

Anthropology

Personnel and Administrative Changes

During academic year 2021, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Anthropology Heather Paxson served her first year as head of the anthropology program. Associate Professor Graham Jones served as director of graduate studies for the PhD program in [History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society \(HASTS\)](#). Assistant Professor Héctor Beltrán started his assistant professorship with us on July 1, 2020, after one year as a postdoctoral fellow. Jones and Professor Manduhai Buyandelger were both promoted to full professor, effective July 1, 2021. Following the retirement of both support staff members, Kate Gormley joined us as administrative assistant II in August of 2020 and Carolyn Carlson joined us as administrative assistant III in September of 2020.

Highlights of the Year

AY2021 saw the continuation of remote teaching and Zoom meetings amid the disruptions of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the November presidential election, the insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, and continued racial justice reckoning. Every one of our faculty members had scheduled talks and events this year that were canceled or indefinitely postponed owing to the pandemic. Operating fully remotely, Anthropology has continued to respond to ever-changing circumstances.

In spring 2021, MIT Anthropology faculty played leading roles in online symposia that drew global audiences. In collaboration with international human rights NGO *Avocats Sans Frontières* and the European Network Against Racism, Assistant Professor M. Amah Edoh co-organized the week-long symposium in March, “Justice Now? Tackling Legacies of Europe’s Colonial Past,” in the wake of Black Lives Matter. Elting E. Morison Professor Stefan Helmreich co-led the MIT Center for Art, Science, and Technology (CAST) symposium, “Unfolding Intelligence: The Art and Science of Contemporary Computation,” held over several days in April.

In May, Beltrán, Helmreich, and Paxson joined MIT Anthropology postdoctoral fellow Beth Semel and HASTS student Marc Aidinoff in presenting their co-authored paper, “Making, Unmaking, and Hacking Race and Data: Views from Anthropology,” as part of the Systemic Racism and Computation Workshop Series hosted by the MIT Institute for Data, Systems, and Society (IDSS), the Sociotechnical Systems Research Center (SSRC), and the College of Computing.

MIT Anthropology hosted two virtual lectures: in the fall, Professor Nicola Di Cosmo from the Institute for Advanced Study spoke on “Climate, History, and Nomadic Empires,” with Buyandelger offering commentary; in the spring, Harvard Professor Ajantha Subramanian spoke on “Meritocracy and Democracy: The Social Life of Caste in India,” with Associate Professor Dwai Banerjee of MIT Science, Technology, and Society (STS) offering commentary.

Individual faculty achievements include:

Buyandelger submitted a research grant proposal with MIT Nuclear Science and Engineering Professor Michael Short, titled “Anthropologically-Informed Engineering of Fuel Independence to Preserve Democracy and Combat Climate Change in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia,” to the National Science Foundation (NSF), MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) Global Seed Faculty Fund, and MITEI-Energy Initiative Seed Fund. She was awarded an Op-Ed Project Fellowship, “Write to Change the World,” from the American Anthropological Association in fall 2020.

Helmreich submitted his book manuscript, *A Book of Waves*, to Duke University Press for review. This is his third ethnographic monograph.

Jones received MIT’s Frank E. Perkins Award for Excellence in Graduate Advising. In May, he and his co-authors of “Viral Visualizations: How Coronavirus Skeptics Use Orthodox Data Practices to Promote Unorthodox Science Online” won an honorable mention for best paper at the virtual Computer-Human Interaction (CHI) conference.

With a June 2021 publication in *WIRED Magazine* following up on an August 2020 essay in *Boston Review*, Associate Professor Amy Moran-Thomas brought nationwide attention to the racial bias built into the fingertip pulse-oximeter, a key tool in monitoring the effects of respiratory distress due to COVID-19, inspiring breakthrough medical research and new regulatory discussions in Congress.

Paxson continued her 5-year term as co-editor of *Cultural Anthropology*, one of our discipline’s flagship journals, a position that carries with it an appointment to the executive committee for the Society for Cultural Anthropology (a section of the American Anthropological Association). Following the January 6, 2021 storming of the U.S. Capitol, she co-edited an open access forum for *Cultural Anthropology* on American fascism.

Professor Christine Walley oversaw a “soft launch” of the Southeast Chicago Archive and Storytelling Project, a digital archive and multimedia experience that conveys what daily life was like for Chicago’s ethnically and racially diverse working-class communities during the city’s industrial era. Walley co-directs the project in collaboration with the Southeast Chicago Historical Museum.

Anthropology received internal and external funding for a number of new initiatives and projects. The program received funds from the Provost for the purpose of assisting with COVID-driven teaching expenses.

Additionally, the program obtained monies from the Experiential Learning Opportunity program to fund three student projects, supervised by Paxson. Paxson received additional monies from the Programs in Digital Humanities’ Fund for Unfashionable Maintenance of Digital Projects (FUMP) to support an update and enhanced functionality of the open-source submission system used by Cultural Anthropology.

Edoh’s Justice Now symposium brought in funds from across the Institute, including from the MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) Dean’s Office French Fund.

Leon and Anne Goldberg Professor Susan Silbey was selected to receive support from the d'Arbeloff Fund for Excellence in Education for her project, "Power: Interpersonal, Organization, and Institutional Dimensions."

Paxson's graduate student, Alex Rewegan, received an NSF doctoral dissertation research improvement grant for his ethnographic work on innovation and equity in non-food agriculture in North America.

Teaching and Curriculum

Beltrán taught 21A.504J Cultures of Computing in fall 2020, which is co-listed with Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) and STS. He introduced a new undergraduate class, 21A.511 Hacking from the South, in spring 2021.

In fall 2020, Buyandelger taught 21A.104 Memory, Culture, and Forgetting, and one of our core undergraduate classes, 21A.01 How Culture Works in spring 2021.

Edoh was on leave fall 2020 and in spring 2021 taught 21A.137J African Migrations.

Helmreich was on leave in fall 2020. In spring 2021, he taught a graduate class required of students in the HASTS doctoral program, "Social Theory and Analysis." He also co-taught the very popular undergraduate class, 21A.157 The Meaning of Life, with Paxson.

Jones taught the graduate-level seminar "Qualitative Theory and Analysis" in fall 2021.

Moran-Thomas offered 21A.312 Planetary Change and Human Health during fall 2020, and was on leave in spring 2021.

Paxson co-taught 21A.157 The Meaning of Life with Helmreich in spring 2021; with support from the SHASS blended learning program, they created a series of short video lectures to complement synchronous remote class discussions.

Silbey was on leave in fall 2020, and taught her graduate-level methods class 21A.809 Designing Empirical Research in the Social Sciences in spring 2021. Her second online course with EdX, 21A.918.2x Qualitative Research Methods: Data Coding and Analysis, finished filming in December 2020 and went live in February 2021.

Associate Professor Bettina Stoetzer taught a communication intensive in the humanities, arts, and social sciences (CI-H) class, 21A.132J Race and Migration in Europe, in fall 2020.

Walley was on leave in fall 2020 and taught the graduate-level seminar 21A.429J Environmental Conflict" in spring 2020.

This year, we hired three lecturers to augment our undergraduate offerings and to reduce the burden of remote teaching for our faculty during the pandemic year. To offer one of our most popular core classes, 21A.500 Technology and Culture, in both semesters, we hired Ben Wurgaft in fall 2020 and Lauren Bonilla in spring 2021. Bonilla also taught another of our core classes, 21A.00 Introduction to Anthropology:

Comparing Human Cultures, in fall 2021. In spring 2021, Karem Said filled in for Stoetzer to teach 21A.407J Gender, Race, and Environmental Justice, which is co-listed with WGS, STS, and Global Languages.

As has been the case for several years, faculty participation in the HASTS doctoral program, as well as in PhD programs in the Sloan School of Management, the Department of Urban Studies, and the Program in Art, Culture and Technology, continues to be well in evidence with faculty members serving as graduate student advisors and on dissertation committees.

Beltrán advised two Undergraduate Research Opportunity Programs (UROPs) and served on a dissertation committee at Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico.

Buyandelger served on five dissertation committees, one at MIT and four outside MIT (University of California, Santa Cruz; Aarhus University; Harvard University; and the Max Planck Institute).

Edoh supervised two UROP students.

Helmreich served on 17 doctoral committees, eight as principal advisor, and two were outside MIT (New School University and Australian National University).

Jones served on three dissertation committees, two as principal advisor, and supervised the linguistic anthropology post-doctoral associate. He advised one undergraduate thesis student, three UROP students, and one undergraduate MIT Summer Research Program fellow.

Moran-Thomas served on one dissertation committee and advised one Humanities and Science (Course 21S) major.

Paxson served on five dissertation committees, one as principal advisor, and two were outside MIT (Harvard University and Washington University). She also supervised three UROP students.

Silbey served on 10 dissertation committees—of which six she served as principal or co-principal advisor and one committee is from Harvard—and advised seven UROP students (two from Brown University and one from Wellesley College).

Stoetzer was a dissertation committee member for a student from Harvard University.

Walley served on seven dissertation committees—of which four she served as principal advisor—and also served as advisor to our Humanities and Engineering (Course 21E) major.

Publications

Beltrán published “The First Latina Hackathon: Recording Infrastructures from México,” in *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, and Technoscience* 6(2).

Buyandelger submitted her final book manuscript, *A Thousand Steps to Parliament: Women Running for Election in Postsocialist Mongolia*, for publication at University of Chicago Press. She was featured in the “Meanings of Masks” series published by MIT SHASS, with her contribution “Masks can reveal new possibilities.”

Helmreich had multiple publications this year. He published one refereed article: “Flipping the Ship: Ocean Waves, Media Orientations, and Objectivity at Sea” in *Media and Environment*, May 2021. He also contributed four chapters in edited volumes and saw publications of eight invited essays, commentaries, and reviews.

Jones published three chapters in edited volumes and had one refereed article published with Jamie Wong, Crystal Lee, Vesper Keyi Long, and Di Wu: “‘Let’s Go, Baby Forklift!’: Fandom Governance and the Political Power of Cuteness in China” in *Social Media + Society* 7(2). He was also featured in the “Meanings of Masks” series published by MIT SHASS, with “Masks as Transformation.”

In addition to the previously mentioned publication in *WIRED Magazine*, Moran-Thomas published “How a Popular Medical Device Encodes Racial Bias” in *Boston Review* in August; this was reprinted as a book chapter in *Thinking in a Pandemic*, Matt Lord, ed., Verso, New York. Her article “Patient Activism and Dialysis Dilemmas Amidst a Global Diabetes Epidemic” appeared as a chapter in *Social Inequities and Contemporary Struggles for Collective Health in Latin America*, Emily Vasquez, Amaya Perez-Brumer, and Richard Parker, eds., Routledge, London. She also contributed “The Para-Communicable: Living Between Infectious and Non-Communicable Conditions” in *Epidemiological Change and Chronic Disease in Sub-Saharan Africa: Social and Historical Perspectives*, edited by Megan Vaughan, Kafui Adjaye-Gbewonyo, and Marissa Mika (London: UCL Press). Her work on pulse oximeters received media attention with stories in *Nature*, CNN, *The New York Times*, and Stat News. [MIT News](#) featured a story about her research and teaching, “On Planetary Change and Human Health,” in December 2020. Her book *Traveling with Sugar* was featured as “Book of the Month” for Real Food Media in April.

Paxson co-edited an open-access Hot Spot Series on “American Fascism” in April 2021.

Silbey published a book chapter, “Looking for Hegemony in All the Wrong Places: Critique, Context and Collectivities in Studies of Legal Consciousness,” with Patricia Ewick in the *Research Handbook on the Sociology of Law*, edited by Jiri Priban, Edward Elgar Publishers. In June, she published “Accountability Infrastructures: Pragmatic Regulation Inside Organizations” with Ruthanne Huisin in *Regulation and Governance*.

Stoetzer published “Urban Vulnerabilities” in *Social Anthropology* 28(2). She also published the chapter “Viruses, Pigs, and Humans Co-Evolve in a Deadly Dance” in *Feral Atlas: The More-Than-Human Anthropocene*, Anna Tsing, Jennifer Deger, Alder Saxena Keleman, and Feifei Zhou, eds., Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2020.

Walley published a research brief, “Robots as Symbols and Anxiety over Work Loss,” in her role as a member on the MIT Task Force on the Work of the Future; the report was featured in [MIT News](#) in November. In December, she published “The ‘How to’ of Working-Class Studies: Selves, Stories, and Working Across Media,” a chapter in *The Working-Class Studies Handbook*, Christie Launius, Tim Strangleman, and Michele Fazio, eds. (Routledge).

Presentations

Beltrán gave two virtual presentations in fall 2020. In October, he presented “Code Work: Thinking with the System in México” at the symposium “Just Code: Power, Inequality, and Global Political Inequality of IT,” hosted by the University of Minnesota’s Charles Babbage Institute in Minneapolis. In December, he was a featured discussant of “Computing in/from the South: A Global Celebration” at the Data and Society event in New York City. In May, he co-presented “Making, Unmaking, and Hacking Race and Data: Views from Anthropology” and served as a panelist at the Systemic Racism and Computation Workshop Series at MIT. In June, he gave a public talk “Comunidades de práctica y conocimiento libre en la tecnología” at the Centro Multimedia del Centro Nacional de las Artes en México.

In fall, Buyandelger presented “Trading History for Sheep: Memory, Migration, and Buryat-Mongol Identities through Shamanic Practices,” hosted by the University of Pennsylvania. In spring 2021, she was an invited discussant at the symposium, “New Directions in Research: Race, Gender, and Indigeneity in the American Arctic and Siberia,” as part of the “Race in Focus” series at the University of Pittsburgh; she gave the keynote at the Association for Central Eurasian Students Annual Conference (ACES), “Elections, Virtual Reality, and Climate Change: What Can Anthropology of Mongolia Offer?”; and she was featured guest speaker at the workshop “Mongolia in the 20th Century” at the American Center for Mongolian Studies, with “Why Revolution Did Not End: International Relations and the Mongolian Women.”

Edoh was on research leave in fall 2020. In spring 2021, she organized the symposium “Justice Now? Tackling Legacies of Europe’s Colonial Past in the Wake of Black Lives Matter,” a week-long event held virtually in March. In February, she presented “Belgium to Congo: Colonialism Reparation and Truth and Reconciliation Commission” as an invited panelist to Cornell University’s Institute for European Studies Migration Series, “Repairs and Reparations.” In April, she gave a virtual invited lecture, “Africa’s Expertise,” to MIT x True Africa University. In June she co-curated “Travail de mémoire,” an art exhibition in Lomé, Togo.

Helmreich gave numerous presentations in AY2021. In August 2020, he presented “Ocean Amplification” with Francisco Alarcon at the virtually held meetings of the Society for the Social Studies of Science hosted in Prague. At the same meeting, he hosted the panel “Approaching the Digital Anthropocene.” The following month, he remotely presented “Listening to the Waves: Tuning into Cosmic, Oceanic, and Sociogenic Noise, Sound, and Music” to the Music Department Seminar at the University of Pennsylvania. The following month, he presented “Coral and Algae, Blue and Unblue,” virtual commentary on Sonia Levy’s “For the Love of Corals” at the online symposium “The Camille Diaries: Current Artistic Positions on M/otherhood, Life and Care,” organized by the Art Laboratory Berlin. In October, he gave a lecture via Zoom called “Waves, Epidemic and Sonic” for the class “Sociological Analyses of the Pandemic” with Professors Olivier Borraz and Martin Giraudeau of Sciences Po in Paris. He served as a virtual guest lecturer to professor Suzanne Anker and professor Tarah Rhoda’s class Introduction to BioArt at the School of Visual Arts in New York City, presenting the lecture “Ocean Art,” and gave a guest lecture on “Ocean

Memory” to Buyandelger’s class 21A.104 Memory, Culture, and Forgetting at MIT. In December, he presented “On the Beach” at Des Vies avec des Plages: Expériences, Interactions, Gestions, a webinar sponsored by CNRS and the National Museum of Natural History in Brest, France. In March, he gave three guest lectures: “Underwater Music” to the Ocean Memory Project Sound Workshop; “The Colors of Saturated Seas” at *Uncanny Ocean*, a proposition by Ayesha Hameed, School of Art and Design, Geneva, Switzerland; and “Life Forms: Then, Now, Later” to 12.400 Our Space Odyssey at MIT. In June, he gave a lecture entitled “Ocean Waves, Ocean Science, Ocean Media” at *Liquid Infrastructures*, hosted by the Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology, Lisbon, Portugal. In spring 2021, he co-organized the symposium mentioned above, “Unfolding Intelligence: The Art and Science of Contemporary Computation.” Also in April, he participated in an online conversation with Ayesha Hameed for The Liquid Club #15, Liverpool Biennial 2021 online artist platform. In May, he participated via Skype at Armen Avanesian & Enemies #95: XXI Century Sciences: Luciana Parisi, Stefan Helmreich, and Laurent de Sutter in conversation with Armen Avanesian, in Berlin. Also in May, he presented “Ocean Waves, Ocean Science, Ocean Media” as part of the “Making the Unknown Knowable” online seminar series at the University of Manchester, UK. That same month, he co-presented “Making, Unmaking, and Hacking Race and Data: Views from Anthropology” and served as a panelist at the virtual Systemic Racism and Computation Workshop Series at MIT.

Jones presented “Viral Visualizations: How Coronavirus Skeptics Use Orthodox Data Practices to Promote Unorthodox Science Online” with Crystal Lee, Tanya Yang, Gabrielle Inchoco, and Professor Arvind Satyanarayan at the virtual CHI conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems in May. This paper received an honorable mention for best paper, as mentioned above. Also in May, he gave an invited talk, “Varieties of Quasi- and Para-Religious Experience: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Innovations in Civic Piety during COVID-19” at the Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial Meeting.

Moran-Thomas gave several virtual talks in fall 2020. In September, she gave an invited talk “Needed Innovation: Case Study of the Pulse Ox” for the symposium “Body at All Scales” for MIT Nano/Mechanical Engineering. For the Harvard Critical Humanities Working Group in October, she gave a colloquium talk, “Race, Covid, and Medical Technology: Case of the Pulse Ox,” in conversation with Evelyn Hammonds. Also in October, Moran-Thomas gave an invited talk, “Repair Work: Diabetic Limb Salvage and What it Reveals about an Overlooked Epidemic,” for the Princeton Global Health Colloquium. In November, she participated in a book symposium for her 2019 book, “Reflections on *Traveling with Sugar: Chronicles of a Global Epidemic*” in conversation with Tonya Haynes, hosted by the University of West Indies in Barbados; she also presented “Medical Technologies and Plantation Legacies in the Caribbean Diabetes Epidemic” to the Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She presented her paper “Anthropology of a Fever Dream” at Harvard in December. In January, she presented a seminar “One Hundred Years of Insulin for Some” at the Medical Anthropology Seminar Series, hosted by University College of London (UCL) Anthropology.

Paxson provided discussant commentary on the panel “Cultivating Futures: Imaginary Landscapes and the Agrarian Anthropocene” at the virtual meeting of the History of Science Society hosted in Utrecht, Netherlands in July. She gave three virtual talks in November: “How to publish an article in *Cultural Anthropology*,” a workshop at the virtual American Anthropological Association meetings; “Thinking with Microbes, and Microbiopolitics,” a public lecture as part of a series on “Thinking Through Microbes” hosted by Goldsmiths University in the UK; and “Microbiopolitics Now, in Food Safety and Beyond,” a public lecture as part of a series on “Rescaling the Metabolic,” hosted by the Center for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities at the University of Cambridge, UK. She gave a guest lecture on “Food and Memory” to Buyandelger’s class 21A.104 Memory, Culture, and Forgetting, and remotely visited a cultural anthropology class at Elon University that was reading her book, *The Life of Cheese*. In May, she gave a lecture, “The Safety of Fermented Foods: Raw-Milk vs. Pasteurized-Milk Cheese(s),” as part of the Fermentology online mini-lecture series hosted by North Carolina State University. Also in May, she co-presented “Making, Unmaking, and Hacking Race and Data: Views from Anthropology” and served as a panelist and moderator at the Systemic Racism and Computation Workshop Series at MIT.

Stoetzer gave a virtual talk in July, “Animate Mobilities: Pigs, Viruses, and Humans Co-Evolve in a Deadly Dance,” as part of a panel at the annual meeting of the European Association for Social Anthropology.

Walley gave an online talk in December for the Comparative Media Studies colloquium series at MIT, “Reworking the Archive: The Southeast Chicago Archive and Storytelling Project” with co-developer Chris Boebel and creative director Jeff Soyk. She was a roundtable discussant for two panels in May: *The Personal is Historical: Incorporating Family Legacies and Personal Experience into Labor History*, at the Labor and Working-Class History annual conference, and for Jack Metzgar’s book *Striking Steel*, at the Labor and Working-Class History conference.

Contributions to MIT and Outside Communities

Anthropology faculty members served on a wide range of committees and task forces at MIT. Beltrán served as the Anthropology Unit Representative to the HASTS Program Seminar in fall 2020. He serves on the Dean’s Action Group for Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing (SERC) committee as well as the DeFlorez Humor Fund Committee and the MIT Editorial Board for Case Studies in SERC. He also recruited high school students in the Los Angeles area to apply to MIT and to pursue higher education in general.

Buyandelger served as the Anthropology minor advisor for AY2021, was the equal opportunity officer, and organized the colloquium “Climate, History, and Nomadic Empires,” held in November. She also served on the MIT Faculty Newsletter Editorial Board, the SHASS Education Advisory Committee, and the WGS curriculum committee.

Edoh served on Anthropology’s Howe Paper Prize Committee, on the OpenCourseWare Faculty Advisory Board, and on the MIT-Africa Seminar Series Steering Committee.

Helmreich served as a faculty mentor in Anthropology as well as on the executive committee for CAST. In spring he was a member of the Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing Dean's Action Group for Active Learning Projects.

Jones served as director of graduate studies in the HASTS program and continued his mentorship of one post-doctoral fellow and two faculty members. He continued to serve on the MIT Museum Collections Committee, the Institute Committee for Student Life, the Digital Humanities Steering Committee, and the editorial board for MIT Case Studies in SERC. He reviewed applications for MIT's Summer Research Program. He also served on the Thunder Committee for ramp-up of human subjects research during the pandemic, and was a faculty participant in the MIT Museum's program for K-12 teachers.

Moran-Thomas was the SHASS representative on the MIT Climate Action Advisory Committee. She was the concentration advisor for Anthropology in fall 2020, also serving on its curriculum committee. She continued to serve on the Counsel for the Uncertain Human Future MIT Working Group and the SERC committee of the Computing, Data, and Anti-Racism Task Force through fall 2020.

Paxson started in July as head of Anthropology, serving on its curriculum committee, as transfer credit examiner, on the HASTS steering committee, and on SHASS council. She served on MIT's committee on broadening IDSS, on the SERC editorial board for case study review, and on the MISTI Global Seed Funds evaluation committee. She continued to serve on the SHASS gender equity committee and helped to organize the senior women's faculty council.

Silbey served on the presidential advisory board, tasked to make recommendations on ways MIT could respond to the report of the National Academies Committee on Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine. She also served on the faculty advisory committee for MITx, on the committee to recommend guidelines for donor and international engagements, and was a board member of MIT Press.

Stoetzer served on Anthropology's curriculum committee in the fall term as undergraduate officer. Walley served on Anthropology's curriculum committee in the spring term in her role as undergraduate officer, and was concentration advisor for the whole year. She also served on the Howe Paper Prize committee and organized Ajantha Subramanian's lecture on "Meritocracy and Democracy: The Social Life of Caste in India." She continued to serve on the Taskforce on the Work of the Future throughout fall 2020.

In fall 2020, Buyandelger, Jones, Moran-Thomas, Paxson, Stoetzer and Walley co-authored a "Climate and Society Center" letter of interest for MIT's Grand Climate Challenges competition, which received faculty endorsement across SHASS.

Outside MIT, Beltrán reviewed articles for *Cultural Anthropology* and *Anthropology of Work Review*. He gave a guest lecture to an anthropology class at San Diego State University in September 2020. He continues to serve as a mentor to undergraduate and graduate students in two programs at UC Berkeley.

Buyandelger served as a reviewer for *HAU Journal of Ethnographic Theory* and Cornell University Press. She co-organized the 16th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics, which was postponed to a date to be determined. She consulted for Maxima Consulting and Research LLC Mongolia.

Edoh gave a guest lecture in November to students at Lesley University about Dutch wax and the politics of the body. Also in November, she started to co-lead an ongoing project on Tackling Europe's Colonial Past Initiative with international human rights NGO Avocats sans Frontières. This consisted of producing a 12-minute documentary, recording a podcast, and starting to plan the symposium that would become "Justice Now? Tackling Legacies of Europe's Colonial Past in the Wake of Black Lives Matter," held over one week in March 2021.

Helmreich served on the editorial boards of *Cultural Anthropology*; *Culture, Theory, and Critique*; and *Current Anthropology*. He continued to serve on the advisory board of *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, and Technoscience*. He was an article referee for *Current Anthropology*; *Cultural Anthropology*; *History of Science*; *Configurations*; *Culture, Theory, Critique*; *Journal of Sonic Studies*; and *American Ethnologist*. He served as a grant screener for the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and a fellowship reviewer Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Jones continued to serve on the editorial committees of the *Annual Review of Anthropology* and *Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft*. He finished his tenure on the editorial committee for *HAU Journal of Ethnographic Theory*. He served as fellowship reviewer for the American Academy in Berlin. He reviewed manuscripts for Oxford Press and Routledge Press and reviewed articles for *Visual Studies*, *Current Anthropology*, *International Journal of Speech, Language, and the Law*, and *Anthropology Today*.

Moran-Thomas was a collaborating co-organizer for the Harvard-MIT Friday morning seminar in culture, psychiatry, and global mental health and a member of the contemporary Latin American Anthropology workshop. She is on the editorial board of *Current Anthropology* and served as a peer reviewer for *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* and University of California Press. She gave two talks to industry on diabetes equity. Paxson served as co-editor of *Cultural Anthropology* and as an executive committee board member of the Society for Cultural Anthropology, a section of the American Anthropological Association. She organized a panel at the virtual meeting of Society for Social Studies of Science hosted in Prague in August, and participated in a radio interview on the Future of Raw Milk Cheese for the Heritage Radio Network in November. She wrote three book blurbs and reviewed articles for *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* and *Current Anthropology* as well as a proposal for Duke University Press. She served as a fellowship reviewer for the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and on the Academic Advisory Board of the Oldways Preservation and Trust's Cheese Coalition.

Silbey was on the review panel of the European Research Council, and is on the executive committee and board of trustees for the Law & Society Association, the National Committee of Lawyers and Scientists of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and on the committee on Science, Technology and the law of the National Academy of Sciences. She also serves as a mentor for junior scholars at the

American Bar Foundation. She is an article reviewer for *Work and Occupations*, *American Journal of Sociology*, and *Law and Society Review*. Stoetzer reviewed articles for *Cultural Anthropology*, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, and *Thresholds* (MIT Department of Architecture). Walley organized and vetted panels for the Society for Visual Anthropology (SVA) program during the AAA meetings held virtually in November 2020. She served as a board member and awards committee member for the SVA.

Response to the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued, MIT Anthropology continued to teach all subjects synchronously online and made certain that each class instructor had a back-up instructor who could step in in case of illness or other epidemic-related hardship.

MIT Anthropology faculty continued to publish opinion pieces and articles on the COVID-19 pandemic. During the summer, Buyandelger wrote “Masks Can Reveal New Possibilities” for the SHASS Meanings of Masks series. Stefan Helmreich co-authored with historian of medicine David Jones a piece on the history of the metaphor of “herd immunity,” published in *Lancet*. With HASTS student Crystal Lee, Graham Jones used a mixed-methods approach to analyze the spread of COVID-19 misinformation on social media, and he wrote “A Collective Cry for Justice” for the SHASS Meanings of Masks series. Moran-Thomas wrote “How a Popular Medical Device Encodes Racial Bias” for *Boston Review* in August, reprinted as a book chapter in *Thinking in a Pandemic*, Matt Lord, ed., Verso, New York. In June, she published “Oximeters Used to be Designed for Equity. What Happened?” in *WIRED Magazine*.

Heather Paxson

William R. Keenan, Jr. Professor of Anthropology