHADEH,  
PHD**

---

*Co-Chairs: Jemima Pierre and Susan Slyomovics*

**RESEARCHING THE GENERAL  
UNION OF PALESTINE  
STUDENTS FROM THE  
DIASPORA**

---

**TYANNA SLOBE, PHD**

---

*Chair: Norma Mendoza-Denton*

**LANGUAGE AND INTERACTION  
AMONG YOUTH IN CHILE'S  
2019 UPRISING**

---

**MADELEINE AMEE YAKAL, PHD**

---

*Chair: Stephen Acabado*

**SPANISH COLONIALISM IN  
BIKOL, PHILIPPINES:  
LOCALIZING DEVOTION TO  
OUR LADY OF PEÑAFRANCIA**

---





*Congratulations!*