

# THE MONADNOCK

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- *Letters from the Director and the Editor*
- *Field Camp: Past and Present*
- *Research Sites of Current Members*
- *CUGS Culture*
- *Comic Relief*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dr. Anthony Bebbington.

Dear Alumni and Friends of the Graduate School of Geography,

This is the second issue of the GSG's re-launched *Monadnock* and, as with the first issue, it is entirely a product of our doctoral student body. As you will see, many different members of CUGS have contributed to this issue, but they were guided and (I presume) coaxed by the fine editorial hands of Padini Nirmal and Wenjing Jiang to whom I am very grateful for having produced this issue – it is no small amount of work. As you leaf through this *Monadnock*, you will get a sense of some of the things going on within CUGS – academically, socially and mischievously. I hope that for those of you who were once upon a time part of CUGS, these stories convey the right mix of the funny, familiar and interesting.

For those of you who came to this year's Clark party at the AAGs in San Francisco you'll know that for the first time ever I decided to stand on a table and say a few words. Mostly I made a complete hash of it, but what I wanted to convey to those who were present at the AAGs, and now also to you who are reading the *Monadnock*, is just how well the current faculty, staff and students are taking care of the GSG. I hear other departments reporting falling majors, but not here: from around 71 majors in May 2010 our majors now stand at 124 in May 2016 (a 75% increase); our two MS degrees in GIScience are also growing with a current population of over 50; and our PhD program continues to have some 50 or so students. Across all levels our students continue to win prizes, often helped on their way by kind gifts from GSG alumni to the department. As far as we can tell (we are short of a couple of contacts), the great majority of our doctoral graduates since January 2011 have good jobs in academia, industry, government or civil society. Moreover I think, but again cannot be completely sure, that students leave our degrees happy with the GSG, if not always with the institution. Meanwhile our faculty continue to be the powerhouse of both funded and published research at Clark. You can see the summary of last year's faculty research output here.<sup>1</sup>

I sometimes feel like a broken record, continually going on about these numbers, but my hope is to convey the sense that the GSG is thriving and that people here are being great stewards of the department. But without any shadow of a doubt, this is stewardship in a challenging environment. The many, and they are many, achievements of this absolutely world class group of faculty, staff and students are always fragile. Greatness, international standing and strong community can be here today and gone by the day after tomorrow. We all know of departments, companies and nonprofits where this has happened. In the case of the GSG I cannot overstate how much I respect our faculty, staff and students – but I also worry more and more that those who are taking such good care of the department are not necessarily tak-

<sup>1</sup> Refer to the GSG 21st Annual Salute to Faculty Scholarship (made by Kayla Peterson): [http://www2.clarku.edu/departments/geography/faculty/GeographySalutetoFacultyList\\_2016.pdf](http://www2.clarku.edu/departments/geography/faculty/GeographySalutetoFacultyList_2016.pdf)



ing the same good care of themselves. Too easily they end up feeling drained and insecure as a result of what seems like an uphill struggle to remain excellent and to make the case for excellence. So next time you are in touch with them, please let them know how much their continued stewardship of the GSG is valued – by all of us who have passed through Clark at one time or another.

Indeed, I have long felt that the GSG is so much more than those of us who inhabit the Jefferson and Geography buildings. With six years under my belt in this, my second stint at Clark, it has become so much clearer to me that the GSG is all of us who have ever inhabited this space. We check in on arrival and then we never really ever leave, it is part of all of our histories and identities. By the same token, the strength of the GSG depends on this far larger community: we are all stewards and guardians. Please don't cringe – I say this not as a call to give money (though that is always helpful). Instead I say it to ask all of us to be there when the time arises and when it is necessary to protect the standing of this really rather remarkable department.

Thank you, and I hope a quick flick through this new *Monadnock* will trigger good memories and bring a smile to your face – whether a smile of reminiscence, or a smile at what the current members of CUGS are up to.

Yours,

Tony Bebbington

*“The very best kind of education is obtained in doing things one's self under competent direction and with good guidance.”*

—Charles W. Eliot

Above: Entrance of the geography building. Photo by Wenjing Jiang.

Dear Friends,

The long awaited summer sun is here, and warmed by the season comes this issue of Monadnock filled with news of our colorful, accomplished CUGS community. As with every issue, we have so many people to thank—the contributors for taking the time to share their stories and photos, Wenjing for being a fabulous media editor and collaborator, members of the editorial team for their continued dedication and hard work, Chris and Brenda in the Geography Office for their invaluable contributions, and of course Tony for being a gracious and supportive Director. Thank you all.

This issue of Monadnock is about CUGS as whole beings, as academics with colorful lives filled with intellectual curiosity, and as a community of nurturing, supportive friends and peers. The following pages are a testament to what this incredible group does year after year, and how it grows and changes as well. While we have witnessed many significant events as a community in these past two years, of particular significance are the continuing efforts to institutionalize our conversations for positive change through various events. We had, presumably the first of many, diversity forums this year that brought to the fore our need to emphatically voice the ways in which our various identities intersect with our academic lives—to bring to attention our diverse individual experiences as CUGS, and address structural inequities in ways that will positively impact those here and those to come.

It is in this spirit of communal wellbeing, growth and change that we present this year's Monadnock. May it always be a source of delight for CUGS, past and present.

Warmly,

Padini Nirmal

Chief Editor, Monadnock



Padini Nirmal. Photo by Manoj.

by Chris Knudson

What we know as field camp started in 1927 as a three-week geography research trip at the beginning of the fall semester. President and GSG director Wallace Atwood introduced the requirement as a way to train students, build camaraderie, and produce useful knowledge about a region. One evening in the early 1930s, at a field camp held in the Connecticut Valley, Atwood proposed, to great enthusiasm, a three-month field camp. In preparation, the school purchased six sleeping coaches, a cook coach, and three used Ford V-8 touring cars. The total came to a little less than \$4000 (about \$70,000 today). Wallace Atwood's son, assistant professor Wally Atwood Jr., made the full trip with his wife the summer before, negotiating all the arrangements.

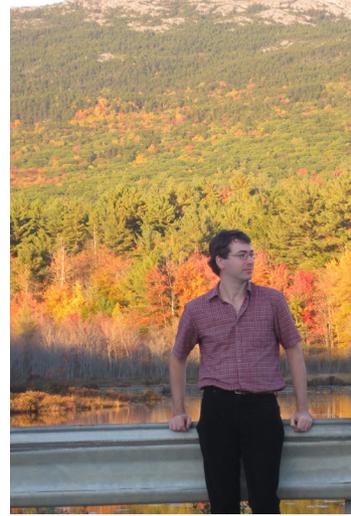
Given the country's economic depression, it was difficult finding students who could afford the \$300 field trip fee. The school had to relax its admissions standards so enough students would participate. Of the eighteen who went on the trip, fifteen men and three women, only six ultimately achieved a PhD, a lower rate than usual. Two more could have come along, as the five student coaches accommodated four each, with two sets of bunk beds, ample storage space, a sink, and lights that ran off the camp generator.

Top right: Chris Knudson at Mount Monadnock. Photo by Catherine Jampel.

Right: Plan for field trip in 1927, published in *The Monadnock*, Vol 1, No.2.

Bottom right: CUGS camp fire at Massapoag in 2015. Original photos by Yifan Cai.

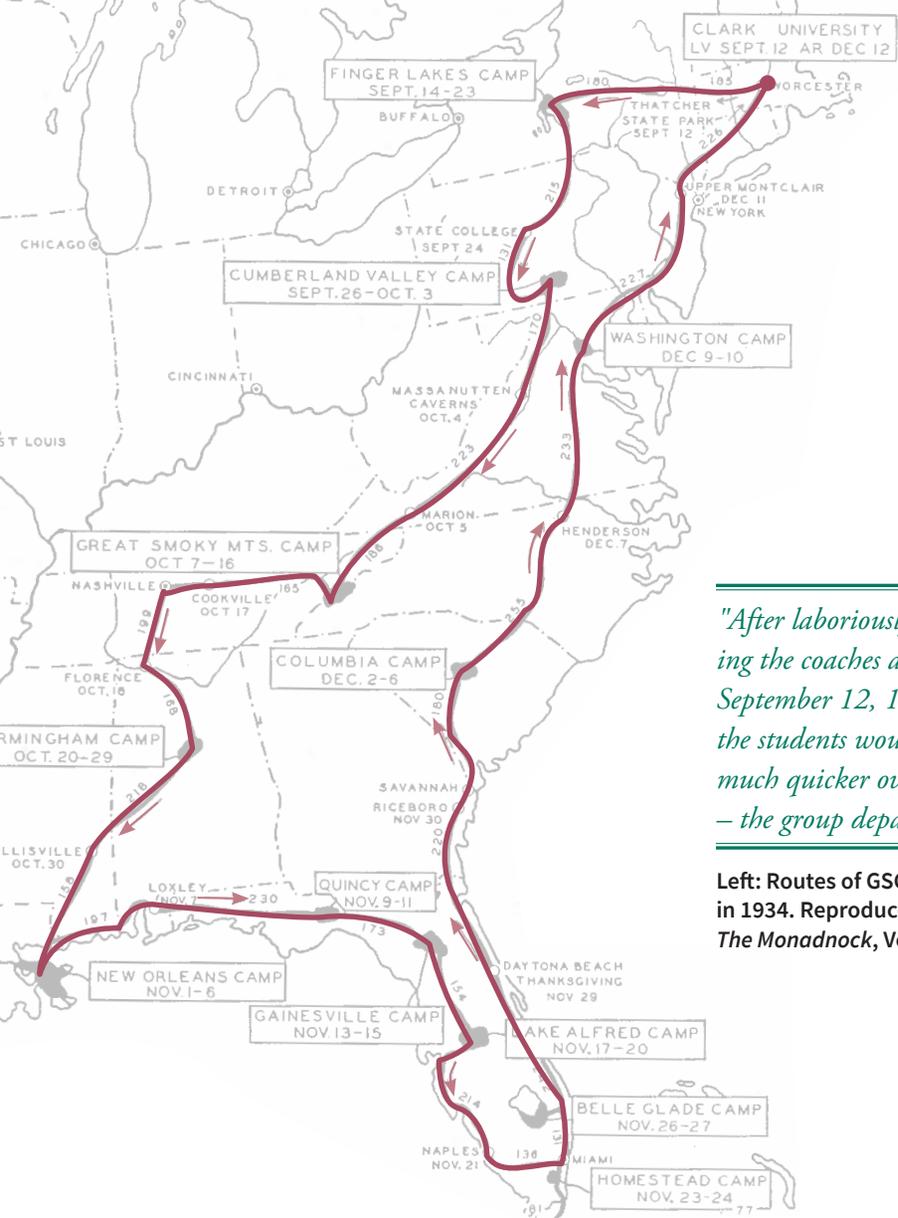
*"What we know as field camp started in 1927 as a three-week geography research trip at the beginning of the fall semester. President and GSG director Wallace Atwood introduced the requirement as a way to train students..."*



THE MONADNOCK OF THE CLARK GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Vol. 1 JUNE, 1927 No. 2

THE FIELD SCHOOL  
THE most notable, and perhaps one of the most significant, move in the development of geographical studies at Clark will be undertaken with the opening of the next academic year. Plans are now being made to take the entire graduate student body into camp in the Connecticut Valley, and there, under the direction of three or four members of the staff, field studies will be carried out during the first three weeks of the semester. The party will go into camp and live together in a more cordial and informal way. Each day in small groups or pairs the students will be at work in the field, mapping the region from various standpoints, including photogeography, soil, vegetation, land utilization, and distribution of population. Special studies will be made of the industries which have grown up in this community, and of the intensive farming of the Connecticut Valley lowlands. Climate studies will also be carried on in the field. Each student who plans to be in residence in the fall will receive a special bulletin, outlining plans for registration and camp expenses. Any who are planning to be in residence and have not indicated that intention should send their names as soon as possible to the office of the School of Geography. At the close of the intensive field season it is planned to make a general reconnaissance journey through New England with a motor bus, perhaps to visit the Cape Cod region for a few days. About October 15 the regular courses at the University will open. Years of experience in conducting a graduate school of geography have impressed more and more strongly upon all those on the staff and those in attendance as students that the power that comes from doing independent field work is indispensable to geographers who are going to assume positions of importance in the profession. We are all looking forward to this new enterprise with the keenest of interest.





*"After laboriously packing the coaches at dawn, September 12, 1934 – the students would get much quicker over time – the group departed."*

**Left: Routes of GSG field trip in 1934. Reproduced from *The Monadnock*, Vol 9, No.1.**

After laboriously packing the coaches at dawn, September 12, 1934 – the students would get much quicker over time – the group departed. Over the semester, they travelled 5,000 miles, and carried out a dozen separate field camps. They first headed out to the Finger Lakes in New York before driving south across the partially completed Skyline Drive on the Blue Ridge

Mountains, and then on to Birmingham, New Orleans, and stops in Florida, among other places in between, before coming back north along the Atlantic coast. Like those engaged by the Works Public Administration to build infrastructure, CUGS carried out its research for social benefit. This is not a sight-seeing tour, the faculty would tell the local newspapers.

*"But at the end of his career, fifty years after graduating, what he recalled most fondly were the life-long friendships formed during the three months in the field."*

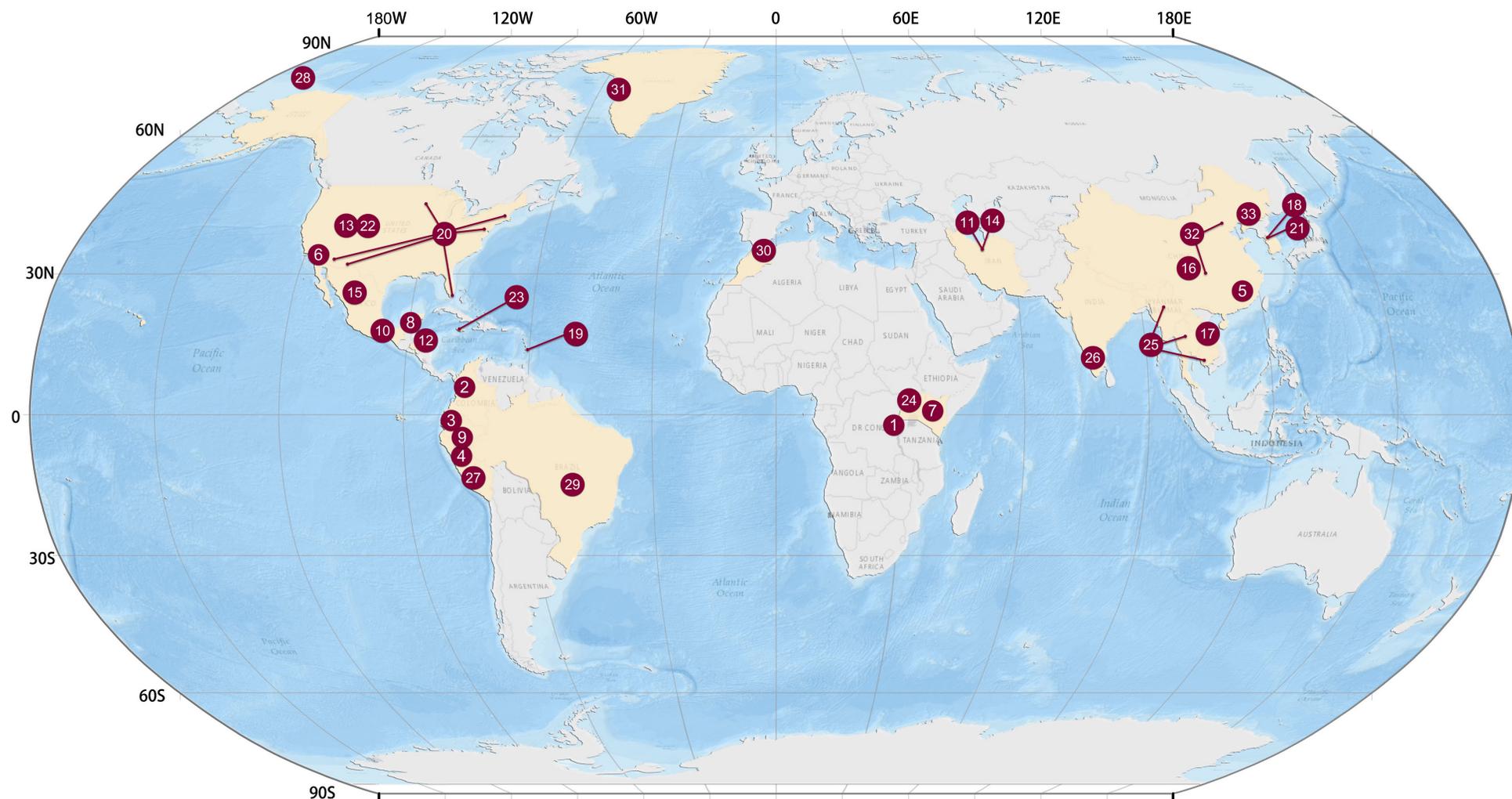
**Top right: "Who are they?"**  
**Below (from left to right): Catherine Jampel, Roopa Krithivasan, Zhiwen Zhu, Patrick Mutegeki, Atticus Odell, Azadeh Hadizadeh.**  
*Original photos by Yifan Cai.*



Though the trip was a great success, the GSG never again held a semester-long field camp. From the 30's to the 50's, the three-week camps were sited throughout New England. In the late 60's and 70's, CUGS went abroad, with trips to Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Canada. However, it became increasingly difficult to find a location and research program that satisfied the diverse interests of CUGS. By the 1980s, field camp had become the weekend affair we know today. Around this time, one of the semester-long field campers, Walter Ristow, reflected upon its importance for him and his colleagues. After graduating from Clark, he rose to become chief of the Library of Congress's Geography and Map Division, where he is credited with shaping the profession of the modern-day map librarian. The experience he gained from mapping the Eastern US was invaluable. But at the end of his career, fifty years after graduating, what he recalled most fondly were the life-long friendships formed during the three months in the field. — *Chris Knudson*



## RESEARCH SITES OF CURRENT DOCTORAL STUDENTS



Numbers in the map represent the research areas of the CUGS members below (ordered by last names). Map made by Wenjing Jiang, based on a partial CUGS survey in December, 2015. Geographic Coordination System: WGS 1984. Projection: World Robinson.

1. **B. Arakwiye.** Albertine Rift Biodiversity Hotspot, East Africa. 2. **E. Arond.** Bogotá and Cauca, Colombia. 3. **T. Borschlegl.** Pastaza and Orellana, Ecuador. 4. **M. Bravo.** Oxapampa Province, Peru. 5. **Y. Cai.** East and Southeast China. 6. **A. Cantor.** Salton Sea, southern California. 7. **W. Collier.** Nakuru, Kenya. 8. **N. Cuba.** Xpujil, Chetumal, Mexico. 9. **J. L.**

**Dammert.** Loreto, Ucayali and San Martin regions, Peru. 10. **C. Dobler.** Southeast Mexico. 11. **A. Farahani.** Tehran, Iran. 12. **B. Fash.** Copán Ruinas, Honduras. 13. **N. Gill.** Routt National Forest, southern Rocky Mountains, Colorado. 14. **A. Hadizadeh.** Tehran, Iran. 15. **F. Hernandez.** Mexico. 16. **W. Jiang.** Sichuan, China. 17. **M. Kenney-Lazar.** Phin and Sepon

districts, Savannakhet province, Laos. 18. **Y.-L. Kim.** Seoul, South Korea. 19. **C. Knudson.** Saint Lucia. 20. **D. Locke.** Six sites across the US. 21. **D. Lukens.** Seoul, South Korea. 22. **N. Mietkiewicz.** Southern Rocky Mountains, Colorado. 23. **A. Moulton.** Jamaica. 24. **P. B. Mutegeki.** Kabarole District, Uganda. 25. **P. Nguon.** Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand.

26. **P. Nirmal.** Attappady, Kerala, India. 27. **S. Odell.** Peru. 28. **M. Santiago.** Chukchi and western Beaufort seas, Arctic Ocean. 29. **A. Sphar.** Brazil. 30. **L. G. Wyrzten.** Jbel Gouroudou, northeastern Morocco. 31. **A. York.** Disko Bay and Uummannaq Bay, Greenland. 32. **A. Zhang.** Beijing and Chongqing, China. 33. **Z. Zhu.** Jilin, north China.

## MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY



Graduate School of Geography (GSG) students and faculty members for a group portrait in the Geography Commons. *Photo by Zhiwen Zhu and Brenda Nikas-Hayes on April 8, 2015.*

From left to right, **front row:** Dr. Mark Davidson, Alex Sphar, Dr. Deborah Martin, Padini Nirmal, Dr. Jody Emel, Dr. Robert Gilmore Pontius Jr, Dr. Richard Peet, Alireza Farahani, Dr. Florencia Sangermano, Dr. James Murphy, Elisa Arond. **Second Row:** Yifan Cai, Tong Jiao,

Melishia Santiago, Carlos Dobler, Renee Tapp, Fernando Hernandez, Azadeh Hadizadeh, Catherine Jampel, Dr. Ronald Eastman, Dr. Dominik Kulakowski. **Back row:** Dr. James McCarthy, Bernadette Arakwiye, Nate Mietkiewicz, Richard MacLean, Kristen Shake, Laura Sauls (below), William Collier, Pheakkdey Nguon (below), Patrick Bright Mutegeki, Chris Knudson, Dexter Locke, John Laueremann, Wenjing Jiang (below), Zhiwen Zhu.

## FIELD NOTES

### Alida Cantor

My dissertation examines water supply in California from a political ecology perspective. I focus on how discourses supporting and contesting the transfer of water from rural to urban places are produced and mediated through law. I have been most fascinated by one of my case study sites, the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea is a massive saline lake that relies on agricultural runoff for its water supply. However, recent efforts to promote agricultural efficiency in order to provide more water for urban areas have reduced the lake's inflow. As a consequence, receding shorelines expose fine dust that creates an air quality hazard for local residents. Important migratory bird habitat is also at risk as salinity increases and shorelines decline. The future of the lake is still uncertain at this point, but it is fascinating to throw myself into the messiness and complexity of California water politics during the middle of this current ongoing drought.

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*"The future of the lake is still uncertain at this point, but..."*

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Alida Cantor in front of the Salton Sea.

### Mireya Bravo

In June 2010, the Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO recognized the Oxapampa-Ashaninka-Yanesha Biosphere Reserve (OAY-BR) in Oxapampa Province, Peru. I came to Oxapampa in June 2014 to research how this recognition was possible despite the long-term differences, inequalities and resource-based conflicts that have characterized the region. During the fieldwork, I collected data on its regional history, the institutional arrangements across levels, and the actors and groups involved in this case. I talked to people, attended meetings, elaborated life histories, and, more importantly, learnt more about myself in the research. I learnt that institution building is subject to the ups and

downs of interpersonal relations, and to the sympathies and antipathies among actors or groups. Thus I focused on how people participate in, learn from and engage in – or not – such institutional arrangements. The case of the OAY-BR resulted from one of several “unsuccessful” proposals – proposals creatively reformulated by actors who have coordinated with groups with contested interests. When people are aware of their own positions, they understand better the needs of other actors and the constraints for their own actions. From a micropolitical perspective, these processes of learning are key to understanding how to use creativity and innovation to navigate institutional arrangements.

### Yifan Cai

I visited Guiyu, Guangdong in the summer of 2015 to investigate the “formal recycling system”, a top-down project implemented by the government in an effort to address the increasing e-waste problem. Interestingly, the town of Guiyu is known to be the largest electronic waste (e-waste) site in the world. This summer, the area was undergoing a massive structural change initiated by the central and provincial governments attempting to formalize the

e-waste recycling system. As victims of global environmental injustice, local inhabitants have been forced to deal with undesirable trash (mostly from the first world) as well as being exposed to hazardous chemicals for the last two decades. The local government recently built a large industrial park, to which it forced local informal e-waste dismantling workshops to move in order to clean up their act. Compared to the previous dirty and hazardous working condi-

tions of family workshops, at least an integrated ventilation system has been implemented in this park. However, it is worth noting that China is not alone in having such a large informal e-waste treatment sector: countries like India and Ghana are facing similar problems. Given the rising treatment costs, where e-waste will be heading worldwide to circumvent formal regulations remains a question.

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*"...China is not alone...where e-waste will be heading worldwide to circumvent formal regulations remains a question.."*

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Guiyu, Guangdong, China; May 2015. Photo by Yifan Cai.

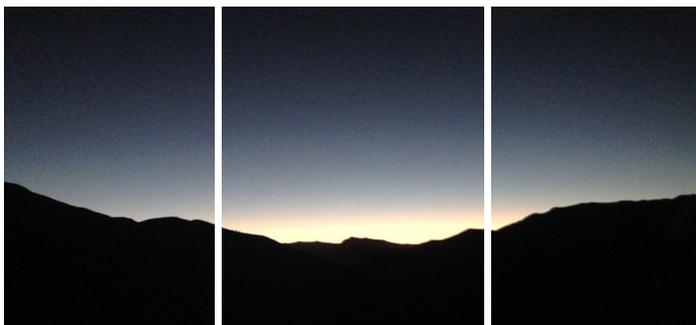


## FIELD NOTES



### Scott Odell

In summer 2015, I collaborated with the International Potato Center's (CIP) Chirapaq Ñan Initiative to research factors contributing to the conservation or loss of native potato varieties in their region of origin, the Andean Highlands. My participation in the project was organized as part of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers' (CGIAR) Gender Integration Roots, Tubers, and Bananas (RTB) University Partnership. My collaborators and I conducted a total of 46 semi-structured interviews with farmers in twelve communities in the Cotabambas Province, Apurímac Department of Peru and the Omasuyos Province, La Paz Department of Bolivia. Preliminary analysis of our results suggests that farmers perceive climate change to be occurring in the region and to negatively affect their ability to maintain the diversity of native potato varieties. However, it is important to note that these climatic impacts are taking place within the context of economic and social changes, including the arrival of one of the three largest copper mines in the world near the Peru site, and the recent adoption of the tractor for cultivation in the Bolivian site.



At a personal level, I came to appreciate more fully both the importance and complexity of my topic of interest in development geography through challenging conversations with community members and local collaborators about the nature of US-Latin America relations, the potentially extractive nature of research, and academic perceptions of poverty. Additionally, I gained hands-on experience in conducting qualitative methods and analyzing data. This formative exploratory research project has helped me to refine my topical interests and reflect upon my positionality, and will be instrumental in the preparation and completion of my dissertation research.

**Left (from top to bottom): (1) Recently harvested quinoa, Bolivia. (2) White chuño drying near the shores of Lake Titicaca, Bolivia. (3) The remains of a potluck lunch, including several varieties of potato, at a community meeting in Bolivia.**

**Below: Sunrise over Peruvian peaks on the way to early-morning interviews.**

*Original photos by Scott Odell.*



*Photo by Ben Fash.*

### Ben Fash

This Spring and Summer (2016), Professor John Rogan, Nick Cuba (PhD student), Anam Khan (GISDE) and I worked on research to assess mining's current and potential impacts on natural resources and livelihoods in Honduras. Our project included spatial analysis, participant observation, and archival research. In

February, I joined members of our research team from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras and Oxfam to visit several mines, communities impacted by mining, and an area facing the potential of four new mining concessions – my hometown of Copán Ruinas. Our work sparked a new environmental alliance in Copán Ruinas and a

major resistance movement that joins many others of its kind in the region. This Summer we are participating in a series of public workshops and launching an interactive map ([www.mineriahonduras.com](http://www.mineriahonduras.com)) that, for the first time, publicly visualizes all mining concessions in Honduras and includes social conflicts and environmental impacts from mining.

### Amy (Yueming) Zhang

I spent a year (August 2014 to August 2015) doing research in two Chinese cities, Beijing and Chongqing. My research examines cases of derelict industrial compounds being turned into studio and gallery spaces and being institutionalized as official arts districts. My goal is to better understand the production and consumption of "arts districts" as both places and notions that are situated in China's urban political economy. I am mostly interested in two particular instances when artists try to form strategic alliances with local governments, through

mobilizing "global city" and "creative city" discourses respectively, in order to (re) shape the trajectories of the arts districts. However, in the processes of forming such alliances, and as part of the strategies that are mobilized by artists, a particular aesthetics of arts districts is produced – where art, history, and materiality are brought together to reduce arts districts into a series of depoliticized images and signs to be consumed. As arts districts are commercialized, their functionality is progressively lessened for the arts communities. Further, as

commercial properties, they are not "successful" in terms of generating rent either. Despite these problems, I found that "arts districts" continue to be perceived as investable properties in both urban land and art markets, and their value is largely constructed and reinforced through speculations by artists, gallery hosts, and factory owners and governments at various levels who already have a stake in those places – arts district nowadays are essentially in a bubble (waiting to burst!?)!

# Even if you can't eat prestige, YOU CAN eat concepts!

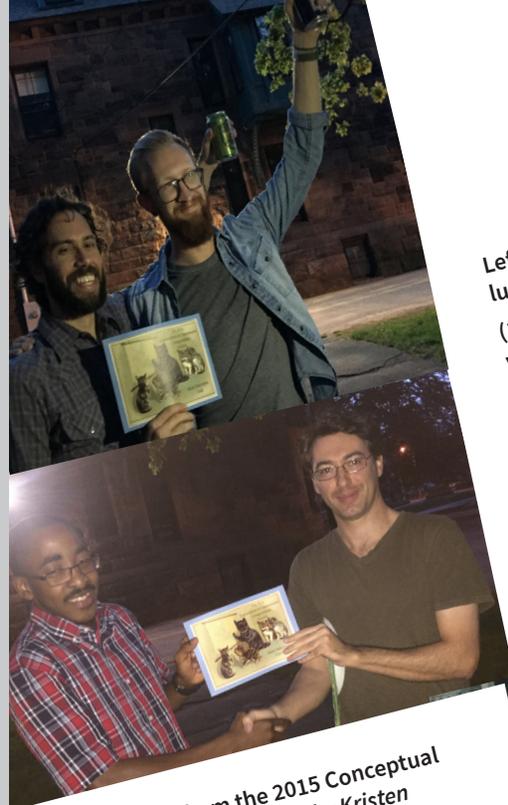
by Catherine Jampel

WORCESTER, MASS. Kristen Shake's entry, "Filling the Void," and Alex Moulton's "Governmentality Meets Decolonization" won the Most Delectable Concept awards at the Third (2015) and Fourth (2016) Annual Explanation in Gastronomy Conceptual Potluck, respectively. Meanwhile, Carlos Dobler's "Boolean Raster Ravioli" and Dylan Harris and Rich Kruger's "God and Corn Soup" received the Most Delectable Dishes awards. The conceptual potluck challenges emerging scholars to express geographical concepts gastronomically, using whatever ingredients and presentation necessary (for further history, see *The Monadnock*, Vol. 57, Page 8). In one noteworthy contribution, "The Tragedy of the

Commons" (2015), conceptual chefs brought the concept to its moldy end. Waste-averse CUGSians had rescued leftover food from the spring Atwood seminar, including a tray full of rice pudding, and brought it to the Mezzanine. Though some of it was shared at the Norouz party, no one finished it or threw it away. Elisa Arond explained that a month later, "on our way out the door to prepare our actual contributions for the Conceptual Potluck, I opened the fridge door and saw it and thought: 'tragedy of the commons.' So we brought it over for the potluck, green and grey mold, remains of whipped cream on top and all, and presented it to the potluck as such."



WE LOVE CONCEPTS!



Left: Winners of the 2016 Conceptual Potluck. From top to bottom: (1) Rich Kruger (left) and Dylan Harris (right), winners of the Most Delectable Dish. (2) Alex Moulton (left) awarded the Most Delectable Concept by Chris Knudson (right). Photos by Laura Sauls.

Left: Dishes from the 2015 Conceptual Potluck. Original Photos by Kristen Shake.

Right: Winners of the 2015 Conceptual Potluck. From top to bottom: (1) Carlos Dobler (left) and Kristen Shake (right) awarded the Most Delectable Dish and the Most Delectable Concept, respectively. Photos by Alireza Farahani and Azadeh Hadizadeh.

(2) Shake's entry, "Filling the Void," made from blue Jello-mix, Rice Krispie Treats, and cinnamon, challenged fellow geographers to reconceptualize the ocean as a socially constructed dynamic space. Photo by Alireza Farahani and Azadeh Hadizadeh.

(3) Dobler, inspired by his dual passions for pasta and GIS, created "Boolean Raster Ravioli," using ravioli as pixels and two sauces for the Boolean values: a cheese sauce for "true" and a tomato sauce for "false." Photo by Kristen Shake.



## It's always a new year!

by Catherine Jampel

Do you make New Years' Resolutions? Do you ever wish you had another chance to make them? Luckily for CUGS, there is always a new beginning just around the corner. A beautiful haft sin table with symbolic items commemorating the Iranian New Year (Nowruz) graced our beloved Mezz around the time of the spring equinox. We learned how to count down from 10 to 1 in Farsi to ring in new beginnings, just around the major spring crunch! Luckily, the haft sin includes sumac berries to bring us patience. A few weeks later, twenty CUGS and friends gathered for a seated dinner for

Passover. The dinner, called a seder, meaning "order," is arguably one of the oldest continually practiced rituals in the Western world. In the fall, Diwali, the festival of lights coinciding with the Hindu New Year, brought warmth to the darkening days in New England. When winter comes, the Lunar New Year brings with it an annual celebration of various Asian cultures among CUGS. For any CUGS missing these celebrations, well, there is always another one ahead.

Below: CUGS Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival in September, 2015. Photo by Su Ye.



## CONSULT THE STARS TO CREATE THE MOST HARMONIOUS PHD COMMITTEE POSSIBLE

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Yifan Cai

Expert in Western and Chinese traditions

First Consultation Free to First-Year Students \*

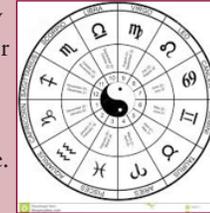
\* Second-year students and above may negotiate services in exchange for grading a set of exams for Yifan.

\*\* External committee members may be included for an additional fee.

\*\*\* Warning: you will be asked to disclose personal details including your birth date, location and time. Provision of false information may result in potentially risky committee combinations.

\*\*\*\* All paid fees will go toward the CUGS-SACS Fund.

**NOTE:** Also seeking assistant to build the database of faculty birthday details. Contact Yifan if interested. Free consultation in exchange.



## Testimonials

**Current third-year student:** "Two members of my committee wanted to push me in radically different theoretical directions, and always seemed to disagree, with no resolution in sight. Finally, I consulted Yifan and she helped me understand the source of the challenge was really a battle between Mercury and Uranus! I decided to keep my committee as it is, but now at least I know it isn't my fault!"

**Current fifth-year student:** "When assembling my committee, I was undecided between 2 different professors for my 3rd committee member. I met with Yifan, and ever since have had a committee as smooth and brilliant as the Milky Way!"

**Current post-doc:** "I almost made a grave mistake including a Sagittarius and a Taurus in my committee! But then I thought to consult with Yifan, and good thing I did! Now I have a committee that is perfectly aligned by the stars!!"

— Elisa Arond, Amy (Yueming) Zhang and Yifan Cai

## APPRECIATION



On Mar 3, 2016, the GSG received a generous book donation from the Goyette family. The extensive book collection, left behind by a late geographer and previous faculty member at Framingham State College, Dr. Arthur Goyette, includes over 300 books in Economic Geography, East European Geography and Soviet Geography, including 31 volumes of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia.



We appreciate the generosity of the Goyette family, with special thanks to Mrs. Susan Goyette for making the donation. More importantly, we hope the stories from the (post-) Soviet world will advance our understanding of contemporary capitalism in the 21st Century.

— Wenjing Jiang

THE MONADNOCK STAFF

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Graphics on Pages 2, 12 and 19 are provided  
by the authors.