

Anthropology

The MIT Anthropology Program is dedicated to advanced research and publication in cultural anthropology, undergraduate teaching that introduces students to the fundamentals of cross-cultural understanding and social thought, and graduate teaching in the history and anthropology of science and technology. Our undergraduate subjects cover a wide range, with special strengths in the study of the contemporary world and the social context of technology. The Anthropology Program faculty members maintain strong ties with other programs in the School of Engineering and the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Science (SHASS), including Women's Studies, Latin American Studies, Comparative Media Studies (CMS), the History faculty, and the Program in Science, Technology, and Society (STS). The Anthropology Program is one of three academic units offering a PhD in the history and social study of science and technology (HSSST).

Personnel and Administrative Changes

Professor Jean Jackson served as head of the Anthropology Program. Rosemary Hegg continued as administrative officer, and Susanna F. Cali continued as administrative assistant. Stefan Helmreich began as assistant professor in July 2003, and Erica James ended her one-year postdoctoral appointment at Harvard and will join MIT as an assistant professor on July 1, 2004. Professor Christine Walley's promotion to associate professor without tenure took effect on July 1, 2003. Associate professor Hugh Gusterson was on leave.

With combined funding from the Committee for the Review of Space Planning, the SHASS Dean's Office and the Anthropology Program, the Program was able to upgrade and expand its office space allocation during the summer and fall of 2003. Additional office space was acquired and the headquarters was able to move into more spacious accommodations adjacent to our existing offices.

Program Contributions to MIT and Outside Communities

Anthropology Program members served on various committees, boards, and task forces at MIT, including the Women's Studies Steering and Program committees, the Advisory Board for the Program in Human Rights and Justice, the Editorial Board of the MIT Faculty Newsletter, the curriculum committees for CMS, the admissions and steering committees of the doctoral program in HSSST, the steering committee of the Technology and Culture Forum, the Committee on the Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects, and the Equal Opportunity Committee of SHASS. Professor Jackson continued to chair the SHASS Gender Equity Committee.

Outside MIT, Professor Susan Silbey served on the publications committee of the Law and Society Association, on the editorial board of Cambridge Studies in Law and Society and the Cambridge Dictionary of Sociology. Professor Susan Slyomovics served on the American Friends Service Committee board, the editorial board of Women and

Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory, the Middle East Studies Association board, and the Committee on Academic Freedom in the Middle East and North Africa board. Professor Michael Fischer served on the executive board of the Society for Cultural Anthropology and the editorial board of Public Culture. Professor Gusterson served as a member of the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S), treasurer of the American Ethnological Society, and on the editorial board of Anthropological Quarterly. Professor Jackson served on the executive board of Cultural Survival and on the Executive Program Committee for the 2003 American Anthropology Association (AAA) meetings in Chicago. Professor James Howe, who is a trustee of the Pilgrim Hall Museum (Plymouth, Massachusetts), also served on the boards of Cultural Survival and the Center for the Preservation of Native Lands.

Professors Fischer, Jackson, Silbey, Gusterson, Walley, and Helmreich all play active roles in teaching, advising, and the administration of the HSSST doctoral program. Professor Silbey continued to teach the Writing Workshop for HSSST graduate students during the spring, and the ethnography class at the Sloan School of Management.

Educational Activities

Anthropology classes continued to be popular among undergraduates. Eighteen students in the class of 2004 completed HASS concentrations in anthropology. One student completed a minor in anthropology. Course 21A (Anthropology) introduced a new subject during AY 2003–2004, assistant professor Helmreich's 21A.240 Race and Science. Professor Fischer led two student groups, one to Israel/Palestine, and one to Iran.

Presentations

The presentations given by members of the Anthropology Program faculty during 2003–2004 provide a sense of the wide range of research interests among program faculty and the diverse fora in which they have spoken in the last year.

Professor Walley presented a paper on "Environmental Struggles: The Politics of Fishing along the Tanzanian Coast" at Bowdoin College. A film she co-produced, *Containment: Life after Three Mile Island*, was screened at 10 colleges and 10 film festivals.

Professor Jackson gave a talk at the Rockefeller Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy, on her chronic pain research and one at the AAA meeting in Chicago on "Documenting Ethnic Resurgence and Ethnocide: Representations of Indigeneity in the Colombian Press." She also gave an ethnohistorical paper on three lowland South American explorers at the Congress of Americanists in Santiago, Chile.

Professor Gusterson gave talks at the AAA meetings, the 4S meetings, Yale University, George Washington University, and the University of Georgia; he gave three talks at Georgia Tech University.

Professor Fischer gave talks in Cambridge, England, on cities and film; in Jerusalem, Israel, and Montreal, Canada, on the Middle East conflict; at New York University on religion and the media; at Columbia University on Iranian film; and at the AAA meetings (Chicago), the Society for Cultural Anthropology (Portland, Oregon), and 4S (Atlanta).

Professor Silbey presented “Designing Qualitative Research” at the Law and Society Association; talks on legal regulation of laboratory science at Harvard University and Cornell University; and one on “Risk and Uncertainty in the Cultures of Science” at the Law and Society Association annual meetings.

Professor Slyomovics gave talks in Rabat, Morocco; University of Florida; Yale University; and at the Radcliffe Institute. Professor Helmreich presented papers on “Alien Algae: Colonialism, Culture, and Classification in Hawaii” at Bowdoin College, and “Anthropology Underwater: A Report on DSV *Alvin*” aboard the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute’s (WHOI) ship *Atlantis*.

Publications

A Spanish translation of Professor Howe’s book *A People Who Would Not Kneel: Panama, the United States, and the San Blas Kuna* was published by a Guatemalan press, CIRMA.

Professor Silbey co-edited (with Herbert Kritzer) *In Litigation: Do the “Haves” Still Come Out Ahead?* (Stanford). She also published three pieces with Patricia Ewick: “The Architecture of Authority: The Place of Law in the Space of Science (in a book titled *The Place of Law*); “The Double Life of Reason and Law” (*University of Miami Law Review*); and “Narrating Social Structure: Stories of Resistance to Legal Authority,” in the *American Journal of Sociology*.

Professor Slyomovics has a book in press on human rights in Morocco, and she published articles in the journals *Oriente Moderno*, *MERIP/Middle East Report* (on her Moroccan indemnities research), and the *Palestine-Israel Journal*. She co-translated with MIT professor Isabelle de Courtivron two articles from French.

Professor Fischer’s *Emergent Forms of Life and the Anthropological Voice* (Duke) appeared in December, and *Mute Dreams, Blind Owls, and Dispersed Knowledges: Persian Poesis in the Transnational Circuitry* (Duke) is being published this month. He also published four articles and three review essays.

Professor Jackson published “Translating the Pain Experience” in T. Maranhão and B. Streck, eds., *Translation and Ethnography: The Anthropological Challenge of Intercultural Understanding* (Arizona); “La crisis en Colombia: Consecuencias para los Pueblos Indígenas” in A. Camacho, ed., *El conflicto colombiano y su impacto en los países Andinos* (Bogotá: Ediciones Uniandes), and “Plan Colombia and the Andean Initiative: Counterterrorism or State Terrorism?” in *Swords and Ploughshares*. She also published a book review, and “Irving Goldman (1911–2002): A Brief Remembrance” in *Tipití: The Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America*. She has an article in press in

American Ethnologist as well as a book chapter on “The Politics of Representation: The Case of Chronic Pain” in J. Loeser, D. Morris, and D. Carr, eds., *Narrative, Pain and Suffering* (IASP Press).

Professor Gusterson’s *People of the Bomb: Portraits of America’s Nuclear Complex* (Minnesota) is to be published in the immediate future. He also published articles in *The Journal of Cultural Research* and *Anthropology Today*, and contributed two chapters to a volume titled *Anthropologists in the Public Sphere*.

Professor Walley published *Rough Waters: Nature and Development in an East African Marine Park* (Princeton), and “Our Ancestors Used to Bury Their ‘Development’ in the Ground: Modernity and the Meaning of Development in Tanzania’s Mafia Island Marine Park,” in *Anthropological Quarterly*.

Professor Helmreich published “A Tale of Three Seas: From Fishing through Aquaculture to Marine Biotechnology in the Life History Narrative of a Marine Biologist” in *Maritime Studies*, and “Trees and Seas of Information: Alien Kinship and the Biopolitics of Gene Transfer in Marine Biology and Biotechnology” in *American Ethnologist*, as well as two book reviews. He has three book chapters in press.

Other Program Accomplishments

Professor Helmreich was invited to go on two oceanographic cruises, one in connection with a project looking at pico-cyanobacterial growth rates in the Sargasso Sea, and one on board the WHOI ship *Atlantis* in the Pacific Ocean, during which he was able to descend to deep hydrothermal vent formations aboard the deep submersible vehicle *Alvin*.

Grants, Honors, and Awards

Professor Silbey was awarded the prize for the best article in the sociology of culture for her coauthored article “Narrating Social Structure” in the *American Journal of Sociology*. She received an American Council of Learned Society Fellowship, to begin in September 2004, for research on health and safety practices in university laboratories. Professor Walley received a field grant from the Jasper and Marion Whiting Foundation for her ongoing research on negotiating social class. Professor Jackson was awarded a Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellowship.

Jean Jackson
Program Head
Professor of Anthropology

More information on the Anthropology Program can be found on the web at <http://web.mit.edu/anthropology/>.