The Department of Anthropology extends its congratulations to Professors Vinay Kamat and Andrew Martindale, both of whom received SSHRC Insight Awards in March 2018.

The UBC Anthropology Graduate Poster Conference was held on March 8, with Julie Cruikshank as opening speaker. Photos by Bruce Miller and Basant Ahmed Sayed.
The UBC Himalaya Program is offering 2-week, intensive language and community engagement courses in Nepali and Tibetan. These community-engaged courses blend classroom instruction with experiential learning off-campus at Nepali and Tibetan community sites in the Lower Mainland. Each course carries 3 credits from the UBC Faculty of Arts. UBC students can register through the SSC in the Summer 2018 session when registration opens until April 30.

Anthropology faculty members Sara Shneiderman and Mark Turin work closely with instructors and students to coordinate these community-engaged courses, which may complement coursework in Anthropology. Questions may be addressed to Sara Shneiderman at sara.shneiderman@ubc.ca.

On March 23rd, 2018 Michael Blake hosted Sts'ailes elders, youth, and leadership at the Museum of Anthropology, for a tour of the Salish Weaving exhibit, the 'Fabric of Our Land.' Sts'ailes community members were pleased to be able to see and talk about the incredible curated examples of Coast Salish weaving. Photos provided by Morgan Ritchie.
Contested Landscapes: The Social Complexity of Natural Gas Extraction in a Marine Protected Area in Tanzania

$166,430, 5 year grant

The Mnazi Bay Marine Park (Marine Protected Area) on Tanzania’s border with Mozambique is the site of a large natural gas extraction project developed by the Canadian company, Artumas. The gas project’s core technological zone is distinguished from the surrounding landscape by physical barriers that limit local residents’ access to subsistence and cultural resources. This study will investigate the social complexities and governance structures underlying the incommensurability of the implementation of a natural gas project inside a World Wildlife Fund supported marine protected area in Tanzania. The Marine Park and the gas project are high profile undertakings by the Tanzanian government, to promote its ecotourism industry and meet the country’s energy demands. Through an ethnographic analysis of the different points of intersection and challenges between the perspectives of advocates of marine conservation, natural gas development, and the project-affected people, this study will provide valuable theoretical insights and empirical indicators on how to balance concern for social and environmental justice, economic development and wellbeing.

Andrew Martindale

Cartographies of Deep Time: Explaining Tsimshian history through archaeological, environmental, and oral records

$392,542, 5 year grant

Tsimshian people of north coastal British Columba preserve oral narratives that record their history back to the beginnings of the Holocene, over 10,000 years ago. In our prior research with the Tsimshian of the Lax Kw’alaams and Metlakatla First Nations, we refuted legal and academic arguments and demonstrated the accuracy of their oral record with a scientific test of archaeological evidence from over 1000 years ago. Here, we propose to draw on oral narratives to push this effort further both in time, to explore the origins of Tsimshian society, and in logic, to challenge how archaeologists explain history. The archaeological analysis of the Indigenous past in settler countries such as Canada echoes the colonial history of the discipline by favouring some forms of evidence and interpretations over others, and the Tsimshian are cast as an example of political developments caused by environmental change. Specifically, non-native archaeologists have struggled to recognize the spiritual content and political explanations from Indigenous sources, notably oral records. Archaeology has instead gravitated causalities that often lack empirical evidence but which resonate with the expectations of archaeology’s non-native context. In this project, we expand our partnership with the Tsimshian, treat their claims about the spiritual origins of their own history on par with archaeological logic and propose evaluations from representative data using methods we have refined.
Congratulations to Sara Shneiderman, recipient of the 2017 James Fisher Prize for her first book *Rituals of Ethnicity: Thangmi Identities Between Nepal and India*.

The Fisher Prize honors books which contribute an innovative and lucid written account of Himalayan studies research.

As co-director of UBC’s Centre for India & South Asia Studies, Sara Shneiderman co-hosted the South Asia Conference of the Pacific Northwest at UBC on March 2-3, an annual conference coordinated between UBC, the University of Washington, The University of Oregon, and other regional institutions.

Following the success of SACPAN, it was announced that this collaboration will be supported by the new UBC/UW Collaborative Research Mobility Award from VPRI, with $15,000 allocated to the project, “Connecting South Asian and Himalayan Research Communities Across Cascadia”.

Bill McKellin was a participant in the CIHR-Roche Clinical Innovation Roundtable Dialogue in Toronto on March 1 which explored new strategies for clinical trials for drugs for rare diseases and oncology.

Bill McKellin was a speaker at Rare Disease Day on February 28 at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.
March 13, 2018

Winter has come to Cambridge
With a fury, and flurries, Harvard has shut down.

With fine weather there,
Vancouver’s cherry blossoms
Mock my New England stay.

from my snowdrifts

to your spring,

Millie Creighton

Millie Creighton was awarded a SSHRC Exchange Grant for Faculty of Arts International Conference Travel ($2,000) for the project ‘Revivals and Remembrances Among Ruins: Tohoku Responses to the Earthquake, Tsunami, & Nuclear Disasters as a Japanese Borderland’.

By Plum blossoms in Vancouver 3.jpg: Eviatar Bach derivative work: Eviatar Bach [CC BY-SA 3.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0)], via Wikimedia Commons

Paula Pryce gave a talk at Harvard University’s Center for the Study of World Religions on April 10 entitled:

“The Allure of Ambiguity: Why Neo-monasticism and Contemplative Christianity Flourish in Pluralistic America”
Grants

Nicky Levell


Publications

Millie Creighton


Vinay Kamat


Bryn Letham, Andrew Martindale, Nicholas Waber & Kenneth M. Ames


Carol Mayer


Bruce Miller

Mark Turin


Clayton Whitt


Presentations

Ezra Greene


Carol Mayer


Bill McKellin

Bill McKellin was a participant in the CIHR-Roche Clinical Innovation Roundtable Dialogue in Toronto on March 1, 2018, which explored new strategies for clinical trials for drugs for rare diseases and oncology.
Bruce Miller

Bruce Miller gave a talk to the faculty of Columbia College on Indigenous issues, March 7, 2018.

Colleen Parsley


Sara Shneiderman


Mark Turin

The Department of Anthropology and the University of British Columbia are located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

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The material in this bulletin was contributed by the Faculty, Students, Emeriti, Postdocs, Visitors and Staff at the Department of Anthropology, UBC.

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