

Directory of Digital Anthropologists

June 2024

As a joint initiative, the Departments of Anthropology at Goldsmiths, Manchester and UCL hosted an informal day for anthropologists in May 2023 and again in June 2023 around the UK who were involved in some way or other in the field of digital anthropology.

Ray Abu-Jaber (she/they) is a Queer Visual Anthropologist and PhD student at Goldsmiths university London. Their research is a celebration of Queer Joy, and investigates how tabletop games can inspire, create and facilitate joy for Queer players through play. Through an autoethnographic, emotionally vulnerable embodied practice, Ray's practical based project will culminate in the creation of a tabletop game that inspires Queer Joy (she is very much open to collaboration and advice to do with this!! Also, please drop her an email or message if you fancy a chat about your Queer Joy!!). They are also currently running Queer Joy workshops for Queer/Disrupt and London LGBTQ centre. Their email is rabuj001@gold.ac.uk. You can find their cheeky Queer Joy artwork on their Instagram [here](#)

Rik Adriaans is a lecturer in media anthropology at UCL. He is interested in questions of media and mediation, music and post-socialism with a regional focus on Armenia and the global Armenian diaspora. His doctoral thesis was a multi-sited ethnography of the media circuits connecting the Armenian diaspora of Los Angeles to post-Soviet transition focusing on the politics of recognition and redistribution. More recently, he began conducting a research project on the role of the digital, the analogue and the material in modular synthesizer culture. This project looks at technical operations and digital mediations among musicians, circuit designers and social media figures in a post-digital era in which the analog and the digital are increasingly interwoven. He also maintains an interest in the anthropological study of memes and virality. E-mail: r.adriaans@ucl.ac.uk / Twitter: @anthrorik / Instagram: @otaromodularo

Toby Austin Locke is an anthropologist whose current research focuses on the psychosocial impacts of digital technologies. His first engagements with digital anthropology occurred through his PhD project, *Fields of Commoning: attempts and creating (un)common worlds in New Cross*, which was a practice-oriented ethnography of a self-organised social centre in London. In this project the development of digital platforms functioned as a participatory research method tracing the processes of collective representation and self-organisation. After completing his PhD at Goldsmiths in 2019 Toby

has engaged in research on online conspiracy theory. His current research works across digital and medical anthropology, and focuses on the intersections of ADHD, social media and attention economies. He is also a Lead Researcher in the TikTok Ethnography Collective. Toby joined UCL in 2023 after teaching in anthropology, sociology, psychosocial studies and interdisciplinary research methods at Goldsmiths, Birkbeck, Roehampton and LSBU. Email: toby.locke@ucl.ac.uk / Twitter: @TobyAustinLocke

Akanksha Awal is a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow in Social Anthropology at the University of Oxford, and holds a doctorate in Social Anthropology from the same institution. Her doctoral work has sought to understand how Bollywood and digital media influence college-going student's subjectivities and political practices in Ghaziabad city, 30 miles east of Delhi. Her ongoing postdoctoral project with police constables and sub-inspectors in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, seeks to understand the policing of everyday pornography in the digital sphere. She tweets at @akankshaawal

Harshadha (Harsha) Balasubramanian is a doctoral candidate in the Centre for Digital Anthropology at UCL. Harshadha's PhD project, funded by the London Arts and Humanities Partnership, explores the experiences of mixed ability artists designing non-visual access to virtual reality (VR) in London and Bristol. A defining feature of her research has been to foreground lived experience of disability and marginalised somatic practices in critically rethinking normative fieldwork methods, co-producing and sharing these ideas through VR projects, workshops, a visiting lectureship at the Royal College of Art, an internship at Microsoft Research, and a fellowship at the Critical Design Lab. Email: harshadha.balasubramanian.18@ucl.ac.uk

Tomas Borsa is a DPhil student at the Oxford Internet Institute, co-supervised by David Zeitlyn (Anthropology) and Rebecca Eynon (OII/Education). Tomas is broadly interested in the politics of connectivity in rural, remote, and Indigenous community contexts. Based on 2 years of immersive fieldwork, his dissertation explores the infrastructural imaginaries of 'the fibre project', a newly-initiated Fibre-to-the-Premise (FTTP) broadband network providing ubiquitous ultrafast connectivity to the c. 5,000 residents of Haida Gwaii. Tomas is an adopted member of the Gidins Naayuwans clan of the Haida Nation, and holds a double BA in Politics and Psychology from the University of Saskatchewan and an Msc in Politics and Communication from LSE. Tomas has also directed and produced a number of award-winning documentary, ethnographic, and experimental films; *Line in the Sand* (2016; Director/Producer) explored resistance to the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline, while *Silvicola* (2023; Assistant Producer/Assistant Editor, winner of the John Kastner Award, Hot Docs 2023) unfolds as a tableau of the complex web of cultural and economic forces which compel and constrain industrialised forestry practices. Email: tomas.borsa@oii.ox.ac.uk.

Fabian Broeker is an anthropologist and digital ethnographer whose research focuses on digital media practices in everyday life, social media, and the interplay of these spheres within contemporary urban environments. He just received his PhD at King's College London's Department of Culture Media and Creative Industries; his thesis was an ethnography of young dating app users in Berlin, investigating the way dating rituals are narrativized and intimacies enacted across platforms. He is currently writing his monograph "Love and Technology", to be published later this year with Routledge. He is an Associate Member of the Digital Anthropology Lab, University of Tübingen. Alongside his research, Fabian is a filmmaker and videographer, primarily active outside of academia, but looking to embed this into his academic work in future. Emails: f.d.broeker@lse.ac.uk/
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Larisa T. Carranza is a Social Anthropology Ph.D. candidate at Goldsmiths College. Her focus of research is on Salvadoran Catholic martyrdom in relation to contemporary social justice and hopeful projects. This includes discourses related to memory, spaced and , material culture, Covid-19 and multimodal productions of audio/visual circulations of wartime media. She has incorporated digital formats into her research by engaging with virtual pilgrimages, commemorations and other events related to communities engaged with Salvadoran martyrs and social justice. Contact info: lcarr005@gold.ac.uk

Jennifer Cearns is a postdoctoral researcher based at UCL and an Associate Fellow of the Alan Turing Institute. Her monograph *Circulating Culture* about the flows of material and digital goods between Cuba, Miami, Panama, Guyana, and Mexico was published by University of Florida Press (2023). She was one of the inaugural Fellows in Public Anthropology at the RAI, and co-curated the exhibition [Illustrating Anthropology](#) alongside Laura Haapio-Kirk. She is currently finalising publications with Hannah Knox drawing on their research in collaboration with the Ada Lovelace Institute on algorithmic decision-making tools in the welfare system during the pandemic. Her current research interests are in AI and mental healthcare, specifically focusing on whether or not AI can simulate empathy. She is also a senior research scientist working in deeptech and AI in the private sector, and occasionally speaks on BBC radio programmes like *Thinking Allowed* about anthropological issues. Email: jennifer.cearns@ucl.ac.uk / Website: www.jennifercearns.com

Margie Cheesman works with the users and makers of digitalisation projects to study global migration governance, welfare, and socio-economic justice. She has specific expertise on experimental [money](#) and [identity](#) technologies. Margie's current postdoctoral work (ESRC/War Studies, KCL) includes a book project based on her doctoral thesis, which was the first in-depth, multi-perspective ethnographic study of blockchain adoption in the humanitarian sector and involved fieldwork with refugee groups and United Nations

agencies in Jordan. From September 2023 Margie will be working at KCL Digital Humanities as Lecturer in the Digital Economy. Margie also works with the Minderoo Centre for Technology and Democracy (Cambridge) and the journal *Big Data & Society*. Emails: margaret.1.cheesman@kcl.ac.uk / mc2357@cam.ac.uk. Twitter: @margchee

Rebekah Cupitt is a lecturer in Digital Design in the Department of Film, Media and Cultural Studies at Birkbeck, University of London, and has a BA and MA in Social Anthropology and a PhD in Human-Computer Interaction. Undeniably in the interdisciplines, Rebekah now teaches in the arts and creative practices on the social and cultural dimensions of technology and innovation using an anthropological lens to invoke criticality and reflexivity in design practice. Rebekah's research moves beyond a focus on design and its methods, and examines the ways in which human and non-human technologies intertwine. Through taking a post-human and anti-normative approach to the techno-utopias that often haunt human-computer interactions, Rebekah highlights how pre-conceptions and socially-embedded assumptions about what defines human, and what makes up non-human, underpin our everyday experiences and performances of belonging and the self(s). You can reach Rebekah at r.cupitt@bbk.ac.uk

Lee Douglas is a visual anthropologist, curator, filmmaker and Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology, University of London, where she convenes the MA in Visual Anthropology. Combining ethnographic research and multimodal media production, her work unpacks how the past is reconstructed and the future reimagined through collective and individual engagements with the traces of political violence, displacement, and decolonization in Spain, Portugal, and the Iberian Atlantic. She was the Head Researcher for the project “Militant Imaginaries, Colonial Memories” (MSCA-IF-2019-895197) which analyzed individual and collective uses of the material and visual traces left by entangled historical events: the Carnation Revolution that marked an end to Portugal’s Estado Novo dictatorship; the conclusion of the Portuguese imperial project; and the return migrations sparked by these events. Prior to her work in Portugal, she was a Research Fellow in the Collections Department at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia. With an interest in visual archives and collections, their management, and the digital circulation of images, Douglas’ work considers image ethics in ways that straddle both the politics of representation and the ecological effects of collecting, accumulating, and keeping images in archival contexts. She is the Co-Editor in Chief of *Visual Anthropology Review*, a member of the Writing with Light Editorial Collective, and a Working Group Leader for the TRACTS Cost Action Network. Contact: L.douglas@gold.ac.uk

Marina Frid is a UCD Research Fellow in the School of Geography at University College Dublin, acting as Associate Director of the Digital Economy and Extreme Politics Lab (DeepLab) and Co-Coordinator of the ERC project Flexible Work, Rigid Politics

(WorkPoliticsBIP). Previously, she was the research manager for the Brazil fieldsite of the ARC project New Consumer Cultures in the Global South. Her publications have explored media images of women, cinematic stories, and consumption spaces and practices. Her current research within the WorkPoliticsBIP project investigates the labour of social media beauty influencers in Brazil, India, and the Philippines through digital ethnography. Email: marina.frid@ucd.ie. Find UCD DeepLab on Instagram and Twitter: @ucd_deeplab.

Elena Gonzalez-Polledo (EJ) is senior lecturer and head of the department of Anthropology at Goldsmiths, University of London. Gonzalez-Polledo's research interests encompass queer and trans studies, the biosciences, and digital anthropology. Gonzalez-Polledo is currently working on two projects - a monograph coauthored with Silvia Posocco about global bioinformation infrastructures and worlds across forensic and biomedical sciences in Guatemala, Chile and the UK; and a study of data and the emancipatory digital practices in the context of changing epistemic models in the biosciences. Some recent publications around these projects include the forthcoming monograph Life.Code.Biodata, the edited volume Bioinformation Worlds and Futures (<https://shorturl.at/agDJ5>), and the articles Forensic Apophenia: Sensing the Bioinformation Archive (<https://shorturl.at/aehsO>) and Archives, Promises, Values: Forensic Infrastructures in times of Austerity (<https://shorturl.at/suvSY>)

Laura Haapio-Kirk received her Ph.D. from UCL in 2022 and is currently a [Junior Research Fellow](#) in Anthropology at Christ Church, University of Oxford. She is working on her first monograph that provides a critical overview of how experiences of later life are changing in Japan in the context of an ageing society, internal migration, and the uptake of the smartphone. She co-curated the exhibition [Illustrating Anthropology](#) with support from the RAI. Laura is now working on a new project, '[Feeling at Home in a Digital World](#)', with ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Finland. The aim is to understand how the interaction of digital and physical spaces impacts on conceptions of home and wellbeing. She is producing monthly illustrated [newsletters](#) about her research, is on Instagram and Twitter as @lauralhk, and her email is laura.haapio-kirk@chch.ox.ac.uk.

Andreas Hackl: I am Lecturer in Anthropology of Development at the University of Edinburgh. My current research explores the digital inclusion and exclusion of forcibly displaced people, with a focus on the role of the internet economy for livelihoods and job creation among refugees and other people affected by economic and humanitarian crises. Recent publications on this topic include the special issue [Refugees in the digital economy: The future of work among the forcibly displaced](#) (with E Easton-Calabria), the article [Connecting without Protecting: Intermediating the Internet Economy in Digital Livelihoods Provision for Refugees](#); and an article on [refugee coding schools and digital skills](#). I have also done several public-facing projects and consultancies with UN agencies on the topic,

leading to outputs such as a [report](#) on digital refugee livelihoods and decent with the International Labour Organization. Much of my earlier research focused on various issues and topics in Israel/Palestine, and I have published a recent monograph based on my PhD research: [The Invisible Palestinians: The Hidden Struggle for Inclusion in Jewish Tel Aviv](#). Looking forward, I am currently writing a book on digital refugee work for MIT Press while also designing a new research project around the challenges and opportunities digitalization can offer low- and middle-income islands and island states. Contact: andreas.hackl@ed.ac.uk / Twitter: @HacklAndreas

Amelia (Mia) Hassoun is a Research Fellow at Darwin College, University of Cambridge and the Minderoo Centre for Technology and Democracy. She received her DPhil from the University of Oxford. Her doctoral research, an ethnography of “Smart Nation” smart home projects in Singapore, explored how people imagine and enact futures through sensory and affective engagements with material things like urban infrastructures. This project built upon prior research into the social life of NHS health and social care data, as well as on communication technologies in English hospice care. She is currently working on projects related to [information sensibility and “misinformation”](#) as well as publishing her dissertation as a monograph. Her research interests include digital + urban infrastructure, future imaginaries, ageing and care, RFID and sensor networks, VR/AR technology, human geography, and embodied cognition. Contact: ah2229@cam.ac.uk; Twitter: @miahassoun

Juli Qermezi Huang is an [economic anthropologist and senior lecturer at the University of Edinburgh](#). Her research focuses on data-driven social enterprise, civtech/govtech, and the use of technologies, approaches to data and markets, and moral logics for digital money's circulation in the pursuit of social and environmental aims. Digitally relevant publications include [To Be an Entrepreneur: Social Enterprise and Disruptive Development in Bangladesh](#) (2020, Cornell UP) and [‘Digital Aspirations: “Wrong-Number” Mobile-Phone Relationships and Experimental Ethics among Women Entrepreneurs in Rural Bangladesh’](#) (2017, JRAI). As a [British Academy / Wolfson Foundation Fellow](#) (2022-24), her current project examines the everyday data practices of social enterprises in Bangladesh and Scotland. Part of this work has morphed into a study of how data “govpreneurs” within the Bangladesh civil service approach digitising citizen services (such as social welfare and land management), and how partial automation transforms citizen-state relationships. She is founding co-Director of the [Data, Inequality & Society](#) programme, part of the Edinburgh Futures Institute's 'Data Futures' portfolio. Contact: juli.huang@ed.ac.uk; Twitter: @qermezi.

William (Bill) Kelly is an Anthropologist, focusing mostly on popular culture, leisure and entertainment practices in Japan and their movement, popularisation and adaptation/localisation across national/cultural borders. Since first encountering themes

related to digitalisation and its consequences in doctoral research on karaoke-singing in Japan (about which he has published widely), his research has been concerned with issues related to digital content creation and regulation, production (and producers) of digital content and cultural dimensions of engagement with immersive digital environments. Dr. Kelly is lecturer in Anthropology at St. Hugh's College and Research Associate, School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography (SAME), University of Oxford and co-founder (with Professor Eric Meyer, formerly of the Oxford Internet Institute) and co-convenor of the Oxford Digital Ethnography Group (OxDEG), as well convenor of courses in digital methods/digital ethnography for doctoral and other postgraduate/research students at SAME, the OII and the Social Sciences Division. Contact: william.kelly@anthro.ox.ac.uk

Mikkel Kenni Bruun is a Research Associate at King's College London where he works on the ERC [SAMCOM](#) project which investigates forms of surveillance in Germany and Britain. His current research focuses on the digitalisation of health in the UK, examining practices of health surveillance and self-monitoring based on fieldwork with users of digital health technologies. He previously conducted ethnographic research on the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) NHS mental health service and is currently editing a volume on the 'anthropology of psy'. He holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from Pembroke College, Cambridge University. Email: kenni.bruun@kcl.ac.uk / Twitter: @DrBruun

Hannah Knox is a Professor of Anthropology at UCL and former director of the UCL Centre for Digital Anthropology and convenor of the MSc Digital Anthropology. Her recent books include the edited collections *Digital Anthropology* (Second Edition), *Ethnography for a Data Saturated World*, *Speaking for the Social: A Catalogue of Methods* and a recent monograph *Thinking Like a Climate: Governing A City in Times of Environmental Change*. Her research interests lie in the study of infrastructure, technology, environment and politics in Peru and the UK, and she is currently researching contemporary engagements with and imaginaries of energy, with a focus on the relationship between energy politics and digital systems of representation used for ordering people's relationships with energy.

Ricardo Leizaola is a lecturer of visual anthropology at Goldsmiths exploring and embracing the effects of the digital age in education and documentary such as the convergence of theory and practice. He had extensive experience working in documentary, video ethnography, community video and the use of video in higher education, including video essay and remote education and training. He taught audiovisual production methods at SOAS for five years where he also worked with the Centre for African Studies, SOAS radio and the Centre for Financial and Management Studies. He has participated in research and consultancy projects – including projects on artificial intelligent and digital technology- working with academics from Goldsmiths, LSE, Metropolitan University, Coulthard Institute of Art, Lancaster University, and SACIDS Foundation for One Health

(SACIDS)– formerly Southern African Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance, Tanzania.
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Jerome Lewis (Reader in Anthropology, UCL) works with BaYaka forest hunter-gatherers in Congo-Brazzaville since 1993 on egalitarian politics, taboo and myth, and the role of ritual, music and dance in society. Applied research has developed a techno-social methodology for anybody, including non-literate people, to design data collection apps for smart phones to support local conservation efforts, secure territories and better represent themselves to outsiders ([Extreme Citizen Science](#)). He is director of the [Centre for the Anthropology of Sustainability](#), and co-director of [Flourishing Diversity](#). jerome.lewis@ucl.ac.uk

Xiaolin Li (she/they) is a final year PhD student at UCL. Their current PhD research focuses on the making and using of period-tracking apps in the context of a study of menstruation and sexuality in contemporary China, drawing on an ethnographic study of how users of period-tracking apps collect, interpret, and utilize their bodily data, and how the period-tracking company designs period-tracking products in accordance with their ideologies and business strategies. They also work with Chinese LGBTQI+ groups and feminist activists. Xiaolin's recent paper focuses on the embodied experience of menstruation of Chinese transgender individuals. Contact: xiaolin.li.17@ucl.ac.uk.

Elena Liber is a Lecturer in Anthropology and Visual Cultures at UCL and RAI Fellow in Public Anthropology. Her doctoral research focused on intergenerational memory, storytelling and revolution in Lviv, Ukraine. She is the co-founder of the TikTok Ethnography Collective which brings together lecturers, students, researchers, activists, dance therapists and artists to experiment with collaborative ethnographic methodologies to explore TikTok. She is currently conducting research on the many ways in which the war in Ukraine is being narrated on TikTok, examining the different visual and digital methods developed by Ukrainians to communicate and narrate their experiences on the ground in Ukraine. This research also explores the ways in which TikTok 'trends' and other memetic forms of digital communication are mobilised in times of conflict and crisis.
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Daniel (Danny) Miller is director of the Centre for Digital Anthropology at UCL and the founder of the UCL Digital Anthropology MSc. Recent publications include *The Global Smartphone* (with 10 others), *Ageing with Smartphones in Ireland* (with Pauline Garvey). Also *The Comfort of People* about the social connections of hospice patients with a terminal diagnosis. He directed the Why We Post project 2012-2017 and the ASSA (anthropology of smartphones and smart ageing) project 2017-2022 for which see our [website](#). Along with Sheba Mohammid we have just created a game/quiz *Trini Food Quiz* you can download on smartphones, concerned with diet and hypertension in Trinidad. He tweets as @DannyAnth

Abhishek Mohanty is a PhD researcher in Social Anthropology at SOAS, studying how health app start-ups imagine futures. His 14 months' fieldwork has him ethnographically embedded with a health app start-up in India (Chandigarh, ongoing) and with a health tech accelerator in the UK (London, starting October 2023), working with and alongside their respective teams. In the process, Abhishek is bringing his background/experience in management consulting (at PwC), and entrepreneurship (as the co-founder of LagomWorks, an interdisciplinary research and design firm) to bear. His prior research on teleconsultation (India), online representations of mask-wearing (London), alternative ontologies adopted by tech start-up founders (Bangalore), online governance during COVID19 (London), as well as propositions curated in digital spaces by tech companies (India and Romania) has been presented at the EPIC, RAI, and ASA conferences and also published in the peer reviewed EPIC Conference Proceedings, the SJPR, and the UNESCO Digital Library. You can find him on [LinkedIn](#), and connect with him on 676326@soas.ac.uk.

Dionysia Mylonaki is a PhD candidate in Visual Anthropology at Goldsmiths, University of London. Her work examines austerity politics and the entanglements of Greece with the idea of a prolonged and unmet modernisation, and the role that these play in the reception of green energy. It is also concerned with how land and locality are conceptualised as a terrain for resistance. She is also a lecturer teaching media theory at the University of Hertfordshire and has previously studied Art. Her ongoing doctoral work, has prompted her to use (and observe) media as a mode of grassroots organising at the fieldsite and beyond the fieldsite. Email: dmylo002@gold.ac.uk and dionysia.mylonaki@network.rca.ac.uk

Ibnu Nadzir is an anthropology PhD student at UCL (University College London). Previously, he obtained MSc from UvA (University of Amsterdam), focusing on the Internet social practices among Indonesian exiles in the Netherlands. Apart from that, Ibnu is also affiliated with Indonesian National Research & Innovation Agency as a researcher, mainly studying social changes and the adoption of digital technologies. His current PhD research seeks to understand the way Indonesian entrepreneurs and professionals develop startups as informed by local contexts such as religion and nationalism. The project also examines the emergence of particular sociality and ethics beyond the ones often associated with Silicon Valley. His research interests include startups, organisational culture, technological companies, and capitalist ethics. Ibnu's google scholar profile can be accessed [here](#). Email: ibnu.daraini.21@ucl.ac.uk

Henrike (Kika) Neuhaus (she/they) is a visual anthropologist focussing their research on Latin America, Taekwondo, embodiment and methods. Their current PhD research explores how practices of care unfold in the realm Taekwondo in Buenos Aires. Through multimodal forms of research and presentation sparked Henrike's interest in digital

anthropology. Currently, she explores how digital sensor technology changes the practice and is interested in research ethics regarding human interactions and relationships that unfold through the use of cameras and sports related technologies.

Pushing the boundaries of academic engagement, she was part of the organising board of the University of San Martin (UNSAM) Science Fair and Short Film Festival and research resident the Erasmus+ funded project Encounters. Since, she has co-founded several working groups and collectives inter alia INSA. E-mail: h.neuhaus@gold.ac.uk / h.neuhaus@posteo.de Websites: <https://www.sportanthro.org/> <https://latamismoving.wordpress.com/> <https://encountersproject.eu/>

Dan Nightingale (né Artus) is a final-year PhD student in digital anthropology at University College London. His work explores the informational politics of HPV and COVID vaccination in Dublin, Ireland using multi-sited ethnography to triangulate the complex, everyday situatedness of vaccines beyond their status as a biomedical and technical object. Questions of stigma, bodily knowledge and wellness are entangled with issues of how the world is known and experienced through overlapping crises at varying scales. In this context, vaccines become a nexus for wider solidarities, fractures, reconfigurations and ruptures that span ethical, epistemic and ontological domains. Dan has also undertaken research on the ethics of predictive algorithms in local government, examining the imaginaries of advanced 'data science' in the (often contested or resisted) production of data-cultures. These projects flow into his wider research interests around the affective-aesthetic dimensions of data and information in everyday life. Within a professional background in data analytics consultancy and an undergraduate degree in theology, his focus has been on the way people construct and access meaning through various non-human actors; be it with attractive data-visualisations, ways of approaching sacred texts or the momentary fascination with R-numbers, infection rates and excess deaths. His emerging interests are on how hegemonic ways of knowing the world are contested, the power of storytelling and the epistemic contours of post-rationalism. He has also co-edited the volume [*Patriarchy in Practice: Ethnographies of Everyday Masculinities*](#) (2023) which explores feminist approaches to contemporary problems of masculinities and acted as a research assistant and technical manager / architect for [UCL's Extreme Citizen Science Group](#) on their H2020 funded Intelligent Maps programme. He can be contacted at: dan.artus@ucl.ac.uk

Maria Nolan is a Lecturer in Anthropology at SOAS University of London and digital anthropologist with a regional focus on urban China who completed her doctoral studies at SOAS in 2020. Her doctoral research explored the emergence in China of *zhai*, which loosely refers to a tendency towards staying at home, and traced the unfolding of new modes of sociality among young people in a society rapidly evolving alongside innovations

in digital media. Since completing her doctoral studies, Maria has conducted digital research exploring the social and psychological impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people in China and in Ireland. She is currently developing a project focusing on approaches to mental health and wellbeing among Chinese overseas students in the UK and the role that digital spaces play in serving their mental health needs.

Catherine (Cathy) O'Brien is a final year DPhil candidate at the School of Archaeology, University of Oxford. Her thesis is titled, *Potting in the Pandemic: investigating pottery skill development and its affective impact in Covid-19 Britain*. Her research combines Material Engagement Theory (MET), materiality and materials approaches, and digital and sensory anthropology to explore how interactions with digital and social media form part of the wider ecology of tools, materials, and other persons, through which skill and wellbeing impacts emerge. As part of her research, she taught herself to wheel-throw pottery during the pandemic and combines visual methodologies, such as sketching and video, with digital and sensory ethnography. Email: Catherine.obrien@keble.ox.ac.uk Twitter: @CatOBrien98 Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/cathyobrien/home>

Vita Peacock is Principal Investigator of the ERC Project *Surveillance and Moral Community (SAMCOM)*, based in the Department of Digital Humanities at King's College London. She received her Ph.D in Social Anthropology from UCL in 2014, starting fieldwork on digital activism in 2013. She has conducted long-term fieldwork with the Anonymous movement in Britain between 2014-2017, and with German privacy activists from 2019-2022. She has taught at UCL, Cambridge, and LMU, and held visiting appointments at Columbia University and Humboldt University. Vita is working on a number of single-authored, co-authored, and co-edited books and articles in the field of digital anthropology particularly with reference to surveillance, and is co-founder and co-convenor of the Anthropology of Surveillance Network (ANSUR). vita.peacock@kcl.ac.uk #ansurnetwork

Kyrill Potapov is a Research Fellow in Anthropology of Energy at University College London. He is exploring how people can use their home energy data and coordinate with their neighbours. As part of this project, he is also starting to explore energy in school contexts. His background is in Human-Computer Interaction and Philosophy. His broader research interests are in philosophy of social practice, and on the ways in which data can mediate experience and understanding. In the past, he has researched how music can support the movement of people with chronic pain, how teens understand the impact of video games on their emotions, and how teens use personal informatics tools. He is also interested in co-design as an ethnographic tool. kyrill.potapov@ucl.ac.uk / Twitter: @kyrillpotapov

Alice Riddell is a third year PhD candidate at the Centre for Digital Anthropology at UCL. Her research examines Citizen app, a live crime tracking app in New York City, that functions as both a form of social media and a peer-to-peer surveillance app. Through this lens, Alice's research investigates the impact of the digitization of crime and safety as an everyday experience in increasingly gentrified neighbourhoods in Brooklyn. She is further interested in the delicate balance between care and surveillance, and the ways in which urban communities foster a sense of safety and security in the digital age. Her research also explores gendered safety practices and the material culture of self-defence in the form of safety-gadgets, such as alarms and tasers. Alice has previously worked on a variety of decolonising projects within the discipline, from both a pedagogical and methodological perspective. She is currently a teaching assistant in the department for culture, communication and media at the Institute of Education at UCL. Her email is: alice.riddell.15@ucl.ac.uk

Lily Rodel is a first-year DPhil student at the Oxford Internet Institute. Her research aims to understand how the increased prevalence of remote work since the COVID-19 pandemic is shaping the experience of women working in the UK tech sector. Fieldwork for this research is due to begin later this year and will utilize hybrid ethnographic methods. Lily holds a BA in Social Anthropology from SOAS and an MSc in Digital Anthropology from UCL - her previous research has explored workplace wellbeing during the pandemic. Her email is lily.rodel@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

Anna Rohmann (she/her) is a PhD candidate at Goldsmiths' Anthropology department. Her research investigates the use of financial technologies and on-and offline communities that form around this. She is expanding multi-modal frameworks to the research of financial activities, as part of this experimenting with creative methods that use AI as a tool. Anna's broader research interests include transcultural identity, the intersection of economy and social change, queer studies, and anthropology of food. She is part of the [TikTok Ethnography Collective](#) and *Economy & Emergent Technology Network*. You can get in touch via email (arohm001 [@gold.ac.uk]) or [LinkedIn](#).

Julian Riveros Clavijo is a final year anthropology student at UCL. In his thesis "Berraquera: development at the fringes of the state", he has explored the life of some Colombian immigrants in Chile, particularly the digitization of their economic practices as a way to survive state abandonment. Julian is also interested in the use of digital and computational methods alongside ethnography. Additionally, he has more than 6 years working as a consultant in digital business development, and digital products and services. Contact: julian.clavijo.13@ucl.ac.uk and [linkedin](#).

Craig Ryder is a PhD researcher at SOAS investigating how activists use social media to politically participate in Sri Lanka. He is recently back from 6 months fieldwork in Colombo where he had a theoretical somersault and started seeing the world through a Bourdieusian lens! Last year, Craig also spent 6 months as a Visiting Researcher at the University of Helsinki looking at computational approaches to ethnography. Craig is the founder of the DiSCo Studies Collective (DiSCo) and co-managing editor of the [DiSCo Journal](#). He tweets in fits and starts from [@ryder_withawhy](#). His out-of-date website is [craigeryder.com](#)

Jolynna Sinanan is a Lecturer in Digital Anthropology in the Department of Social Anthropology and the Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology at the University of Manchester. She has an interdisciplinary background in anthropology and development studies and has conducted comparative ethnographic studies of digital practices and infrastructures in relation to intergenerational mobilities in the Asia-Pacific, the Caribbean and South Asia. She is the author of *Social Media in Trinidad* (UCL Press, 2017) and the co-author of *Digital Media Practices in Households* (Amsterdam University Press, 2020), *Visualising Facebook* (UCL Press, 2017) and *How the World Changed Social Media* (UCL Press, 2016). Jolynna is currently working towards her next monograph: *The Everest Economy: 50 years of tourism in the Solukhumbu*. jolynna.sinaann@manchester.ac.uk / <https://jolynnasinanan.wordpress.com>

Raffaella Taylor-Seymour is a Junior Research Fellow at Pembroke College, Oxford. Her work examines religious transformations in the context of struggles over gender, sexuality, and the environment in contemporary Zimbabwe. Her first project, which she is revising as a book, explores how young queer Zimbabweans bring Christian and ancestral religious practices into dialogue with the categories of the global gay rights movement and reject the pathologising discourses of local political and religious leaders. Her second project, which she is pursuing at Pembroke, explores everyday struggles over the meanings and effects of rainmaking rites among ordinary Zimbabweans against the backdrop of increasing water scarcity in Southern Africa. Before coming to Oxford, Raffaella completed her PhD at the University of Chicago. She has previously written on the use of social media in protest movements in Zimbabwe and the intimate public spheres created through private messaging platforms. Her full profile is [here](#).

Ian Tellam is a recent PhD graduate in Social Anthropology from the University of Manchester. His PhD research investigated the adoption of novel technology in the nuclear decommissioning sector. The project focused on the acceptance and incorporation of new technologies such as robotics and artificial intelligence into a conservative and risk-averse setting. A defining feature of this study is an analysis of the way that organisations develop categories and ontological concepts of technological forms which may lead to dysfunctional patterns of innovation behaviour as organisational structures form to

disincentivise or impede change through a coalescence of risk responses over time. This analysis draws from James C. Scott's concept of the standard 'grid' and an evolving anthropological understanding of gridding as a process in order to develop it as a tool for conceptualising and contextualising processes of technological change within organisations. LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ian-tellam-3bb038160> / Email: ian.tellam@manchester.ac.uk

Campbell Thomson is a PhD student in social anthropology at UCL. Centred on a year of online and offline fieldwork, his thesis explores the coalescing of “freedom movement” activism in the United Kingdom, as it has emerged since the introduction of Covid-19 lockdowns in March 2020. His research seeks to better understand opposition to “mainstream” political, social and medical narratives, through the emergence of a self-recognising activist movement, situated in opposition to a (perceived) unfolding “Great Reset”. In relation to its technical and affective affordances, he considers the role of the instant messaging app Telegram in sustaining the freedom movement, as well as a self-published ‘truthpaper’, which is distributed widely across the UK. By engaging with campaign groups around the country, he examines how terms such as “conspiracy theory” and “misinformation” are negotiated by interlocutors within online and offline communication contexts. Furthermore, his research explores how narratives of spiritual “awakening” encountered within the freedom movement inform positions of radical distrust and doubt towards received knowledge. Email: campbell.thomson.19@ucl.ac.uk; Twitter: @Campbell__T.

Tone Walford is Associate Professor in Digital Anthropology at UCL. Their research explores the effects of the exponential growth of digital data on social and political imaginaries and practices, with a focus on the natural sciences and environmental politics. They have conducted long-term fieldwork with climate scientists and technicians in the Brazilian Amazon. Their current research explores efforts in international observational science to measure, archive and manage the entire Earth - Big Data Science - looking at issues of data justice, data politics, and data imperialism. Email: tone.walford@ucl.ac.uk

Kellynn Wee (she/they) is a PhD student at UCL who's studying collaborative storytelling games in Singapore and how they relate to play, sociality, materiality, and agency. Currently, she's working on a paper focused on how the transmediation of analogue tabletop roleplaying games (TTRPG) through platforms like Discord enables the crafting of softer shared realities with acts of witnessing, counterfactual exploration, and gift-giving. She's also interested in multimodal research; as part of this, she's writing a climate future TTRPG set in Southeast Asia, called *Move Quietly and Tend Things*. Her e-mail address is kellynn.wee.20@ucl.ac.uk and she can be found (lurking mainly, usually with a sense of horror) on [Twitter](#). Her website is [here](#) and her Google Scholar profile is [here](#).

Haichao Wang is the final year PhD student at UCL anthropology department. Her PhD project looks into how social media (WeChat in particular) has been used by Chinese Hui Muslims in building and performing their Muslim identity in contemporary China. Currently, Haichao works on two papers related to the using of WeChat/WeChat Pay in Hui Muslims' family-based business and in Muslims' religious activity of almsgiving. By unpacking the various ways of interpreting and legitimizing digital technologies in their economic and religious activities, Haichao tries to understand the continuities and shifts of values within this Muslim population, and how these have related to their Islam religion and Muslim tradition.

Yathukulan Yogarajah is a Lecturer in Anthropology of Enterprise at UCL. His doctoral research - *Thinking with Uncertainty: Scaling up and down in the cryptocurrency world* - explored how cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology was being engaged by startup actors near the Old Street Roundabout (Silicon Roundabout) in London, and speculative online retail traders. He is also the co-founder of the TikTok Ethnography Collective - a project that works collaboratively with students, lecturers, artists, activists, dance therapists, amongst others, to explore TikTok, social media, and our relation to it. His research interests involve exploring 'Silicon Cities', blockchain/emergent technologies, gambling, speculative and divinatory forms of labour, and uncertainty.

David Zeitlyn is a Professor of Social anthropology at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology (ISCA), University of Oxford. He has been involved in using the internet to disseminated and promote anthropological research since before the World Wide Web was invented. He is particularly concerned with ways in which the dilemmas of digital anthropology are new versions of very old dilemmas that all anthropologists face in one way or other so older literature remains relevant. He is active in issues about research ethics particularly with regard to the archiving and sharing of research data. This has particular bite with born digital data and concerns about privacy. See 'For Augustinian archival openness and laggardly sharing: trustworthy archiving and sharing of social science data from identifiable human subjects' 2021 *Frontiers in Research Metrics and Analytics* 6 (63). DOI: 10.3389/frma.2021.736568.
<http://journal.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/frma.2021.736568>

Teodor (Teo) Zidaru is an LSE Fellow in Anthropology at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he also did his PhD. His doctoral research project examined the difference religious faith makes to dispositions and acts of (mis)trust in Kenyan mutual aid arrangements. He is currently revising his PhD thesis into a monograph which reflects on the transformative potentials of religion and mutual aid within state-citizen relations and microfinance-based initiatives of financialized development. He has an interest in data

science work as both an object of ethnographic inquiry and analytical source of inspiration in digital anthropology, and will be conducting research exploring the interplay between the use and design of digital financial technologies in Kenya.

Ken Zheng is a third-year PhD candidate affiliated with the Centre for Digital Anthropology at University College London (UCL). Her research centers on investigating the culture of IT work, with a specific focus on a project team within ByteDance, the company responsible for the creation of TikTok. Through an extensive 11-month fieldwork period, Ken engages in an ethnographic exploration of Chinese IT professionals, shedding light on the spillover of data culture from the IT sector into broader social domains. Ken's ethnography exposes numerous intersections and interconnections between the data practices employed by Chinese IT professionals and the consequential social implications stemming from their utilization of quantification methodologies. These methodologies encompass clickbait mechanisms and captivating algorithms employed across online infrastructures. Furthermore, the study delves into the role played by Chinese IT professionals and domestic tech giants in reinforcing an audit culture, both within private domains and increasingly digitalized social spheres. The project strives to disentangle the intricate dynamics whereby Chinese IT professionals navigate their self-identities and individual aspirations while simultaneously contributing to the development of a socially beneficial public platform. Email: zhengken@pku.edu.cn

Branwen Spector is a lecturer in Social Anthropology at University College London. She works on infrastructure and mobility in both Palestine and Ukraine, including work on digital infrastructures and remote methodologies. Her work in Palestine explored the formation and use of internet infrastructures by both Palestinian refugees and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian West Bank, where she writes about how social media use facilitates mobility for both groups in different ways. Her more recent work explores how dating apps can be used as a tool for ethnographic research in both Palestine and Occupied Ukraine. Her future work explores the viability of infrastructural futures in Lebanon.