

Sociology & Anthropology

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
ARLINGTON FALL 2020

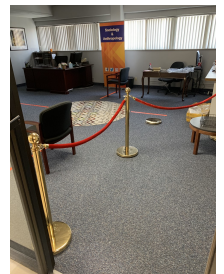
A Message from the Department Chair **Dr. Beth Anne Shelton**



Welcome to the Sociology and Anthropology newsletter. Wow, what a year we have had! In these pages, we will bring you up to speed about what we accomplished last academic year and look forward to this year. Our wonderful faculty continue to teach, conduct research and attend, mostly virtual, professional meetings. Our students continue to learn and find new ways to engage with UTA and the department. They have shown such resilience since last March. We hope you enjoy this inside look at our department. We recognize current challenges but here we will strive to show the resilience and humor with which we have faced the challenges over the past few months.

Professors Ashley Lemke and Kelly Bergstrand both won teaching awards. Dr. Lemke was awarded the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching for Tenure Track faculty and Dr. Bergstrand won the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teaching Award for Tenure Track faculty. Dr. David Arditi published *Getting Signed: Record Contracts, Musicians, and Power in Society* while Dr. Heather Jacobson presented her work on the invisible labor of surrogacy at an international conference in Rome. Dr. Kelly Bergstrand's research inspired by the false alarm missile warning in Hawaii several years ago was published. Other faculty made the most of their time at home to work on their projects. Dr. Shelley Smith made progress on her manuscript on museum displays of human evolution and Dr. Speier continued to work on her book on reproductive mobility. Dr. Christian Zolniski was appointed Editor of *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* and Dr. Jason Shelton was appointed to head the Arlington Unity Council. Several faculty members received research or grant awards. Dr. Ritu Khanduri was appointed a Fulbright Scholar Award and Dr. Lemke is co-PI on a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Students continued to excel in many domains. Edward Naranja received the Blaine T. and Jean W. Williams Scholarship and Aimee Moran received the Ben and Trudy Termini Anthropology Fellowship. Paola Puentes was a McNair Scholar. Thirty students graduated with their BA degrees in Anthropology or Sociology. We are pleased that three of the most recent sociology graduates have now entered the MA program in sociology! Our Department Ambassadors worked to help prospective students decide on the best major and attended events where we showcase what we have to offer. Ofelia Pastora Rodriguez, Maria Molina, Taylor Valeriano, Jessica Smith and Paola Puentes do all of this work for only a t-shirt. We appreciate their dedication.



We had a department-wide lunch and paper airplane competition that gave us all an excuse to play with paper and glue and enjoy lunch catered by Halal Guys. Drs. Kelly Bergstrand and Isa Montemayor teamed up with Erin Kielty to win first place in the paper airplane competition! We look forward to continuing in-person activities next year. In the meantime, we had a virtual film series this fall and plan other fun virtual events for spring 2021.

The year created challenges but also opportunities. Faculty and students have weathered what we hope is the worst of the pandemic and will be ready to be back on campus when we can safely return! We have maintained a campus presence but with social distancing guidelines in place. The photo shows you the office during this year. We have come to appreciate sneeze guards and the many uses of tape! We have created a Sharepoint site with information about upcoming events and opportunities. UTA students have access and can find it here: <https://mavsuta.sharepoint.com/sites/soci-anth-uta>. Or here:



In the meantime, follow us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for up-to-the-minute updates. You can also see what our student orgs are up to here: [Student Sociology Association](#) and/or [Anthropology Club](#).

Beth Anne Shelton, Ph.D.

Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Faculty Corner



Ashley Lemke elected Chair of the International Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA)



Ashley Lemke, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas Arlington, has been elected Chair of the international Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA). Her research is in anthropological theory, hunter-gathers and geophysical methods in the field of underwater archaeology. She examines the human past through artifacts, structures and remains found beneath the water. She has studied ancient submerged settlements beneath the Great Lakes and has looked for evidence of prehistoric peoples in the Atlantic.

The ACUA for more than 50 years has worked to educate scholars, governments, sport divers and the general public about underwater archaeology and the preservation of underwater resources. Lemke will serve as ACUA chair until 2023. <https://www.uta.edu/news/news-releases/2020/02/24/lemke-acua-leadership>. *MavWire*, Monday, Feb 24, 2020, *Anthropologist to Lead Underwater Archaeology Group*. In addition, Dr. Lemke was awarded the Outstanding Research or Creative Activity Award from the College of Liberal Arts, the UTA Student Organization Advisor of the Year, and the UTA President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Christian Zolniski named Editor Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos

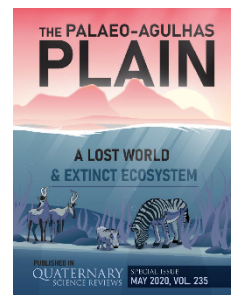
Christian Zolniski is director of UTA's Center for Mexican American Studies and Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. He has been named the new editor of the bilingual international journal *Mexican studies/Estudios Mexicanos*. Zolniski is just the third editor-in-chief of the journal since its inception.

The journal is a unique forum for research relating to a wide range of Mexican culture and issues. Zolniski plans to build on the tradition of publishing original research in English and Spanish by inviting scholarly contributions from multiple disciplines, including history, cultural studies and the humanities, while expanding into the social sciences as well. *MavWire*, Monday, Jan 27, 2020, *UTA Scholar Named Editor of Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*, Devynn Case.



Naomi Cleghorn announces publication of The Palaeo-Agulhas Plain: A Lost World and Extinct Ecosystem

Naomi Cleghorn, Associate Chair & Anthropology Program Director, studies the archaeological record of human responses to climate change on the south coast of South Africa. This special issue of the *Journal of Quaternary Science Reviews* brings together 22 papers in a revolutionary approach advancing an integrated climate, biology, geology, and anthropology model of an ecosystem that has no modern analog. Dr. Cleghorn is lead guest editor and contributing author of this decade-long collaborative effort.



MAVWIRE - MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020

UTA PROFESSOR LEADS CITY OF ARLINGTON'S UNITY COUNCIL

Director of UTA's Center for African American Studies named Chair of Unity Council

Jason Shelton, associate professor of sociology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the director of the Center for African American Studies at The University of Texas at Arlington, is leading the city of Arlington's new Unity Council as its chairman.

Created this summer by city officials, the council's goal is to increase equality in Arlington through community input and by examining equity strategies. "I am honored to have been called to lead this council," Shelton said. "Arlington is a large and diverse city. We want to talk to the people in the community, with all kinds of backgrounds and experiences. We want to hear their stories and compare what we learn from them to numbers and data to determine the best policies on how we can make Arlington better."

Shelton said the council needs to examine economic disparities, education, health, housing and policing. In the coming months, the 29-member council will gather community input, interview citizens, analyze survey data, research best practices and recommend strategies that the city of Arlington could implement to promote and encourage greater equality across the community.



MAVWIRE - MONDAY, SEP 28, 2020, DANA JENNINGS: CONTACT

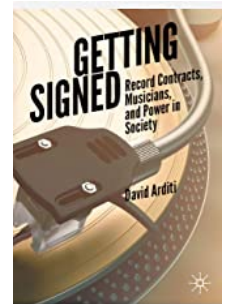
NEW BOOK *GETTING SIGNED: RECORD CONTRACTS, MUSICIANS, AND POWER IN SOCIETY*



Building on his personal experiences, **David Arditi**, Associate Professor of Sociology, spent five years interviewing musicians, concert bookers, family members of recording artists and others who work in the industry to gain insight on the dream of getting signed to a record label and the lengths artists will go to achieve it.

"I hope that by reading *Getting Signed* people will begin to reconsider the role of record contracts in musicians' lives," Arditi said. "We need a system that pays musicians for their

labor instead of one that harnesses their dreams to generate revenue for the label. The vast majority of these musicians never earn money from the contracts."



College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teaching Award for Tenure Track Faculty

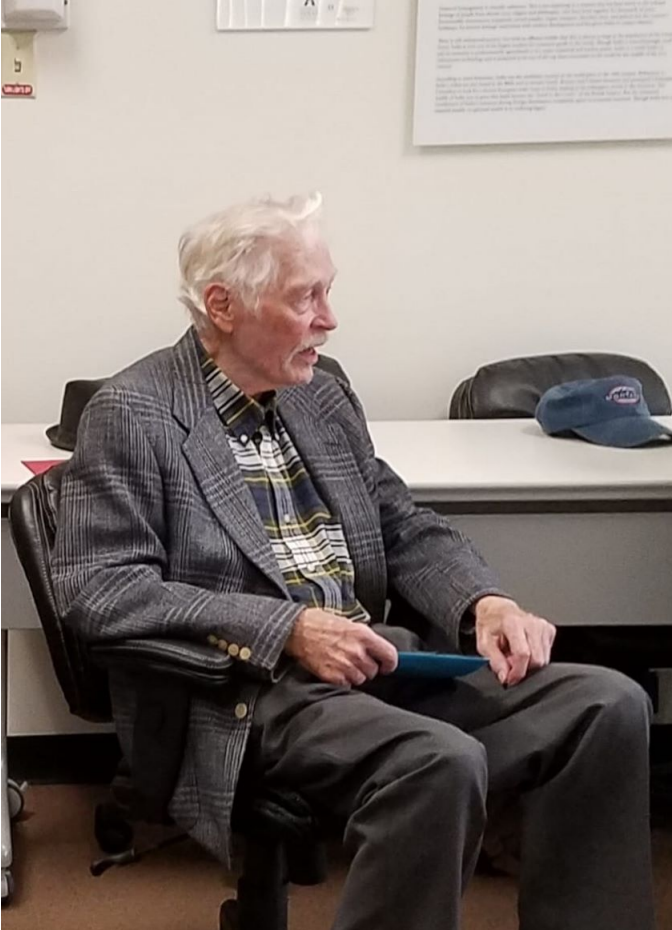


Kelly Bergstrand won the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teaching Award for Tenure Track faculty. Dr. Bergstrand is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and specializes in social movements, environmental sociology, and social psychology. Her current research projects include examining sources of community resilience after environmental disasters and investigating whether certain types of social movement issues are inherently more powerful in attracting resources and public support. Recent publications include articles in *Mobilization*, *Nature Climate Change*, *Social Indicators Research*, *Energy Policy*, *Sociological Forum*, and *Social Science Research*. She teaches courses in environmental sociology, research methods and social statistics.

In Memory of

Dr. Lester Robbins

November 12, 1932 to June 30, 2020



Very few anthropologists begin their careers as Baptist ministers, but that is where Dr. Lester Robbins started in 1957. Luckily for many UTA students, Dr. Robbins decided on a career in anthropology which resulted in his spending almost 30 years at UT Arlington. Dr. Lester Robbins taught at the University of Texas at Arlington from 1977 until 1986 and returned in 1995 to teach until his retirement in 2016. He taught anthropology courses focusing on American Indians, Religion, and Africa.

First and foremost, Lester was a student. He earned a Ph.D in Anthropology from SMU in 1976, but also earned an MA in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University, an MA in Anthropology from SMU, a Master of Divinity from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Master of Theological Studies from TCU. His first degree was the BA in Religion from Baylor in 1954 and he earned his last degree, Master of Theological Studies, in 1992.

He communicated his love of learning to the many students he taught over the years. He invested his time in teaching and students benefitted from his diligence. One former student commented that “[Dr. Robbins’] passion for the field was so evident in his lectures, and I had so much respect for him.” A former professor recalled Lester as a “gentle soul.” Early assessments of him at the University of Texas at Arlington noted his collegiality and commitment to anthropology and to the university, as well as the long hours

he spent preparing his courses. Dr. Robbins viewed education as an adventure, and he sought to show his students how to experience it as such.

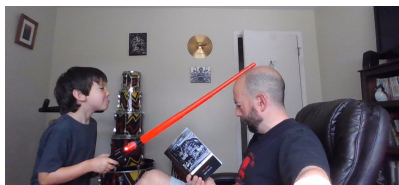
In addition to UTA, Dr. Robbins taught at one time or another at Tarrant County College, TCU and Seminole Junior College. In 2013 he was recognized by North Lake College, where he taught history courses, for 25 years of service. He also taught high school for a short time before earning his Ph.D and taught in Ethiopia as part of the United States Peace Corps Service program. His stint in the Peace Corps may have fostered his interest in the Majang people of Illubabor Province in Ethiopia, where he conducted field work in 1967. He also spent many years studying the Creek Indians of Oklahoma, focusing on their religious practices and political structure.

Lester was a longtime member of the Arlington Unitarian Universalist Church congregation. He was devoted to his pets, especially his beloved dog, Molly. In his last years, Lester shared his life with two cats, surrounded by his books, and was working on a manuscript about the Yahwistic tradition in Old Testament theology. Generous to the end, he donated his body to UT Southwestern. We are all poorer for Lester’s absence. He made the world a kinder and gentler place.

Faculty Honors and Achievements

Teach Inspire* Motivate**

David Arditi, Sociology



Research and writing has been difficult for Dr. David Arditi during the past year, but he has been getting it done. Doing virtual school with his 5-year-old with his wonderful partner while both work at home is a challenge. But Dr. Arditi has persevered. He published his new book, *Getting Signed: Record Contracts, Musicians, and Power in Society*. This book is available for the low price of \$29.99 with free shipping and handling from [Palgrave's website](#). A must-read for all sociologists! And he has a book coming out in April 2021 called *Streaming Culture: Subscription Platforms And The Unending Consumption Of Culture* and this one will be only \$23.99, get it !!Also, lots of light-saber duels this year.

Krystal Beamon, Sociology

Krystal Beamon received her Bachelors, Masters, and Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. She joined UTA in the fall of 2008 after a three year tenure-track position at The University of Oklahoma. She was awarded tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor in Sociology in 2015 from the University of Texas Arlington. Her primary areas of scholarship are Race and Ethnicity, Sociology of Sport, and Inequality. Her book *The Enduring Color Line in U.S. Athletics* is among the top 10 best sellers in that genre. She is a recipient of the prestigious Regents Outstanding Teaching Award. Dr. Beamon received the 2017 Rising Star Award from her alma mata, Oklahoma State University, for her outstanding accomplishments since graduation. She taught Introduction to Sociology, Inequalities in Public Education, and a graduate course Sociology of

Sport, this fall. She is teaching Sociology of Sport and a graduate course, Racial & Ethnic Groups this spring.

Kelly Bergstrand, Sociology

Dr. Kelly Bergstrand continues her research into disasters, as well as mechanisms underlying why or why not people are willing to take action for social and environmental causes. This August, she presented (virtually) on her research looking at communities and disaster recovery at the annual American Sociological Association. She was also a coauthor on two articles published this year. The first article, "Threat and Emotions: Mobilizing and Attitudinal Outcomes of a Ballistic Missile Scare," investigated how reactions to a missile scare affected concern about social issues and social problems. The second article, "The Community Helped Me: Community Cohesion and Environmental Concerns in Personal Assessments of Post-Disaster Recovery" asked community residents about the long-term effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the progress of their recovery. During the pandemic, Dr. Bergstrand took on home improvement projects, like restoring a coffee table, and helping to build a climbing wall and zipline in her backyard for her two kids.



Naomi Cleghorn, Anthropology

Dr. Cleghorn studies the impact of sea level change on early foraging societies of the southern coast of South Africa. Over the past seven years, more than 50 researchers and students from UTA and around the

world, and a professional excavation team based in South Africa, have



contributed to the project. Early this year, it became clear that travel abroad and archaeological fieldwork were not in the cards for 2020. Loss of field time is hard on any researcher, but it is particularly difficult for the graduate and undergraduate students hoping to advance their academic careers through training, networking, and development of their own research through this fieldwork. Dr. Cleghorn is hopeful that 2021 will hold more opportunities for our students. She is also looking forward to getting back to teaching lab classes in the lab again! She is grateful to all her students last spring and this fall, who showed great perseverance and resilience in the transition to online and hybrid learning models. Thank you, especially to the osteology students who patiently waited

for her to roll out the lab (see cart in photo) to them each week in our unique learning



environment, and to the 200+ archaeology students who brilliantly recovered when their research projects became inaccessible last spring. For the spring of 2021, she will continue to teach online, broadcasting from her studio in



University Hall (Photo).

M. Faye Hanson-Evans, Sociology



Faye Hanson-Evans is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology where she teaches courses on the sociology of poverty, gender, social problems, and more. Faye earned her MA and BA in Sociology from UT Arlington and is both a McNair Scholar and Honors College alum. Her specializations include the sociology of poverty, political sociology, and quantitative data analysis. In 2017, Faye was named UT Arlington's College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teacher in Distance Education. In 2018, Faye served as faculty advisor to assist her students to establish a new UTA student organization chapter - *Project Downtown* - a national 501(c) (3) that works specifically with the homeless populations of Arlington and Fort Worth. Most recently, Faye was named an I.D.E.A.S. Faculty Fellow for her outstanding course development and teaching practices – both online and in the classroom. Faye is also fur mom to Dolly and Barkley - her two Saint Bernard's - and regularly finds herself unwittingly accessorized with slobber and dog hair.

Heather Jacobson, Sociology



Heather Jacobson is a family sociologist and reproductive scholar. Since the last newsletter, Heather has published "Do Embryos have Kinship? Negotiating Meanings of Relatedness in the Fertility Clinic" in the journal *Adoption & Culture*, "Cross-border Reproductive Care in

the United States: Who Comes, Why do They Come, What do They Purchase?" in *Reproductive Biomedicine & Society Online*, and with colleagues in Germany and India, a short piece on the impact of Covid-19 on international surrogacy arrangements titled "Pandemic Disruptions" in *Surrogacy Arrangements in Germany, U.S.A., and India during Covid-19* in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. Prior to the pandemic, she gave talks on her research in Weisbaden, Germany, Granada, Spain, and at the Eastern Sociological Society's annual meeting. With all travel suspended due to the pandemic, a talk at LUMSA University in Rome was sadly rescheduled to a Zoom meeting. Heather directs the MA in Sociology program and would love to talk with prospective students. Also, if you are an alum of the program, please be in touch with her (jacobson@uta.edu) to update your contact information!

Dorothy Kalanzi, Sociology



Dr. Kalanzi's research on HIV/AIDS and climate change in Africa is ongoing. She is currently teaching five courses including Medical Sociology, Social Inequality, and three sections of Introduction to Sociology. In the spring she will once again be teaching Medical Sociology, Social Inequality, and three sections of Introduction to Sociology.

Ritu Khanduri, Anthropology

Dr. Ritu Gairola Khanduri researches on media, material culture and science in the context of India and the Indian diaspora. She is the author of Caricaturing Culture in India: Cartoons and History in the Modern World published by Cambridge University Press. She is currently pursuing projects on Gandhi and developing new research on India's visual culture. Dr. Khanduri enjoys seeing her students' course work presented in seminars and appearing



in publications. She is passionate about teaching South Asia, India, Gandhi, visual culture and public engagement with cultural anthropology. Her life is ruled by two adorable cats, Lou and Leepoosing. She enjoys running, traveling, twitter, vegetarian cuisine, cooking for family and friends, music and films.

Robert Kunovich, Sociology

Bob Kunovich teaches courses in statistics, research methods, work, inequality, and risk. He is currently working on three different research projects, which focus on confidence in science, the consequences of uncertainty, and poverty. Early in the pandemic, Dr. Kunovich had high hopes for staying physically fit, having cobbled together a home gym of various odds and ends. By April, he turned instead to music therapy (i.e., playing the guitar). He now spends his evenings rocking out to classic rock favorites by artists such as Bruce Springsteen, Creedence



Clearwater Revival, Van Morrison, and REO Speedwagon. Fun fact: Dr. Kunovich's early rendition of "Red River Valley" in a grade school talent competition drew comparisons (circa 1984) to the late, great John Denver. Dr. Kunovich's other COVID

pastimes include gardening and growing a beard. He's very much looking forward to 2022.

Ashley Lemke, Anthropology

Last year Dr. Ashley Lemke taught Introduction to Archaeology and Underwater Archaeology to undergraduate students across UTA. Spent the fall semester finishing



her book, *The Architecture of Hunting: The built environment of hunter-gatherers and its impact on mobility, property, leadership, and labor* and it will be published by Texas A&M University Press in Spring 2021. She is especially honored to have been awarded the Outstanding Research or Creative Activity Award from the College of Liberal Arts, the UTA Student Organization Advisor of the Year, and the UTA President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. She spent the summer in Washington State with her family and even got some scuba diving in in Lake Huron!

Isabel Montemayor, Anthropology

Dr. Isabel Montemayor began a qualitative study during summer of 2020 documenting the illness narratives of Latinx families diagnosed with Covid-19, living in the Arlington area. She continues to oversee this project and mentor two advanced undergraduate research assistants who are carrying out the



interviews and photographic ethnography as part of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program here at UTA. Additionally, she will deliver an oral presentation at the Society for Applied Anthropology conference in

Spring 2021 on obstetric violence in rural Michoacan. She is also working on her manuscript, "Healing Bodies Across Borders" which addresses the transnational health maintenance strategies of mixed status families in Mexico and the U.S.

Josephine Ryan, Anthropology

Dr. Josephine (Joci) Ryan is a cultural anthropologist with interests including food and culture, gender and sexuality, human rights, public health, and medical anthropology. This fall she is teaching North American Indians and Sex, Gender and Culture. This spring she is teaching Global Cultures and Gender and Human Rights. She served as the Graduate Advisor for the Anthropology Program from 2009-2015. She is active in the refugee resettlement community and works with non-profit organizations seeking to fast-track living wage employment for newcomers. She also works in the area of human rights education and has traveled with students to locations in Africa, Europe, and Central America.

Beth Anne Shelton, Sociology

Beth Anne Shelton earned her Ph.D in Sociology at the University of



Texas at Austin. Since the last newsletter she and her co-author published a chapter in a book geared to women considering running for elected office. The chapter, "From Civic Mindedness to Electoral Politics: Citizen Advisory Committees and the Decision to Run for School Board" was published in *Good Reasons to Run: Women and Political Candidacy* (edited by Shames, Bernhard, Holman and Teels and published by Temple University Press). She and her co-author continue to investigate the shift in women's political activism. She also chaired a virtual session on "Doing Gender" at the American Sociological Association meetings in August. Since March she has learned how to video chat, use Zoom and make homemade bread.

She is now aware that bread is simple and inexpensive to make, so there is no reason to ever buy it again! Due to what some call over-planning, she was able to ship much-needed yeast to friends around the country during the national yeast shortage. This is not over-planning, but following the girl scout motto: Be Prepared. Otherwise, she focuses on teaching her granddaughter what six feet looks like.

Jason E. Shelton, Sociology



Jason E. Shelton's primary research interests concern the Sociology of Religion, as well as the intersections of race, class, and political/social attitudes in the Post-Civil Rights Era. His articles have appeared in *Social Science Quarterly*, *Du Bois Review*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Journal of African American Studies*, *American Behavioral Scientist* and other respected publications. Dr. Shelton has been interviewed by major media outlets for news stories relevant to his research such as the *USA Today*, *Chicago Tribune*, the *British Broadcasting Company (BBC)*, *Houston Chronicle*, and network television affiliates in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. He's currently working on his second book, which is tentatively titled, *Religious Diversity Among African Americans: How Racial Progress Undermines the Contemporary Black Church*. Dr. Shelton also chairs the Arlington Unity Council, which is a racial equity task force charged with providing recommendations for closing racial and ethnic divides in our City. In his spare time, J Schmoov enjoys hanging out at the beach, playing golf, and going to old school Hip Hop concerts!

Shelley Smith, Anthropology

Professor Smith is steadily progressing on the manuscript for her



book based on the museum research that has occupied her since 2016. This project involves an

analysis of museum displays of human evolution and interviews with 35 curators and museum staff. She is enormously grateful that data collection for this project was completed in 2019, prior to COVID interruptions to travel! In November of 2019, she had an excursion to Waco to present a paper connected to this research; this was her last foray beyond DFW to date. Last fall, she also did her first podcast, to honor the legacy of former University of Michigan paleoanthropologist C. Loring Brace

<https://www.humbio.org/sos-bonus-remembering-c-loring-brace-with-dr-shelley-smith/>.) During summer 2019, Dr. Smith is pleased to have mentored Ms. Paola Puentes for her McNair project. Paola explored the value of social science perspectives on communicating COVID public health messages to the public. This fall, Professor Smith and her Paleoanthropology students experienced lab activities like none other; she thanks these students for their diligence and flexibility!

Amy Speier, Anthropology

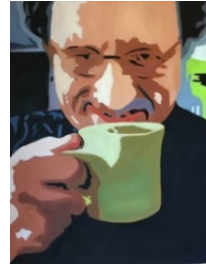
Dr. Amy Speier has been spending the past few months cooped up in a hotel, teaching three virtual classes from her dark corner with Western themed artwork adorning the orange walls. There was a leak under her floors that ruined them all and required massive work still being completed. Nevertheless, she has enjoyed receiving family recipe presentations from her Food and Culture students, as her theory students "roast" one another on Microsoft Teams. She continues writing her book on reproductive mobilities... ironically during a pandemic that has tripped up most of

our own usual kinds of mobility.

Robert

Young,
Sociology

I teach in the areas of Social Psychology, Deviance, and Research Methods.



Most of my recent research has focused on social interaction processes, human-animal relationships, and the development of a theory of moral perception. This year—2020—I have come to see less in terms of accomplishments and more as a journey of innovation and persistence. Thus, although most of my research these days is largely qualitative and theoretical, I have chosen to document my past year quantitatively, as follows....

Dr. Young's 2020 by the Numbers

- 1 case of carpal tunnel as a result of redesigning PowerPoints
- 1 broken toe as the result of trying to walk at least 5000 steps per day while sheltering in place
- 8 days of walking very little as a result of broken toe
- 2 re-injuries of broken toe as a result of continuation of 5000-step house walking regimen
- 2 possible concussions survived, validating my spouse's assertion that my head is harder than both hardwood table corners and porcelain-enameled cast iron bathtubs
- 293 days of promising to exercise every day
- 279 days of breaking promise to exercise every day
- 43 lectures recorded during fall 2020 term
- 5 lectures failed to record during fall 2020 term, presumably unrelated to above-mentioned possible concussions
- 1- Echo Dot purchased to remind me to record lectures during fall 2020 term

-15 days of promising to retire early as a result of online synchronous teaching

-1 day after turning in grades of agreeing with myself to temporarily postpone early retirement

-30 days of forgetting to turn in this blurb

-6 hours before Beth Anne and Pat would have closed my email account for being so late turning in this blurb

*HERE'S TO 2021!!!

Christian Zolniski, Anthropology & Center for Mexican American Studies

Christian Zolniski is a social anthropologist whose research focuses on labor and migration in the context of global economic trends. His new



book *Made in Baja* (University of California Press 2019), discusses the industrialization of fresh-produce agriculture in northern Mexico and the impacts on the farmworker communities at the US-Mexico border who produce these crops for American markets. While the Covid-19 pandemic prevented him from continuing field research, the opportunity to spend his summer in Arlington brought him the joy of spending more time with his family. During the summer break he challenged his twelve-year old son Pablo to a game of soccer. It was quite the adventure: Pablo outsmarted his dad on the field. Dr. Z injured his knee and spent several weeks in physical therapy (he is fine now!). This coming summer, Dr. Z plans to return to the field, this time only to the ethnographic one in Mexico.



Center for Theory

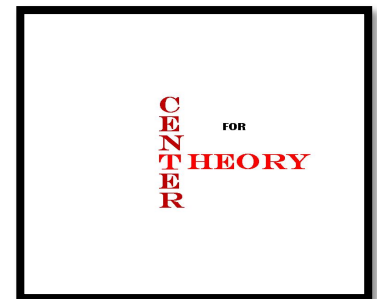
David Arditi

Associate Professor of Sociology

darditi@uta.edu

We want to do new things in The University of Texas Arlington's (UTA) Center for Theory and we're looking for alumni support. The goal of the Center for Theory aims to "facilitate the research and teaching of a growing number of faculty and graduate students interested in contemporary social and cultural theories." There are multiple ways you can support. First, we are looking for support to grow the Ben Agger Theory Library. The library houses theory books and books by Center-affiliated faculty. Donations would support purchasing new books and/or furnishing the space. Second, the Center for Theory hosts an annual Colloquium Series. You can sponsor a colloquium for \$1,000! This is enough to bring in an outside speaker for an event. Third, if you would like to support a graduate student as a Graduate Research Assistant for the Center, any contribution would be helpful. Finally, we'd like to go big and fund a postdoc. Do you want a postdoc named after you? Get in touch! If any alumni are interested in donating in any way to the Center for Theory's initiatives, please contact **David Arditi (darditi@uta.edu)**.

The Center for Theory was established in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Texas at Arlington during 1999 by Professor Ben Agger. Professor Agger served as Center director until his passing on July 14, 2015. The Center under Agger's direction established the successful and well-known entirely online journal, *FAST CAPITALISM*. The Center also initiated a widely celebrated and closely followed on-campus Speaker's Series to feature the latest research in cultural, political, and social theory from faculty members and graduate students at UTA as well as occasional visitors from off-campus. These activities have been very significant opportunities to enhance scholarly communication and interaction at UTA, enabling members of the University community to pursue the intellectual goals of the arts, humanities and social sciences, refine their research for eventual publication, and find fruitful new collaborative networks both on-campus and at other Universities around the country.



Faculty Research & Field Schools

Look to Field Schools to Resume in 2021

Dr. Naomi Cleghorn, Anthropology, and her team excavating at Knysna, South Africa



Dr. Ashley Lemke, Anthropology, with students in San Marcos, Texas



Dr. Amy Speier, Anthropologist, research in Prague, Czech Republic



Dr. Karl Petruso, Anthropology, in Greece with study abroad students



Dr. Ritu Khanduri, Anthropology, in India with students



Dr. Dorothy Kalanzi, Sociology, Research in Africa



Sociology & Anthropology Students

Awards

The Annual Department of Sociology and Anthropology Awards Ceremony was unable to be held this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we would like to extend our congratulations to the Sociology and Anthropology graduating seniors and honor those students whose achievements deserve recognition.

Graduating Anthropology Seniors were Kristyna Dyson, Coleman Franchek, Joya Gibson, Eunice Guevara, Tyler Huffman, Justin Jones, Beatrice Lozano, Ciara Mason, Michael (River) Rivera, Mycroft Roske, Christopher Romo, Angelle Russell and Jessica Smith.

Graduating Sociology Seniors were Desiree Alvarez, Brittany Baucom, Michael Burns, Aysia Evans, Rahim Haghiri, Briley Littlejohn, Joshua Minjarez, Peter Nguyen, Maggie Rodriguez, Destiny Rosario, Sarah Rosenthal, Parker Schkade, Rikki Thompson, Taylor Valeriano, Lissette Valle, Michelle Villegas, and Paige Witherspoon.

Graduating Sociology Master's Students were Iris Garcia, Dorian Moore, Garth Pickard, Jessica Salas and Kaylee Woodward.

Anthropology Honor Roll Recipients who maintained a GPA of 3.2 or higher within the major and 3.0 and higher overall were Maya Govindarajan, Brianne Johnson, Susana Lozano, Megan Rodriguez and Ashley Stephens.

Sociology Honor Roll Recipients who maintained a GPA of 3.2 or higher within the major and 3.0 and higher overall were Serita Johnson, Gabrielle Rancier, Emily Silva, Rikki Thompson, and Garrett Woodall.

Anthropology Scholars who maintained a GPA of 3.2 or higher within the major and 3.0 or higher overall and have completed more than 12 hours of coursework in the major were Destiny Burnett, Kristyna Dyson, Eunice Guevara, Tyler Huffman, Hannah Johnson, Justin Jones, Abigail Key, Aimee Moran, Ciara Mason, Paola Puentes, Michael (River) Rivera, Ofelia Pastora Rodriguez, Thomas Schloeman, Jessica Smith, and Baonhu Tran.

Sociology Scholars who maintained a GPA of 3.2 or higher within the major and 3.0 and higher overall and have completed more than 12 hours of coursework in the major were Ailynn Aguilar, Desiree Alvarez, Brittany Baucom, Michael Burns, Anthony Emerick, Rahim Haghiri, Amanda Joseph, Briley Littlejohn, Marissa Mata, Monica Mcallister, Maria Molina, Vanessa Murillo, Edward Naranja, Maggie Rodriguez, Destiny Rosario, Sarah Rosenthal, Taylor Valeriano, Michelle Villegas, and Paige Witherspoon.

The Ben and Trudy Termini Anthropology Fellowship was awarded to Aimee Moran

The Blaine T. and Jean W. Williams Endowed Scholarship recipient was Edward Naranja.

Sociology and Anthropology Student Ambassadors are Alanis Ramos Berrios, Destiny Burnett, Erin Kielty, Maria Molina, Paola Puentes, Ofelia Pastora Rodriguez, Jessica Smith, and Taylor Valeriano.

Lambda Alpha Inductees were Natalie Bauman, Beatrice Lozano, and Aimee Moran.

Sociology special **Areas of Concentration** recipients were Briley Littlejohn (Health, Science & Technology), Peter Nguyen (Human Capital & Work), Maggie Rodriguez (Diversity), and Lissette Valle (Social Services).

College of Liberal Arts Scholars were Desiree Alvarez, Eunice Guevara, Tyler Huffman, Aimee Moran, Edward Naranja, Paola Puentes, Michael Rivera, Sarah Rosenthal, and Jessica Salas.

McNair Scholar was Paola Puentes whose Mentor was Dr. Shelley Smith.

Department **Ambassadors** worked to help prospective students decide on the best major and attended events where we showcase what we have to offer. Ofelia Pastora, Maria Molina, Taylor Valeriano, Jessica Smith and Paola Puentes do all of this work for only a t-shirt. We appreciate their dedication.

Peter Nguyen, Sociology major, was recognized at the Leadership Recognition Ceremony from UTA. He received a \$2500 Dr. Wayne Duke Outstanding Leader Scholarship. Peter has expressed his appreciation to Sociology Professor Robert Kunovich. "I have become a strong leader on campus that continues to inspire others to reach their fullest potential because of you. It is because of UTA's FANTASTIC faculty and staff (That's YOU!) that we, the students, can achieve what we never thought was possible. I hope that one day I can inspire the next generation of leaders just as you did for me."

Airplane Contest Winners

Drs. Kelly Bergstrand and Isa Montemayor teamed up with Erin Kielty for fun Department activities.
They were the winners of the Airplane contest



Sociology Masters Theses

IRIS GARCIA – *Spring 2020*

Committee Chair: Dr Heather Jacobson

Title: Glad to Be a Grad: How Graduate School Shaped My Future Political Career

DORIAN MOORE – *Fall 2020*

Committee Chair: Dr. Heather Jacobson

Title: Understanding Domestic Violence Through Sociology

GARTH PICKARD – *Spring 2020*

Committee Chair: Dr. Robert Kunovich

Title: Disease Mongering and the Risk Society

The
Future
is
Yours

JESSICA SALAS – *Fall 2020*

Committee Chair: Dr. David Ardit

Title: Latinx Representation in Media

KAYLEE WOODWARD – *Fall 2020*

Committee Chair: Dr. Kelly Bergstrand

Title: Sociology and Insight into the Missionary Identity

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Lambda Alpha (The Anthropological Honor Society Alpha Chapter of Texas)



Lambda Alpha is a dynamic national collegiate organization which nurtures and rewards undergraduate and graduate students' excellence in Anthropology. In addition to assisting with the Termini Lecture and Brown Bag series, we focus on developing professional and scholarly skills such as networking and research. We attend conferences and lectures throughout the year. This coming year will also see the introduction of social hours, events designed to give members an opportunity to discuss anthropological topics and career paths 2018. **Dr. Amy Speier** is Faculty Advisor.



Anthropology Club

The Anthropology Club kicked off with a great start this year. Many of our plans which included museum visits, distinguished brown bag lecturers, exciting events like flint knapping, and helping with the annual goat roast hosted by Dr. Naomi Cleghorn had to be postponed due to COVID-19. We are looking forward to continuing with social events like our cultural lunches at local venues. This coming year we seek to promote increased awareness of local and national events in anthropology while encouraging fun activities for our student body. For more information on the Anthro Club you may go to <http://mavorgs.collegiatelink.net/organization/anthropologyclub>. Anthropology Club officers are Erin Kielty-President, Michelle Hoskins-Vice President, Ofelia Pastora Rodriguez-Creative Director, Marcie Woolery-Treasurer, Sean Kielty-Historian, and Christine Lightfoot-Secretary. **Dr. Ashley Lemke** is Faculty Advisor.

Sociology Student Association (SSA)



The Sociology Student Association (SSA) is an officially recognized, student-led organization at the University of Texas Arlington. The purpose of SSA is to demonstrate the practical and theoretical aspects of Sociology in ways beneficial to its undergraduate and graduate students and the surrounding Arlington community. Membership is not limited to sociology majors. SSA activities include career development events, educational activities, community involvement, and social events. Each semester's activities are determined by the student members. SSA officers are Tanner Strawbridge, President, Desiree Alvarez, Vice-President, Erykah Greenfield, Treasurer, Jennifer Wellman, Secretary, Maria Molina, Social Activity Chair, Andrea Savkovic, Public Relations Director, Kelsey Helland, Recruitment Chair, and Keyla Ramos, Director of Professional Development. Faculty advisor is **Dr. Kelly Bergstrand**.

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD)



The Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) Sociological Honor Society Omicron Chapter of Texas welcomed new sociology scholars from UTA to its ranks during the 2018-2019 year. **Dr. Kelly Bergstrand**, Faculty Advisor and Chapter Representative for AKD, inducted new initiates at last year's ceremony co-sponsored with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Lambda Alpha. The ceremony also honored UTA's own Sociology Scholars and Sociology Honor Roll students with a reception and banquet afterward. AKD assists with funding for students interested in attending or presenting at professional conventions. To stay informed of the latest national AKD news, join the Facebook group: Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society, and for more information on the Alpha Kappa Delta International Honor Society of Sociology you can go to: <http://alphakappadeltainternational.com>.



Student Embassadors



WE RECOGNIZE TWO STUDENT SCHOLARS

Blaine T. and Jean W. Williams Endowed Scholarship in Sociology

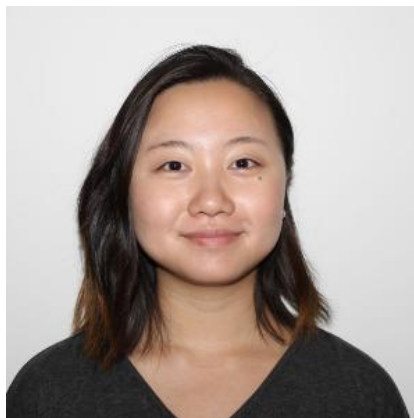
The Blaine T. and Jean W. Williams Endowed Scholarship in Sociology was awarded to
Edward Naranja



The Blaine T. and Jean W. Williams Endowed Scholarship in Sociology was awarded to Edward Naranja. The Endowed Scholarship in Sociology was established by their son, Blaine Williams and his wife, Elaine Davenport. Blaine T. Williams, Sr. and his wife, Jean Wood Williams were pioneers in the Dallas-Fort Worth Sociology and Social Work community. The scholarship is awarded annually to a junior or senior majoring in Sociology at the University of Texas Arlington.

The Ben and Trudy Termini Anthropology Fellowship

The Ben and Trudy Termini Anthropology Fellowship was awarded to
Aimee Moran



Dr's Ben and Trudy Termini established their medical practices in Arlington in 1975 and retired in 2003. They were always interested in Anthropology and audited a course at UT Arlington. They eventually began sponsoring an endowed lecture series which has attracted many world renowned speakers.

Termini Lecture Series 2020

Postponed

“INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISRUPTION DURING THE ORIGIN OF HOMO SAPIENS”



The Ben and Trudy The Ben and Trudy Termini Distinguished Anthropologist Lecture for 2020 was postponed in April due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope to reschedule Dr. Potts.

Dr. Richard Potts, Paleoanthropologist, and Founder and Director of the Human Origins Program, Smithsonian Institution was scheduled to be the Termini guest speaker.

Watch for more details for a possible virtual Termini lecture in 2021!

Donations, Gifts, & Endowments

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology acknowledges with gratitude the following financial supporters:

Ben and Trudy Termini, Endowed Lecture Series in Anthropology

Blaine Williams and Elaine Davenport, Endowed Scholarship in Sociology

David Arditi
Paul and Suzanne Baldon
Raymond Eve
Sharon R. Gamez-Bittner
Linda Gregg
LeeAnn Perez



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY

**University Hall
Room 430
601 S. Nedderman Dr.
Arlington, Texas 76019**

**Office 817-272-2661
Fax 817-272-3759**

**Office Hours
8 am to 5 pm
Monday through Friday**

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ADMINISTRATIVE FACULTY & STAFF

**Dr. Beth Anne Shelton
Department Chair**

**Dr. Naomi Cleghorn
Associate Chair**

**Mark Graves
Admin. Assistant**

**Pat Woodward
Sr. Office Assistant**

**M. Faye Hanson-Evans
Office Assistant II**

**LaDorna McGee
Undergrad. Advisor**

**Dr. Heather Jacobson
Sociology Grad. Advisor**

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