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Please send questions, comments, and submissions for future editions to our administrative assistant, Liz Musicant, at emusican@carleton.edu.

Cover Photo:
SOAN majors from the Class of 2014 pose together in Alumni Guest House after a dinner the Department held in their honor on Thursday, May 15th.
The Caribbean in the New Global Order
Tricontinental Challenges from the Global South

Katherine Goodyear ’14

On Monday, April 21st, Percy Hintzen, Professor of Sociology at Florida International University, gave a talk on the future of global interactions. Using the Caribbean as an example, Hintzen showed a fundamental shift in global architecture. In the post-colonial world, a new global order has emerged centered on the Global South, identified as the BRICs, MIST, and CIVETS groups of countries.

“Tricontinentalism”, Hintzen argued, is becoming increasingly important in the reformulation of global relations. Tricontinentalism refers to the historic postcolonial alliances among countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America/Caribbean, and the Middle East that emerged out of resistance to colonialism, neo-colonialism, and a Euro-centric system. Hintzen argued that while these linkages throughout the Global South have always been present, they have only become visible recently, after colonialism. The rebirth of these systems has prompted a reorganization of the global south. In this sense, Hintzen claimed, the Caribbean is “turning away” from colonial forms of global relations and toward tricontinentalism.

Hintzen outlined six material conditions for the south-south turn:

1. Tricontinentalism
2. Over-accumulation
3. The rise of diasporic consciousness
4. Low transaction and remuneration costs in the global south.
5. Nationalist sentiment in the global north.
6. Developments in communication, information, and transportation technologies

Although Hintzen highlighted that the Caribbean is still marked by colonialism through treaties such as CARIFORUM, which focuses on the EU, he showed how the Caribbean is reorientating itself away from the Global North and toward the Global South. Interestingly, it was the United States creation of the Caribbean Basin Initiative to include Central America that opened up the doors for Caribbean interaction with Central America, signaling the decline of American absolute power. Rather than focusing its attention on the West, the Caribbean now looks towards South America, as seen in agreements such as Petrocaribe and the Cuba-Brazil alliance. For the most part, these treaties exclude US territories in the Caribbean purposely, suggesting a change in alignment and change in new global relations.

Hintzen also attended Transnational Migrations and Diasporic Communities, taught by Visiting Instructor LaToya Beck, and The Black Middle Class, taught by Visiting Assistant Professor Daniel Williams. Many thanks to SOAN, the African and African-American Studies Department, and the Dean of the College Office for making Percy Hintzen’s visit possible.
Congratulations to this year’s Rosenfeld Prize Recipient!

Gaby Arteaga ’14 is this year’s recipient of the Rachel A. Rosenfeld Prize for Excellence in the Study of Sociology and Anthropology. Established in 2011 in memory of Rachel A. Rosenfeld ’70, Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, this prize is given each spring to the senior who shows the greatest promise of making professional contributions in sociology or anthropology, a high level of intellectual curiosity, courage in the face of challenges, devotion to community, and a willingness to make connections between social theory and practice that is equaled or exceeded only by his or her ability.

Three SOAN Majors Earn Mellon Mays Fellowships

Minority scholars remain seriously underrepresented in higher education, a trend that the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship hopes to reverse. Each year, the fellowship selects undergrads from colleges across the nation based on passion for a field of study, interest in graduate school, and motivation for independent research. Undergraduates can apply as sophomores or juniors, and fellows receive funding and support for independent research for the remainder of their college careers.

Carleton has been a part of the Mellon Mays program for 25 years, and it has sent many fellows on to graduate school in their fields of interest. This year, three SOAN majors have been selected as Mellon Fellows: Joe Soonthornsawad ’15, Luisa Rodriguez ’16, and Olgaby Martinez ’16. To apply for the fellowships, each student proposed a research project. Now, as summer approaches, they’re preparing to begin their research. The Department is excited to see how these three scholars and their projects grow and change in the coming years.
Meet Our Mays Fellows

Junior **Joe Soonthronsawad ’15** is curious about advertising, consumerism, and globalization. Growing up in suburban Ohio, he was aware of the impact that advertising had on his life. The summer after his freshman year, Joe had an internship at an advertising agency in Thailand, where his parents are from. There, he began to explore the connections between “western” culture and Thailand in the context of consumerism. Joe’s research will take him back to Bangkok, where he will interview advertisers and consumers to explore “how what we buy and the brands we affiliate ourselves with, and the Thai perception of western commodities…can inform identity.” His genuine curiosity for these research questions is apparent, and he hopes to develop this topic further both at Carleton and beyond.

**Olgaby Martinez ’16**, a newly declared SOAN major, plans to use her fellowship to study how elder care among first-generation Mexican families in her hometown of San Jose, CA, is shaped by gender and socioeconomic status. Olgaby became interested in elder care after a discussion with a professor, and in thinking about her own family’s experiences caring for her grandmother. “It’s a growing demographic,” she explained, “and I think that there isn’t a lot of research being done as to how [the elderly are] being taken care of, who’s taking care of them.” This summer, Olgaby will conduct a thorough literature review to ground her research. Next year, she plans to continue the project with interviews that may culminate in an ethnography. Ultimately, Olgaby hopes this topic can be developed further to contribute to the field of medical sociology and improve patient-provider understanding.

**Luisa Rodriguez ’16** recently returned from the OCS Field Research Seminar in Guatemala and Chiapas, an experience that greatly influenced her path both at Carleton and beyond. Going into the program, Luisa knew she was interested in health and thought that she might pursue that interest in the form of medical school after college. While conducting her fieldwork in Guatemala, she discovered her passion for socio-cultural fieldwork. Luisa’s research investigated NGO health interventions, and she plans to use her Mellon Mays funding to continue and expand this research to two new field sites. She plans to do a comparative study of NGO health interventions in countries with varying political histories of revolution: Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador.
Noted Anthropologist John Comaroff Visits Carleton

Amelia Piazza ’14

On Thursday, April 17th, Carleton welcomed anthropologist John Comaroff to campus for two days of talks and discussions on ethnicity and the politics of cultural identity. Originally from South Africa, John is currently the Hugh K. Foster Professor of African and African American Studies and Anthropology at Harvard University. He visited Carleton as this year’s Phi Beta Kappa speaker.

John’s public talk, “Ethnicity, Inc.,” named for the book he and his wife Jean published in 2009, addressed the contemporary marketization of culture and identity. Through the talk, John explored three trends: the reduction of culture to intellectual property, the movement of politics into the legal sphere, and the increasing use of identity as a means of collective action. Through several case studies, John sought to explore the idea, “in opposition to much of social science orthodoxy, that the future of ethnicity lies both metaphorically and materially in taking identity into the marketplace.”

Among other examples, John examined Contralesa, the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, with its political representation of ethnicity and its advocacy for customary law and indigenous rights in South Africa. He claimed that Contralesa’s entry into “the world of franchising and finance” melds the rural and traditional African culture with African urban, placing them in “a thoroughly urbane space of ethnocapitalism.”

John’s talk drew a large audience of students and faculty from a myriad of departments. As Adrienne Falcón—SOAN Lecturer, Director of the Center for Community and Civic Engagement, and John’s former student at the University of Chicago—put it, John “continually questions, reframes, and interrogates questions of power, structure, systems, the state, and history, leading many others to question as well.”

On the morning of his talk, John attended Professor Jay Levi’s Anthropological Thought and Theory course to discuss the state and future of anthropology. While John praised anthropology’s purpose, to “explain the invisible, unsilencing the silence,” he also criticized the discipline for its insulation. “The problem with anthropology is that it talks to itself,” John explained, and he advocated for bringing anthropology further into the public sphere.

Later that evening, John participated in a reading group that examined the introduction to Theory from the South, Or, How Euro-America is Evolving Toward Africa, another book that John wrote with Jean. Although most of the attendees were faculty members, the next day found John meeting more students through a round of office hours, lunch with members of the African Students Association, and a visit to the course Living in the Colonial Context: Africa, 1850-1950, taught by Visiting History Professor Nancy Jacobs.

At the start of his talk, John claimed that, “Carleton College is one of my favorite institutions on the planet,” and the Department is so glad he could engage with the Carleton community in a variety of ways during his visit. A big thanks to SOAN, African and African-American Studies, the Humanities Center, the Dean of the College Office, and the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholars Program for sponsoring John’s visit.
Scenes from the SOAN Picnic
The Lacandon: Photos and Artifacts

On Friday, May 9th, Nina Shapiro '14 presented the visual component of her comps project, a gallery show titled We are the Hach Winik: Politics of Representation and the "True" Lacandon People. Filling a space in the Weitz Center for Creativity for a week, it featured photos that Nina took while conducting field research among the Lacandon in Chiapas, Mexico. It also displayed Lacandon artifacts that Professor of Anthropology Jay Levi has collected over the past 40 years.

Typically depicted as the only indigenous people in Mesoamerica who escaped the Spanish conquest, the Lacandon Maya lived deep in the jungle for centuries, virtually isolated. In the early 1900s, researchers grew fascinated by how they seemed to have been forgotten by time and untainted by the outside world. They came to be seen as the unacculturated “standard of Indianness” throughout Mexico and Guatemala.

With her exhibit, Nina sought to express “ethnographies of the particular” of the Lacandon she encountered, a people difficult to categorize or represent via the static, homogenizing frames that have been used to describe them. Jay’s artifacts highlighted their transformations through time by offering a historical baseline in terms of material culture, letting visitors observe, through her photo-ethnography, some of the changes that have taken place there in recent decades.
Theory Outside “the Bubble”
Adrienne Falcón on Her Ph.D. and the Power of Academic Civic Engagement Courses

Joe Soonthornsawad ’15

The Carleton Bubble. Our community acknowledges “the bubble” as a fact of life, at once a symbol of our closeness to each other and our isolation from the “real world”—emphasis on the scare quotes. Entering the bubble for nearly eight months a year lets us immerse ourselves in our studies, be in constant and close contact, and study the world at large. As a result, though, it’s not uncommon for Carls to ask how classroom learning can be applied to solve real world problems. Especially in departments like SOAN, developing research skills and raising important questions about structural inequality can provoke students to think about actions in the world beyond the classroom.

Adrienne Falcón ’89, director of Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) and Lecturer in Sociology, has shaped her career around turning sociological theory into real world engagement. Since coming to Carleton in 2006, she has been instrumental in developing ACE opportunities, transforming civic engagement coursework from a common but informal practice to an intentional and institutionally-supported endeavor. Today, Adrienne helps to support a variety of ACE projects, from connecting SOAN Methods students with the League of Women Voters and Women in Northfield Giving Support (WINGS) this past winter to teaching courses like The Ethics of Civic Engagement.

Meanwhile, Adrienne has continued to examine civic engagement through her scholarship. This year, she received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago, the culmination of years of ethnographic research with urban immigrant communities and community organizations. Though her time at UChicago let her see the synthesis between theory and real needs, Adrienne believes that her time at Carleton gave her the first opportunities to make these connections in her daily work.

As a student at Carleton, Adrienne was inspired to switch her major from Chemistry to Latin American Studies after studying sociology and anthropology in Ecuador. Though she noticed a distinct theoretical bend after taking classes like “Marxismo I” and “Marxismo II”, she was inspired by social theory’s powerful explanatory possibilities. She believed (and still believes) that “sociology really addresses problems and situations, and has tools for analysis that are incredibly useful and meaningful to understanding urban processes, and social processes in general.”

Adrienne’s graduate work let her take her passion for theory further, studying with national leaders in sociology such as James Coleman, William Julius Wilson, Leslie Salzinger, and John Comaroff. A seminar in the anthropology of education with Comaroff inspired Adrienne to conduct her doctoral research on how the construction of the category of youth influences the construction of youth programs. Though Comaroff’s theories on the construction of the category of youth led Adrienne to this project, she entered the field motivated “to understand the system so [she] could change it.” She ultimately was able to be a force of change by contributing to the community as an organizer and a scholar.

Her experiences working with kids and community organizations kept Adrienne deeply engaged in her research. After moving to Chicago’s north side neighborhood she was researching and becoming a youth development coordinator, her doctoral work transformed. The project became “almost archival in nature” after putting down roots in the community. The complexity of her place as an observer became increasingly complicated as she began writing her dissertation. Because she acted as both a participant and an observer, Falcón has struggled with how her role as a sociologist meshed with her interest in the community she served.
Adrienne sees her role as ACE Director as informed not just by her experience as a curious student of real world theory, but also by intentional engagement with the interests of Carleton students. Years spent exploring “real world sociology” inform her understanding of ACE.

In both my teaching and my work here, I try to provide students with the opportunity to do some of the things I wanted to do, which was to be able to locate their passions or their work in a broader context. As you do the work with the League of Women Voters, for example, how does that lead you to think of processes more generally, like processes for social change or processes for political involvement? And how do you understand them?

According to Falcón, faculty at Carleton, know “that ACE projects can make a difference that adds to the work of students.” The impacts are both professional and personal: Coursework comes alive when it has a broader audience, and students begin to see that social problems are “much more complicated than [they] realize”. On the topic of grounding theoretical speculation, Falcón sees ACE as opening up not just new ways to ask academic questions, but also new ways to conceive of oneself and make change in the world.

Do you want to be involved in the system or the outside? … You can do and you can contribute to making the world more of a place like you want it to be, but to do it effectively, you have to be very thoughtful and analytical about it. It’s about learning how to take those passions and do something with them.

In the context of the SOAN department, ACE offers more than a peak outside the bubble and opportunities to explore career paths. Adrienne’s goal is to offer the opportunity to see the ethical problems posed by sociology and anthropology in the every day and the motivation to put theoretical thinking to work to effect change.

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**SOAN Session on Resume Writing**

*Katherine Goodyear ’14*

On Thursday, May 15th, Alena Rivera and Deb Olien of the Career Center led an interactive session on resume writing and communicating SOAN-related skills for an intimate group of eight seniors. Students began by brainstorming what they liked most about their SOAN experiences. From there, they extrapolated the skills used during those experiences to compile a master list of important skills related to the discipline. Deb and Alena gave lots of useful resources, such as resumes written by other SOAN majors as examples of how SOAN majors can convey their skills on paper. Deb and Alena also offered tips on approaching and managing the job search by reaching out to alumni for informational interviews. Time spent connecting with alumni who work in fields of interest can be more effective than browsing job postings online.
Alumni Updates

In August 2013, Erin (Kennedy) Thornton ’98 began a tenure-track position in the Department of Anthropology at Washington State University, Pullman, WA. Her husband, Dan Thornton ’98, now has a dual appointment in the WSU School of the Environment and Panthera, an NGO that conducts conservation efforts for large, endangered cats around the world.

Congratulations to Lila Abu-Lughod ’74 on the publication of her new book, Do Muslim Women Need Saving? In it, Lila challenges the belief that international agents such as media, militaries, and Western human rights groups must rescue Muslim women from the oppression of Islamic culture. To do so, she depicts the lives of ordinary Muslim women, revealing that factors more numerous and more complex than religion alone are to blame for the women’s situations.

The book was published by Harvard University Press in November 2013, and more about it can be found online at www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674725164. Lila also wrote about this subject for an op-ed in Time, available at ideas.time.com/2013/11/01/do-muslim-women-need-saving/.
Fantastic Feats from our Fearless Faculty

Pamela Feldman-Savelsberg


- Update from the Field: As for my research project on regional migration and gender expression among Ampelmaennchen, this population seems to have gone underground. In late February it was replaced by Jecken, a highly differentiated crowd of pre-Lenten revelers. Formal roles are reminiscent of 18th century courtly and militarized society. In the town of Beuel, an uprising of washer-women is reenacted on the Thursday preceding Ash Wednesday. Thursday through Tuesday was full of Carneval parades at the neighborhood and city levels. Children and adults dressed in costumes gathered "Kamellen" (candies) thrown from parade floats by members of organized Carneval associations. Tuesday (the equivalent of Mardi Gras) was the official highpoint. Since then, traces of Jecken have been found at the dry cleaner's and on television. But I admit, I'm not here to do fieldwork, just to write and take part in the life of the center, learning quite a bit about "law as culture" from interacting with colleagues from law, sociology, philosophy, cultural studies, history, and the arts as well as from anthropology.

Jay Levi

- Jay was appointed to the Board of Trustees of two cultural research organizations concerned with the human rights of indigenous peoples in Latin America:
  - Cambridge Institute of Brazilian Studies, Inc. is an independent non-profit organization that is a center for researchers, journalists, diplomats, and activists working on topics such as human rights, development, race, and ethnicity in Brazil and Brazilian Studies in the U.S.
  - Asociación Cultural Na-Bolom is an independent non-governmental organization founded in 1950 by Danish archaeologist Frans Blom and his wife, Swiss photographer and conservationist Gertrude Duby, which operates a hotel, museum, and research center dedicated to preserving the cultural and environmental patrimony of Chiapas and working with the Maya communities of the state towards their sustainable development.


- Jay proposed adding Belize to the Guatemala program, so during spring break he scouted sites in Belize for the 2016 program, including a three-day sailboat trip, island hopping down the coast while snorkeling the second largest barrier reef in the world and learning firsthand about the marine ecology, development issues, cosmolological, and political significance of the Caribbean in this part of the Maya world.
Annette Nierobisz

- Annette will be promoted from Associate Professor to Professor, effective September 1, 2014.

Constanza Ocampo-Raeder


- Guest editor for Water International’s special issue on water governance. Contacted authors for papers, managed peer review process, summarized reviewer comments, edited, etc. “Towards Equitable Water Governance” was published in March in Vol 39(2), 2014, and included nine peer reviewed articles.


- Accepted for publication, book review for journal Environment and Society on manuscript entitled “Where Rivers Meet the Sea: The Political Ecology of Water.”

Liz Raleigh

- Liz will present her research on the growing popularity of cleft lip and palate international adoptions as part of a panel on adoption and disability at the biennial Adoption Initiative Conference—Sleeping Giants in Adoption: Power, Privilege, Politics and Class, May 30, 2014.