

This Is Anthropology

Undergraduate Student Showcase
March 15th 2019 11-2pm
DV3130

Organized by
UTM Anthropology Society and
UTM Anthropology Department

11:00-11:15am	Registration
11:15-11:45 am	Keynote speaker, Dr. Lauren Schroeder
11:4am5-12:00pm	Break for lunch to be served
12:00-12:15pm	Sukarmina Shankar presenting <i>Manner of Death in Overdose Cases as seen in Nova Scotia, Canada: Does Age Matter?</i>
12:15-12:30pm	Sterling Lewis presenting <i>Atopic Dermatitis: An Evolutionary Perspective.</i>
12:30-12:50pm	IsraSaghir presenting <i>Black Market Culture.</i>
12:50-1:00pm	Break
1:00-1:20pm	Heeho Ryu presenting <i>Colonial Continuum: Construction of a 'Canadian Heritage' at the Fort York National Historic Site and the Reconstruction of Turtle Island Futures through the Queering of Settler-Colonialism.</i>
1:20-1:35pm	Sameer Kotwal presenting <i>Reconsidering Oppression of Women in the West vs. the Rest.</i>
1:35-1:50pm	Vikash Sharma presenting <i>Healthcare Providers Creating Drop Dead Divas!</i>
1:50-2 pm	Prizes and closing remarks

Keynote speaker

Dr. Lauren Schroeder

Professor Schroeder completed her university studies and Ph.D. at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, did postdoctoral research at the University of Buffalo in New York, and recently joined the UTM faculty in July 2017. Within a year, she has become one of 16 UTM professors to receive the Connaught New Researcher Award for her project on "The hybrid phenotype of the coywolf: a new model for hominin evolution". Her recent work includes examining the morphology, form, and bone structure of mammals that hybridize. Schroeder and her colleagues hope to apply their discoveries towards evaluating the evolutionary process in human fossil records.

"Who we are, where did we come from, and how did we get here, are things that us humans should be thinking about. Anthropology is really good at celebrating difference, but it also allows you to see the similarities in everything and everyone."

- Lauren Schroeder

Student speakers

Sukarmina Shankar presenting *Manner of Death in Overdose Cases as seen in Nova Scotia, Canada: Does Age Matter?*

A recently released National Report by the Government of Canada states that there is a serious and growing opioid crisis within the country. In addition, in April 2016, the British Columbia Provincial Health Officer declared a public health emergency due to the increase of drug overdose deaths (DOD) in the province. In order to address and prevent DODs, all impacting factors must be explored. In this context, this study was carried out to understand if there were any correlations between the manner and age at death, specifically looking at DODs in the province of Nova Scotia, Canada. A series of statistical analyses were performed on the dataset, including: Mann-Whitney U's, correlations, Kruskal-Wallis, and the Chi Square test. Results from this study concluded that the average age did not change over time, for both manners of death, accidental and suicide, however, the average age of suicidal DODs is significantly greater than accidental DODs. In addition, chi-square tests indicate a significant association between manner of death and category of drug use, as well as age of death. Further research is required to study why the average age of suicide DODs is higher than accidental DODs.

Sterling Lewis presenting *Atopic Dermatitis: An Evolutionary Perspective.*

Atopic dermatitis (AD) is a common recurrent or chronic inflammatory disease which effects the skin (Nutten, 2015). AD is characterized by acute flare-ups of eczematous and pruritic lesions and/or erythematous papules over dry skin." (Nutten, 2015; Pallanti, Lotti, &Urpe, 2005). Its prevalence sits at approximately 20% for most regions, and has plateaued in the UK and New Zealand, while emerging in

low-income regions such as Latin America and South East Asia (Nutten, 2015).

Four hypotheses are investigated pertaining to the evolutionary basis of AD. First, the selection factors that cause AD to develop in multiple ethnic groups in an evolutionarily convergent fashion. Next, the environmental mismatches that lead to increased AD phenotype prevalence amongst those with a genetic predisposition. In addition, microbiome mismatches are similarly investigated. Finally, the connection between AD and melanoma development and progression is studied.

IsraSaghir presenting *Black Market Culture*.

The 21st century has a more thriving economy than any time period in history. Interestingly enough, however, one of the most profitable sectors of this modern market is more concerned with the past than the present: the transnational antiquity trade. In past years, all manner of exotic artifacts and items have saturated both the conventional and the black market, and business is booming, particularly in the latter. This research seeks to address the issue of the antiquities black market by analyzing the cultural, geographic, and economic aspects of the trade to determine its function. Using a multidisciplinary approach integrating geography, economics, and anthropology, this work investigates the unique history, connectivity, topography, and legal terrain of key locations in the trade; the commoditization of antiquities; and the imperial nature of antiquity exchange to understand what factors drive the illicit antiquities market, as well as its various impacts.

Heeho Ryu presenting *Colonial Continuum: Construction of a 'Canadian Heritage' at the Fort York National Historic Site and the Reconstruction of Turtle Island Futures through the Queering of Settler-Colonialism*.

This paper illustrates how the social, cultural, and historical constructions of Fort York render 'Canada' and 'Canadians' as

conceptually white spaces and bodies, thus reflecting how the Canadian settler-state continues to normalize the erasure of indigenous peoples, communities, identities, and cultures within 'the Canadian' landscape. Application of Queer Indigenous theory then help to conceptualize how multiple uninterrupted strands of settler-colonialism intersect to form a cohesive but variegated *colonial continuum*, or the tangible inertia of settler-colonialism that self-perpetuates colonial heteronormativity. For instance, the paper discusses how the *logic of indigenous genocide* (Smith, 2010) and the logics of settler-colonialism entrap all indigenous peoples, immigrant communities, and Canadian settlers within the colonial continuum. It then discusses how indigenous *intellectual sovereignty* (Warrior, 1994) and the *subjectless critique of indigenous theory* (Smith, 2010) can help us to *disidentify* (Muñoz, 2007) with the logics of settler-colonialism and participate in the *radical remembering of the future* (Meyer, 2008). Queer Indigenous theories are thus argued to provide the framework through which colonized peoples can collectively dismantle the colonial continuum while reconstructing our *collective decolonial futures* (Driskill et al., 2011).

Sameer Kotwal presenting *Reconsidering Oppression of Women in the West vs. the Rest.*

The concept of oppression for women in the West is situated in a very nuanced, and limited framework. In fact, the oppression of Western women can have very real, damaging effects on them, which is why this topic should be treated as a highly relevant discourse for anthropologists. Thus, I conducted an ethnographical interview with a 21-year-old, cis- gendered, Caucasian woman to further explore perspectives of Western women on oppression, and its impact on their free will, gendered behaviour, and the perception of traumatic life events. While the West has a very specific means of viewing women's oppression, I argue in this paper that this understanding of oppression needs to be further complicated. In my argument, I bring into conversation

ethnographical data from the conducted interview, and key theoretical ideas projected by various scholars, to show how both material and subtle, taken-for-granted forms of oppression need to be accounted for. Overall, the implications from my research and points presented provide an opportunity to reconsider how oppression, in relation to its contextualization in the West vs. the Rest, should be anthropologically approached.

Vikash Sharma presenting *Healthcare Providers Creating Drop Dead Divas!*

Even though there has been progress towards gender equality in society, we continue to see gender-based disparities within the medical field. The healthcare system is not the only institution in its ignorance of gender differences, but scientific research is similarly guilty. That being said, the purpose of this paper is to explore how medical societies fail to take into account the differences in psychological and physiological impacts of treatment between men and women. In this paper, I will unravel my theoretical framework, which is that females are neglected and subconsciously placed second within the medical field. Secondly, I draw upon academic literature and discuss how I will be connecting these ideas to my interviewee's experiences as a patient. Thirdly, I introduce my interviewee and illustrate how the healthcare providers neglect female patients. I do so by analyzing the data from my interview with VenyaNirali and display the patterns that emerge. In conclusion to this paper, I wish to challenge the medical healthcare by demonstrating how society emphasis on the importance of female physical appearance and how psychological disorders are disregarded.

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