

BROWN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

253rd Commencement, 2021





CONGRATULATIONS

A.B.

RECIPIENTS



Graduate Concentrators

Paul B. Abrams
Nidhi Bhaskar
Alia E. Campbell
Bella M. Carlos
Mia I. Chapman-Young
Alexandria R. Elkhadem
Eduardo Gutiérrez Peña
Jinette Y. Jimenez
Elisia D. Lopez
Sandra C. Moore



Vanesa Mora
Erika Nakajima
Emily R. Nguyen
Emily A. Papiez
Abigail C. Phaneuf
Nhu G. Phung
Poom A. Pipatjarasgit
Nikita M. Shah
Amber B. York



Paul Abrams

Anthropology

Favorite course at Brown?

There are too many to choose from! Some of my top classes would include ANTH 1601 (Reimagining Climate Change), MUSC 1923 (Music in the Andean Countries), and Swedish 0100-0400.

Favorite memory?

I cherish the Friday night multilingual jam sessions with Prof. VanValkenburgh and our research team that we held after long days of excavation in Peru.

What in the future are you excited for?

I am excited to continue my personal ethnographic research next year in Sweden, where I hope to hear many stories from migrants about their daily experiences within the welfare state system. I am eternally grateful for all the faculty and friends who taught me so much about anthropology and about myself!

“Paul is an artist who produces inspiring work—seemingly regardless of the medium he's working in. I've had the pleasure of reading his crystal-clear academic prose, listening to the beautiful music he composes, and seeing him clean a neat profile in an excavation trench. Keep crafting, Paul – we can't wait to see and hear what you produce next, in Stockholm and beyond!” –**Parker VanValkenburgh**



Nidhi Bhaskar

Anthropology, Public Policy, Health and Human Biology

Favorite courses at Brown?

Archaeology of College Hill //
Free Inquiry & The Modern World

What are you grateful for?

I am ever grateful for the endless resilience, spontaneity, and positivity of my friends and mentors, as well as the support that Brown has provided me over the past four years.

What in the future are you excited for?

Pursuing my masters degree
in medical anthropology at Oxford next year!

“Nidhi has excelled in an impressive range of courses in three concentrations – Anthropology, Public Policy and Health and Human Biology, all while she has prepared to begin medical school through the PLME program and worked on a bevy of research and advocacy projects. We’re truly impressed with everything she has accomplished and excited to see what’s next to come!” – **Parker VanValkenburgh**



Alia Campbell
Anthropology and Biology

Favorite place in Providence?
Anywhere along the river!

What are you grateful for?
I'm grateful for new people, passions, and ways of thinking that Brown has brought into my life.

What advice would you give to your freshman self?
Step out of your comfort zone and don't put things off.

“Alia has displayed a deep commitment to using her education to make the world a better place, particularly for people less fortunate than she is. Her selection of courses—Global Social Problems, War & Society, International Health, Mental Health, for example—point not only to her interests, but also her laudable moral compass. Along the way, she quietly earned straight A's in every Anthropology course. Congratulations, Alia!” –**Daniel Jordan Smith**



Bella Carlos

Anthropology | Dual Degree Illustration

Favorite place in Providence?

India Point Park

What are you grateful for?

Learning how to think like an anthropologist
and striving to be curious

What advice would you give to your freshman self?

Don't be afraid

“Bella draws on her many talents in ethnography, spatial analysis, material culture, and illustration, to push inquiries in new and always interesting directions. We have enjoyed having you as a student and can't wait to see what you do next!” –**Rebecca Louise Carter**



Mia Chapman-Young

Anthropology

Favorite course at Brown?

ANTH1300 Anthropology of Addictions,
RELS0068 Religion and Torture, and
PHIL0650 The Psychology and Philosophy of Happiness

What are you grateful for?

I am grateful for the freedom to have taken classes
in such a wide variety of fields.

What in the future are you excited for?

I am excited to go to graduate school and hopefully
pursue a career in therapy, specializing in treating people
with dual diagnosis addictions and eating disorders.

“Mia brings a great deal of care to her work both inside and outside the classroom—not only for her work, but for the people around her. It’s been a delight having her in class!” –**Parker VanValkenburgh**

Alexandria (Allie) Elkhadem

Anthropology (Medical Track) and Neuroscience

Favorite courses at Brown?

ANTH 1911: Gender and Sexuality in the Middle East
+ ANTH1515: Anthropology of Mental Health

What are you grateful for?

I am so incredibly grateful to my family for supporting me always. Likewise, I am thankful for all of the wonderful people I have met during my time here. Brown has provided me with so many opportunities to explore my passions in class and in the community!

“Your final paper for the research was amazing, a topic that is bold and challenging, but I am convinced that only you can carry out that study. We await to hear about your successes and to know your future trajectory.”

–**Lina Fruzzetti**



Eduardo Gutiérrez Peña



“Eduardo is a credit to our department, someone whom, in his classes with me, showed a passionate commitment to the subject, along with the most amiable personality. I so enjoyed working with him!” –**Stephen Houston**



Jinette Jimenez

Anthropology and Political Science

Favorite course at Brown?

ANTH1901: Anthropology In/Of the Museum and
ENGL1761B: Narratives of Blackness
in Latinx and Latin America

Favorite memory?

Every memory I have with the Brown Band is my favorite! I'm especially going to miss traveling for away football games and our silly traditions that make everyone around us laugh.

What are you grateful for?

I'm so grateful for my amazing friends at Brown who have made me feel so loved and supported, especially throughout this past year!

“Jinette is a careful thinker, always asking hard questions that challenge herself, her fellow students, and her professors. Her questions are hard because they are the important ones—holding anthropology (and knowledge production more generally) accountable for its relationship to political and social realities. She does this with remarkable grace; curious, eager to listen and learn, generous in spirit. Well done and Congratulations, Jinette!” –**Daniel Jordan Smith**



Elisia Lopez

Anthropology & Literary Arts

Favorite course at Brown?

ANTH 1515: Anthropology of Mental Health

What are you grateful for?

I'm grateful for the wonderful people I've met at Brown--students, staff, and faculty alike--who have inspired me and helped me grow

What advice would you give to your freshman self?

I would tell my freshman self to not be afraid of trying out more extracurricular activities, especially ones that I wouldn't have thought to join in the first place

“Elisia thrives at the intersection of anthropology and literary arts, asking great questions and producing engaging written work. Good luck with the script! We will all be following your work closely!” –**Rebecca Louise Carter**



Sandra Moore

Anthropology and Literary Arts |
sandra_moore@alumni.brown.edu

Favorite course at Brown?

Either ARCH1494 Southeast Asia's Entangled Pasts or
ANTH0800 Sounds and Symbols
(and also COLT1422 Global Detective Fiction).

What are you grateful for?

Grateful for a concentration I love, amazing people
to learn it with, and for lemon meringue pie.

Which three emojis describe you?



"where is my phone, oh it's here right next to me"

"Sandra possesses all of the creativity and sharp wit of a double concentrator in literary arts and anthropology (with archaeological leanings). Among her many talents, Sandra is a tremendous public speaker. During Senior Seminar this past fall, she energized Zoomspace with two brilliant presentations (that word exercise was genius!). Congratulations Sandra!" –**Andrew Scherer**



Vanesa Mora

Anthropology & Development Studies

Favorite course at Brown?

Anthropology of Global Social Problems with Prof. Besky
Reimagining Climate Change with Prof. Lennon
Political Ecology with Prof. Lord

Favorite place in Providence?

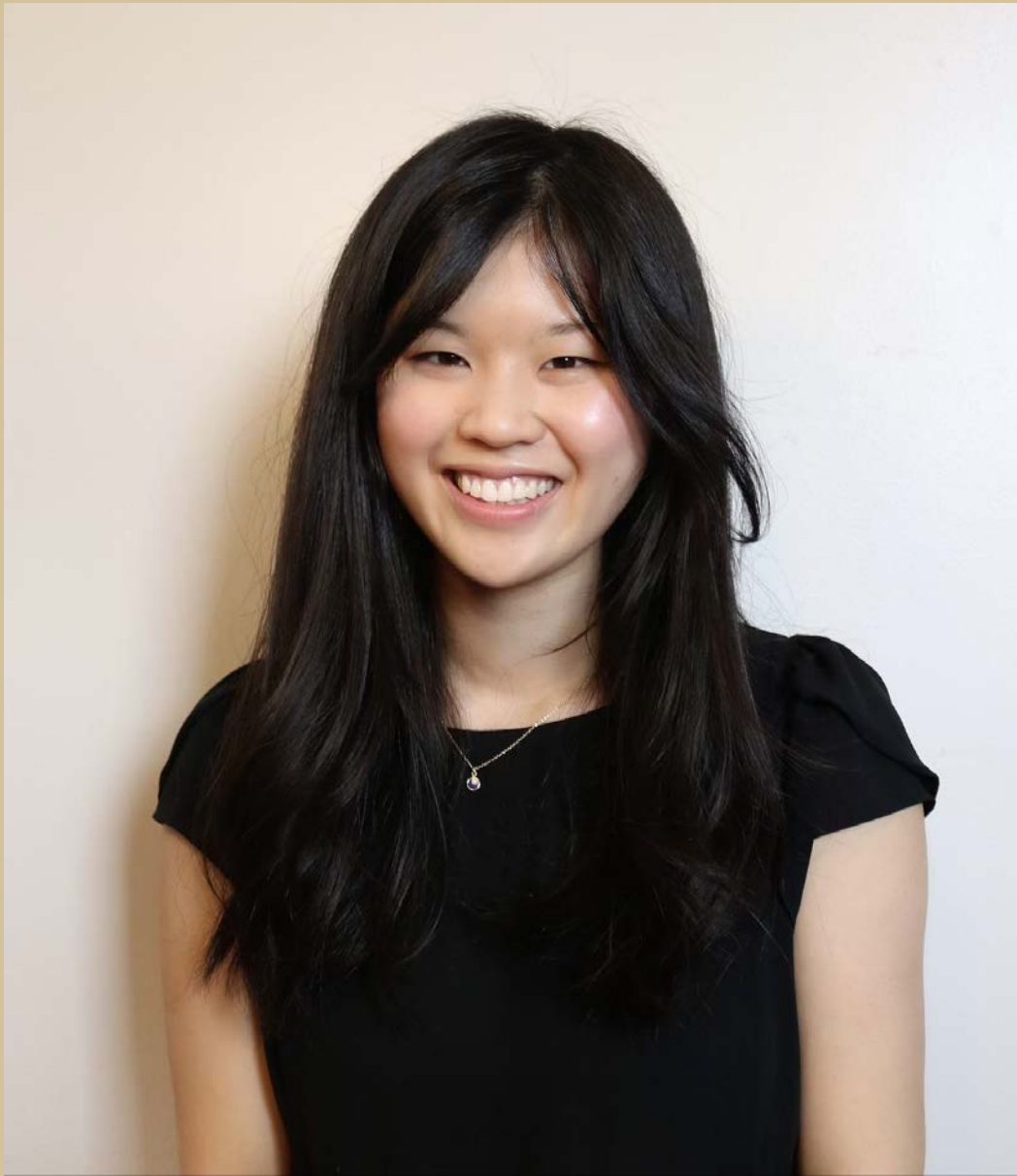
Easily Prospect Terrace Park during Sunset

What advice would you give to your freshman self?

You belong here! Don't spend so much time thinking about what others are doing; we are all on different journeys. Take every opportunity to spend time with friends & to meet your professors. Prioritize people and providence adventures—papers can wait!

“Vanesa is a thoughtful scholar with a deep curiosity about the world and a generosity of spirit that is immediately evident upon meeting her. Vanesa's ability to think deeply across geographical contexts will no doubt serve her well in her endeavors beyond Brown. We look forward to seeing how she leaves her mark on a world that will benefit from her insightful perspectives. Congratulations, Vanesa!”

—**Myles Lennon**



Erika Nakajima

Anthropology, Applied Math-Biology

Favorite course at Brown?

Anthropology of Epidemics (ANTH1350) and
1001 Nights (COLT0510K)

Favorite place in Providence?

RISD beach! My friends and I go there to watch the
sunset, have picnics, and go stargazing.

What are you grateful for?

I am so grateful for the amazing memories I've been able to
make at Brown, and for the incredibly supportive people
that have helped me grow over the past four years.

“Erika is truly a delight to teach - thoughtful, reliable, dedicated and creative. Her ability to design independent research projects is unparalleled and her final submission for Anthropology of Epidemics totally knocked it out of the park! Congratulations, Erika!”

–**Katherine Mason**

Emily Nguyen

Medical Anthropology

What are you grateful for?

My family, my besties, Attitude Dance Company, and the Anthro department :)

What advice would you give to your freshman self?

Don't worry about getting randomly assigned a single. You'll make tons of friends you love!

Which three emojis describe you?



“Emily is a delightful student and human being, both inside and outside of the classroom. Her creativity, energy, and positive can-do attitude are matched only by her collaborative spirit! Her many beautiful works of art - in writing, dance and Canva - will stay with me for a long time. Congratulations, Emily!”

-Katherine Mason



Emily Papiez

Medical Anthropology, Neuroscience

Favorite course at Brown?

ANTH 0100: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

What are you grateful for?

I'm grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Brown community and for the endless support of my friends and family! It has been such an honor to learn from such outstanding faculty members as well as my peers who never cease to inspire me.

Favorite place in Providence?

Either walking through India Point Park or studying on the Quiet Green!



“Emily has been such a pleasure to work with, both inside and outside of the classroom. She works hard, produces beautiful, polished work, and knows how to stick with it when things get tough. I feel very lucky to have gotten a chance to get to know Emily during her time here. Congratulations, Emily!” –**Katherine Mason**



Abbey Phaneuf

Anthropology, Psychology

Favorite course at Brown?

CLPS 1730 Psychology in Business and Economics and
ANTH 1624 Indians, Colonists and Africans in New England

Favorite place in Providence?

I love walking along the streets of Brown's campus especially
in the Fall and Spring when all the trees are so colorful.

What advice would you give to your freshman self?

Take every opportunity you can to try new things. Don't be
afraid to connect with new people and truly appreciate all the
ups (and downs) that college life brings.

“Abbey’s exploration of her family’s history makes her research on captivity narratives deeply personal and so very meaningful. Can’t wait to read the revised version of the story and possibly a new edition of the children’s book. Congratulations!”

–**Patricia Rubertone**



Nhu Phung

Anthropology & Environmental Studies

Favorite course at Brown?

Anthropology of Global Social Problems with Professor Besky, Methods for Development with Professor Nading, Reimagining Climate Change with Professor Lennon

Favorite memory?

Doing my first ethnographic research in Professor Gutmann's very hands-on class and building relationships with my informants

What are you grateful for?

The wonderful discussions and friendships with my fellow concentrators, I learned so much from my peers. All my professors in this department were kind, caring, and super passionate about what they do. I am thankful for Professor Lutz, Professor Scherer, and Professor Houston for advising me. Professor Carter and Professor Mason have been wonderful at building community & hosting events & supporting students. I appreciate Prof. VanValkenburgh for radiating wholesome energy.

“It is hard to imagine anyone with more energy, diligence, enthusiasm, and smarts! We live for great undergrads, and Nhu gave so much to the department and to the professors lucky enough to work with her.” –**Stephen Houston**

Poom Andrew Pipatjarasgit

Anthropology (Honors), French and Francophone Studies,
Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Favorite course at Brown?

I have several. ANTH 0110 with Sarah Besky, ANTH 1910D with Lina Fruzzetti, COLT 1431F with Felix Green, FREN 0300 with Annie Wiart. Profs. Besky, Green, and Wiart are no longer at Brown.

Favorite place in Providence?

I love going to the Providence Pedestrian Bridge. I can get away from the College Hill without having to go too far.

What are you grateful for?

I am grateful for all of the opportunities I've had to get involved and make a difference during my time at Brown: writing for the *Brown Daily Herald*, serving on the College Curriculum Council, advising first-year students as a Meiklejohn, and participating in student theatre!



“Poom's enthusiasm for anthropology knows no bounds! His thoughtful honors thesis, on the children of military families, captures that spirit of curiosity and intellectual engagement that so many of us have enjoyed and valued. Congratulations, Poom!”

–Jessaca Leinaweaver

Nikita Shah

Medical Anthropology and HHB

Favorite place in Providence?

Coffee Exchange on Wickenden St.

What advice would you give your freshman self?

Try everything! Do the things that scare you the most. Make room in your schedule to learn a language. You're never too busy to spend time with friends.

What in the future are you excited for?

Working on my Fulbright research project in India.

“Nikita's passion for understanding and alleviating suffering, combined with her strong ethical commitments, have made her a fabulous medical anthropologist. She is a great listener, writer and interviewer and I know she will bring all of these skills to her future career in medicine.

Congratulations, Nikita!” –**Katherine Mason**





Amber York (they/them)

Anthropology and Economics

What are you grateful for?

All the wonderful friends I've made that have given me unconditional love and support.

What advice would you give to your freshman self?

It takes time to figure out who you are, don't rush it.

What in the future are you excited for?

I'm learning how to woodwork!!

“Amber is a true anthropologist! Diverse in her interests, she has explored the full offerings of our field, but shone most brightly in biological approaches. An admired student, a promising future ahead!” –**Stephen Houston**

HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Paul B. Abrams
Overall Anthropology Award

Bella M. Carlos
Haffenreffer Museum Service Award

Jinette Y. Jimenez
Sociocultural Anthropology Award

Erika Nakajima
Medical Anthropology Award

Emily A. Papiez
Service to Anthropology Award

Nhu G. Phung
Leadership in Anthropology Award

Poom A. Pipatjarasgit
Service to Anthropology Award



HONORS IN ANTHROPOLOGY



Paul B. Abrams

Imagining Integration: Migrant Experiences within the Swedish Welfare State



Poom Andrew Pipatjarasgit

Beyond Popular Discourses of Military Families: Families of Servicemembers

The opportunity to pursue honors in anthropology is a privilege. Honors candidates must have a majority of "A"s in the concentration, and must produce an honors thesis based on original research that advances an argument. That research might involve ethnographic fieldwork, archaeological or biological anthropological laboratory work, or critical analysis of data and arguments presented in published sources.

WATSON SMITH PAPER PRIZE AWARDS

Parsa Bastani - Graduate Student

Feeling at Home in the Clinic:

Therapeutic Dwelling in an Addiction Rehabilitation Center in Tehran, Iran

Nidhi Bhaskar - Undergraduate Student

Medical Anthropology and Global Health:

*Examining International Approaches to Humanitarian Aid
through Mark Schuller's Humanitarian Aftershocks in Haiti*

The Anthropology Department holds an annual competition to select the best original student research paper written during the academic year (awards may be made to just one paper, or to a graduate student and an undergraduate concentrator).

The paper prize is named after Watson Smith, a former Trustee of Brown and a supporter of the department, who received his degree in 1919.



This year, a student (and past awardee) redesigned the award certificate, incorporating the Pueblo art that Watson Smith, an archaeologist who worked in the U.S. Southwest, had used in his bookplate for his personal library.



CONGRATULATIONS

M.A.

RECIPIENTS

The completion of an M.A. degree – involving coursework, independent research, and the writing of a thesis – is an important milestone en route to the Ph.D. in Anthropology. We congratulate these five students on completing their M.A. degrees and wish them the very best in what comes next!

Morgan D. Clark

“Bodies Brought to Order: The Ear Ornaments of Ancient Tikal”

Chair: Andrew Scherer

Readers: Stephen Houston, Robert Preucel, Andrew Scherer, Parker Van Valkenburgh

“Congrats on making it through a difficult process in the best of times,
and emerging with flying, waving colors!” –**Stephen Houston**

Radhika Moral

“Poetic Lives: Indigeneity and Gendered Belonging in Northeast India”

Chair: Nadjé Al-Ali, Co-Chair: Sarah Besky

Readers: Myles Lennon, Catherine Lutz

“Congratulations Radhika! You have been an absolute pleasure to work with,
and have been an outstanding student despite all the challenges. I am very proud of you!” –**Nadjé Al-Ali**

Lauren L. Phillips

“Gathering Places: Inhabited Means of Survivance in Native Alaska”

Chair: Robert Preucel, Patricia Rubertone

Reader: Steven Lubar

“Congratulations, Lauren! Your research on how the Yupik reconfigured their places of communal gathering before and during the COVID-19 pandemic resonates loudly with all of us.” –**Patricia Rubertone**

Benjamin D. Salinas

“Rap Originario: Dialogic Identification as Resistance in Indigenous Language Hip Hop”

Chair: Paja Faudree

Readers: Jessaca Leinaweaver, Joshua Tucker

“Felicidades, Ben! I am so proud of the way you pulled together your MA thesis, despite all the challenges you faced, and I very much admire the way you’ve used this experience to shape your decisions about the next phase of your PhD. I look forward to working with you going forward, and in the meantime, relish your accomplishment!” –**Paja Faudree**


Amanda M. Votta

“Being Together in Pain: Chronic Pain, Opioid Prescribing Guidelines, and the Idea of an Epidemic”

Chair: Katherine Mason

Readers: Daniel Jordan Smith, Irene Glasser

“With immense insight, patience, and beautiful writing, Amanda has pushed through this immensely difficult time to produce work that she can continue to be proud of. Congratulations!” –**Katherine Mason**



CONGRATULATIONS
Ph.D.
RECIPIENTS

The Ph.D. in Anthropology

The seven new PhDs in Anthropology in 2021 are today celebrating the culmination of many years of study. They have devoted the last several years to their study of anthropology. Each one of them spent three years in coursework, headed off to conduct fieldwork far from Rhode Island, then dedicated themselves to writing their dissertations.

And many of today's A.B. recipients will recognize these Ph.D. recipients, because – as outstanding Teaching Assistants – they have also taught our undergraduates.

Congratulations, Dr. Arey, Dr. Berhane, Dr. Dewan, Dr. Firoz,
Dr. Matsumoto, Dr. Peck, and Dr. Roche Recinos!



Whitney Arey

Dissertation: Abortion as Care: Affective and Biosocial Experiences of Abortion Access and Decision-making

What are your post-graduation plans?

Postdoctoral Fellowship for the Texas Policy Evaluation Project at the University of Texas at Austin

What is your favorite memory of Brown or Giddings House?

The end of year, under the sea party that our first-year cohort threw in the Giddings courtyard

WHITNEY M. AREY

“Abortion as Care: Affective and Biosocial Experiences of Abortion Access and Decision-making”

Chair: Katherine Mason

Readers: Lina Fruzzetti, Daniel Jordan Smith, E. Singer (University of Oklahoma)

“It has been a true delight and pleasure to mentor a student who pursues her work with such passion, energy, competence and insight. I am immensely proud of Whitney and all she has accomplished!”

–Katherine Mason

“I loved working with you and I thank you for my education, your thesis has enlightened me. Congrats!”

–Lina Fruzzetti

“Whitney, you have achieved so much since you started in our doctoral program – from your initial MA research in Ghana to your prize-winning dissertation about abortion care in North Carolina. You have been a pleasure to work with and I wish all the best with your soon-to-commence postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin. I know there will be many more good things to come!”

–Daniel Jordan Smith



Fiori Sara Berhane

Dissertation: Eritrea, A Diaspora in Two Parts: Memory, Political Organizing and Refugee Experiences in Italy.

What are your post-graduate plans?

Provost's Post-Doctoral Fellow for Faculty Diversity (2021-2022), then Assistant Professor of Anthropology (2022-) in Global Black Studies at the University of Southern California

What is your favorite memory of Brown or Giddings House?

I am truly honored to have been a student of Bill Simmons in what we came to learn were his final years. I will always remember his kindness and generosity as an educator and his wisdom as an anthropologist. On a lighter note, I will never forget the cheese and sherry he brought to classes as I have a problem with being ravenous in the late afternoon, a practice that I will carry forth with my own graduate students in the future.

FIORI S. BERHANE

“Eritrea, A Diaspora in Two Parts: Memory, Political Organizing and Refugee Experiences in Italy”

Chair: Lina Fruzzetti

Readers: David Kertzer, Jessaca Leinaweaver, Tricia Redeker Hepner

“I'm proud to have worked with you. I've gone through the journey of your work, as you narrated the words and difficulties of our people. Yours was the thesis that both raised my spirit and saddened me at the same time.

I see a bright future for you. Go and change the world!” –**Lina Fruzzetti**

“Fiori, You've done brave and memorable work and I am especially grateful to you for bringing me a side of my old Bologna haunts that I did not know. A brilliant future in anthropology lies ahead of you.”

–**David Kertzer**

“Congratulations, Dottoressa di ricerca!!! You consistently amaze me with your razor-sharp ethnography, your beautiful writing, and your kindness. It has been an immense pleasure to work with you and watch your scholarship develop. We will all miss you!” –**Jessaca Leinaweaver**



Eve Harene Dewan

Dissertation: Frontier Lessons: An Archaeology of Living and Learning in the Grand Ronde Tribal Community

What are your post-graduation plans?

I've been a Principal Investigator for Warm Springs GeoVisions, a tribally-owned environmental compliance firm in the Pacific Northwest, since I defended my dissertation in April 2020.

What is your favorite memory of Brown or Giddings House?

It's probably a tie between working late nights in the lab; every trip to Bagel Gourmet; and learning how to organize and advocate with and for my peers.

EVE H. DEWAN

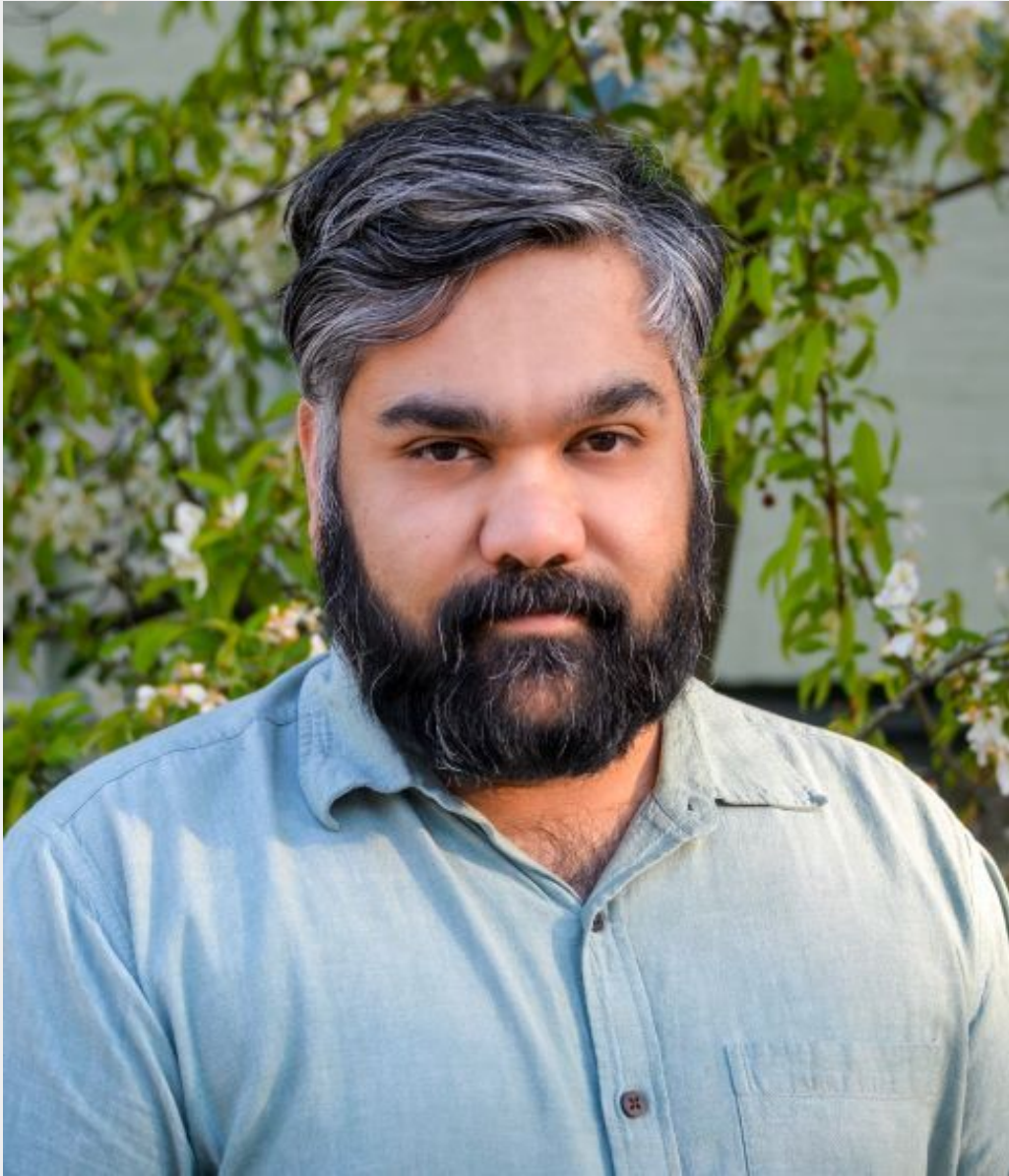
“Frontier Lessons: An Archaeology of Living and Learning in the Grand Ronde Tribal Community”

Chair: Robert Preucel

Readers: Parker VanValkenburgh, Peter van Dommelen, Sara Gonzalez

“Congratulations, Eve! This is testimony to your hard work and perseverance in seeking to promote the intersections of archaeology and social justice.” –**Robert Preucel**

“Congratulations and Godspeed!” –**Parker VanValkenburgh**



Malay Firoz

Dissertation: The Resilience Paradox: Ethical Quandaries of Humanitarian Aid in Jordan and Lebanon

What is your post-graduation plan?

Assistant Professor of Anthropology, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arizona State University

What is your favorite memory of Brown or Giddings House?

The mass exodus after evening talks at the Watson Institute for drinks at the GCB!

MALAY FIROZ

“The Resilience Paradox: Ethical Quandaries of Humanitarian Aid in Jordan and Lebanon”

Chair: Catherine Lutz

Readers: Bhrigupati Singh, Vazira Zamindar, Ilana Feldman

“Congratulations Malay! Even today in anthropology, it poses many difficulties for a scholar from the global south not to be a "native informant". In crossing boundaries as you have, you faced and continue to face each challenge, of language, race, religion, and prejudice, with courage, integrity and "resilience" (to use a key term from your thesis!). I am so proud of what you have achieved, and how you have stayed true to yourself and found your voice. Your colleagues and students at ASU are lucky to have you as part of their milieu. Looking forward to many years of conversation ahead!” **-Bhrigupati Singh**



Mallory Matsumoto

Dissertation: Sharing Script: Development and Transmission of Hieroglyphic Practice among Classic Maya Scribes

What is your post-graduation plan?

Assistant Professor of Maya Religion
in the Department of Religious Studies,
University of Texas at Austin

What is your favorite memory of Brown or Giddings House?

Playing Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade with the orchestra in
fall 2019

MALLORY E. MATSUMOTO

“Sharing Script: Development And Transmission of Hieroglyphic Practice Among Classic Maya Scribes”

Chair: Stephen Houston

Readers: Andrew Scherer, Paja Faudree, Claudin Brittenham, Simon Martin

“What a pleasure it has been to have a student who teaches their professors! We are proud of your accomplishments, your work ethic, your insight.” –**Stephen Houston**

“Congratulations! It goes without saying that I learned a great deal from you about ancient Maya writing and it was a delight to see you transform your class article into a publication. I fondly remember our times as field collaborators, whether tromping through the forest in search of ancient fortifications, or unexpectedly stumbling on a Middle Preclassic deposit (where it wasn't supposed to be!)”

–**Andrew Scherer**

"Felicidades! It has been a pleasure working with you, Mallory, and I know you will continue to thrive as a scholar. We are very proud of all you've accomplished!" –**Paja Faudree**



Alexandra Peck

Dissertation: Totem Poles, a New Mode of Cultural Heritage?
The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's Efforts to Restore Native Presence,
Preserve History, & Combat Settler Colonial Amnesia

What are your post-graduation plans?

The Mellon Environmental Stewardship, Place, & Community
Initiative's Visiting Scholar
of Indigenous Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study,
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

What is your favorite memory of Brown or Giddings House?

Drinking sherry with Prof. Simmons in class while discussing
anthropological theory, or maybe learning that the
department's water is non-potable.

ALEXANDRA M. PECK

“Totem Poles, a New Mode of Cultural Heritage? The Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe’s Efforts to Restore Native Presence, Preserve History, & Combat Settler Colonial Amnesia”

Chair: Patricia Rubertone, Robert Preucel

Readers: Susan Smulyan, Ted Fortier (Seattle University)

“Congratulations, Alex! I am so proud of all that you have accomplished during your time here at Brown. I especially enjoyed working with you on our assessment of the RISD collection. Best of luck in your visiting scholar and residential fellow positions at U Minnesota.” –**Robert Preucel**

“Alex, congratulations! It has been an absolute pleasure working with you and seeing how you have bridged your diverse interests in anthropology so splendidly. You’ve been an amazing TA, and more accurately collaborator, in three courses besides. I wish you the very best as a postdoctoral visiting scholar in Indigenous Studies at U-Minnesota and beyond!” –**Patricia Rubertone**

"Alex, although I never served on your committee, I was honored to write for you – and so thrilled at your success on the job market! You have a great career ahead of you, and I look forward to seeing where it will take you! Congratulations!” –**Paja Faudree**



Alejandra Roche Recinos

Dissertation: Regional Production and Exchange of Stone Tools in the Maya Polity of Piedras Negras, Guatemala

What are your post-graduation plans?
Visiting Assistant Professor at Reed College

What is your favorite memory of Brown or Giddings House?
The Underwater themed End of the Year Party at Giddings House!

ALEJANDRA ROCHE RECINOS

“Regional Production and Exchange of Stone Tools in the Maya Polity of Piedras Negras, Guatemala”

Chair: Andrew Scherer

Readers: Stephen Houston, Parker VanValkenburgh, John Cherry, Charles Golden, Brigitte Kovacevich

“Congratulations! It has been an absolute pleasure to think through Maya economies these past six years and to learn from you about obsidian production and exchange (and to receive so many thoughtful GIFs).

More importantly, it has been a true honor to work with someone so smart, considerate, thoughtful, hardworking, and dependable.” –**Andrew Scherer**

“Affability, thoughtfulness, tenacity, an arc that goes ever upwards -- these words (and more) apply to Alejandra, who has been a delightful and rewarding student over the years.” –**Stephen Houston**

“Congrats Alejandra! I'm honored to have been able to serve on your committee and am so deeply impressed by the care with which you weave together detailed technical analyses of lithics with broader questions about political economy. So I'll just fully embrace cheesiness and say: you rock!”

–**Parker VanValkenburgh**

BROWN UNIVERSITY DISSERTATION AWARDS

Honoring Anthropology Dissertations

Whitney M. Arey

Winner of the 2021 Marie J. Langlois Dissertation Prize, for an outstanding dissertation in feminist studies
“Abortion as Care: Affective and Biosocial Experiences of Abortion Access and Decision-Making”

The Marie J. Langlois Dissertation Prize is an annual prize awarded by the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women for an outstanding dissertation in the area of gender studies or feminist analysis. Marie J. Langlois became a trustee emerita of the Corporation in 2007 having previously served as trustee and vice chancellor of the University since 1998. She served as a member of the Board of Fellows from 1992 to 1998, as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1980 to 1985, and as a trustee and treasurer of the University from 1988 to 1992. [Learn more](#)

Mallory E. Matsumoto

Winner of the 2021 Joukowsky Family Foundation Outstanding Dissertation Award (Social Sciences)
“Sharing Script: Development and Transmission of Hieroglyphic Practice among Classic Maya Scribes”

The Joukowsky Family Foundation Outstanding Dissertation Award is an annual prize awarded by the Graduate School for superior achievements in research by students who are completing their Ph.Ds. Supported through the generosity of the Joukowsky Family Foundation, the awards are usually given to four students per year, one from each of the four main areas: the humanities, the life sciences, the physical sciences, and the social sciences. The award and an honorarium are given out at the Graduate School Commencement ceremony. [Learn more](#)

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“Congratulations to all of our Anthropology Concentrators, MA recipients, and PhD recipients! We are proud of you and can't wait to see what you do next. Please stay in touch!”

~Matilde & Tsehai~
Anthro Staff