



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
DIPARTIMENTO DI BENI CULTURALI

SCALA Anthro Brown Bag Seminar Series – Spring Semester 2024 DBC, UNIBO

Sala Conferenze (3rd floor), DBC, Via degli Ariani 1, Ravenna
&
Online (on Zoom)

1) Friday 8th March 2024, 12:00-13:00 (CET)

Human potato relatedness and affective attunement across species in the Peruvian Highlands

Olivia Angé, Laboratoire d'anthropologie des mondes contemporains, Université Libre de Bruxelles.

2) Friday 5th April 2024, 12:00-13:00 (CET) (speaker online, audience in person & online)

What does care take? Saving and sequestering in an age of mass extinction.

Liana Chua (Tunku Abdul Rahman University Associate Professor in Malay World Studies, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge) with the [GLO](#) and [POKOK](#) project teams.

3) Friday 12th April 2024, 12:00-13:00 (CET)

On border beings

Carolina Kobelinsky, Laboratoire d'ethnologie et de sociologie comparative, Paris Nanterre-CNRS.

4) Friday 10th May 2024, 11:00-13:00 (CET) – Please note earlier start!

Reviving anti-imperialist nodes of solidarity on a global scale

Walaa Alqaisiya, Università Ca' Foscari & Columbia University + Matteo Capasso, Università Ca' Foscari & Columbia University.

5) Friday 17th May 2024, 12:00-13:00 (CET) (in person only)

*I-Contact student-led seminar special! *

Roundtable: 'What Future for Gender, Queer & Postcolonial Studies in Today's Worlds? The View from Emerging Young Scholars'

with Agar Shehata Moussa Omar, Nour Raji Saleh Shehadeh and Maria Pia Tenerello.

6) Friday 24th May 2024, 12:00-13:00 (CET)

"What are we to do?": Opening potentialities and creating possibilities in contemporary Albania

Nataša Gregorič Bon, Institute of Anthropological and Spatial Studies, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU).

SCALA Anthro Brown Bag Seminar Series – Spring Semester 2024
DBC, UNIBO

Full programme

(with Zoom registration link for those connecting online)

1) Friday 8th March 2024, 12:00-13:00 (CET)

‘Human potato relatedness and affective attunement across species in the Peruvian Highlands’

Olivia Angé, Professor of Anthropology, Laboratoire d’anthropologie des mondes contemporains, Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Abstract: Highland people in the Cuzco region of Peru eat so much potato that they are aware of their body as being made of this tuber. Not an ingredient to be passively absorbed, potatoes are related to humans in a reversible genealogy whereby they are both mother and child to their grower. Observing how this relation is enacted in practices highlights mutual nurturing as a key interaction that creates kinship. Nurturing entails the circulation of *kusisqa*, a Quechua notion of joy which complexifies an established conceptualization of affect as pre-reflexive reaction. Imbued with emotionality and self-reflexivity, potatoes’ contentment is a core concern for cultivators. A focus on affective attunement between humans and plant crops through labour and ingestion offers new perspectives on the substance of kinship and interspecies mutuality of being.

Short bio: **Olivia Angé** (she/her) is Professor of anthropology at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and Principal Investigator of the ERC Starting Grant [SeedsValues](#). She specializes in the study of agriculture, value creation, and relatedness in the Andes. Since 2014, she has been doing research on potato cultivation in Peru. She has also conducted extensive fieldwork on barter fairs in the Argentinean cordillera. She is the author of *Barter and Social Regeneration in the Argentinean Andes* (Berghahn 2022, 2nd edn.), and co-author of *Ecological Nostalgias* (Berghahn 2021, 1st edn.).

Zoom registration link:

<https://unibo.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZYqcOmorT0jG9z6fPO-UsV7k5IGbO8VYjbS>

2) Friday 5th April 2024, 12:00-13:00 (CET)

What does care take? Saving and sequestering in an age of mass extinction

Liana Chua (Tunku Abdul Rahman University Associate Professor in Malay World Studies, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge) with the [GLO](#) and [POKOK](#) project teams

Abstract: What does it take to care about and for (non)human others at a time of sustained environmental crisis? What does it mean to be a care-taker? And what do programmes and practices of care take – as in demand, claim, or extract? I explore these questions by drawing on my colleagues’ and my recent multi-sited research on the global nexus of orangutan conservation – a sprawling multispecies field teeming with concerns over who/what cares for orangutans, and how. Taking a critical relational view of how multiple forms and registers of cross-species care play out – particularly in the fraught frontier zones of rural Borneo – I foreground the continued importance of careful(l) ethnographic engagement in nuancing and ‘unsettling’ (Murphy 2015) hierarchies of care in both conservation and academia.

Short bio: **Liana Chua** (she/her) is a social anthropologist with long-term research interests in ethnic politics, Christianity, development, environmental transformations and more-than-human landscapes in Borneo. She currently works on the social, political and aesthetic dimensions of the global nexus of orangutan conservation in the age of ‘the Anthropocene’, notably through the *Global Lives of the Orangutan* project (ERC 2018-23). Her publications include *The Christianity of Culture: Conversion, Ethnic Citizenship, and the Matter of Religion in Malaysian Borneo* (2012) and several co-edited collections, including *Who are “We”? Reimagining Alterity and Affinity in Anthropology* (with Nayanika Mathur, 2018), and “Witnessing : Truths, Technologies, Transformations” (with Omri Grinberg, *Cambridge Journal of Anthropology*, 2021).

Zoom registration link:

<https://unibo.zoom.us/join/9zaL6PQZfv0>

4) Friday 10th May 2024, 11:00-13:00 (CET) (please note earlier start!)

Reviving anti-imperialist nodes of solidarity on a global scale

Walaa Alqaisiya, Marie Curie Global Fellow, Università Ca' Foscari & Columbia University and **Matteo Capasso**, Marie Curie Global Fellow, Università Ca' Foscari & Columbia University

Abstract: In the last two decades, racial capitalism and settler colonialism have consolidated as major conceptual tools to rethink the struggles of racialised groups in the North/South of the world. Respectively, they emphasize the primacy of race and indigeneity as lenses required to frame political oppression on a worldwide scale, and responses to it from within the political and epistemic needs—i.e., abolitionism and decoloniality—of these positionalities. However, they often do so by ignoring the contributions of anti-imperialism and Third World Marxism in advancing these causes. This piece reassembles the intellectual and political solidarities established across the Lakota nation (US), Libya and Palestine, through archival (from the late 1960s-80s) and field (2022-23) research. Drawing on a south-led theory and political praxis, we recentre anti-imperialism to the struggle of the Global South and racial “minorities” in the US imperial core with a twofold aim. First, gauge the value of the historical and material proximity of racialised/indigenous working class to their Southern compatriots; and second, challenge the collapse of radical theories within the political and intellectual boundaries of the liberal democracy project in the US imperial core.

Short bios: **Walaa Alqaisiya** (she/her) is a Marie Curie Global Fellow working across: Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy), Columbia University in the City of New York (USA) and the London School of Economics and Political Science (UK). She received her PhD in Human Geography from Durham University (UK), and worked as a Teaching Fellow in Gender, Sexuality and Conflict at the Department of Gender Studies, London School of Economics. Her forthcoming book *Decolonial Queering in Palestine* examines queer politics and aesthetics from a Palestinian native positionality. Walaa's Marie Curie Fellowship extends her work on settler colonialism, decoloniality and gender whilst bringing an ecological and environmental dimension to these fields. It draws on multiple locales of indigeneity (i.e., Turtle Island, Palestine) to examine comparable historical and political processes of colonial ecocidal violence and the value of Indigene's decolonial ecologies.

Matteo Capasso (he/his) is a Marie Curie Global Fellow between Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy, and Columbia University in the City of New York, US. He was previously a Max Weber Research Fellow at the European University Institute and Visiting Fellow at the University of Turin. He is the author of the upcoming monograph, *Everyday Politics in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya* (Syracuse University Press) that reconstructs the last two decades of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, leading up to the 2011 events that sanctioned its fall. Since 2013, he has been working for *Middle East Critique*, currently as Managing Editor. His current project focuses on the study of US-led imperialism through the Libyan microcosm. His research interests include political history, everyday politics, and international political economy, with a focus on the modern Middle East and North Africa and the Global South at large.

Zoom registration link:

<https://unibo.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZApOGvrijMrGNR8-JTvu0wzkKQhnia37Nen>

5) Friday 17th May 2024, 12:00-13:00 (CET) (in person only)

*I-Contact student-led seminar special! *

Roundtable: ‘What Future for Gender, Queer & Postcolonial Studies in Today’s Worlds? The View from Emerging Young Scholars’, with Agar Shehata Moussa Omar, Nour Raji Saleh Shehadeh and Maria Pia Tenerello.

Chair: Amanda Quach (I-Contact, DBC, University of Bologna and Founder & President of T’ôchi Bellezza)

Roundtable papers, followed by Q&A:

Agar Shehata Moussa Omar (she/her) (I-Contact, DBC, University of Bologna): ‘A Feminist and Postcolonial Critique of Female Genital Cutting: Deconstructing Western Narratives, Empowering Marginalized Voices, and Decolonizing Feminist Discourse’

Nour Raji Saleh Shehadeh (she/her) (I-Contact, DBC, University of Bologna): ‘Examining Colonial Feminism in Israel/Palestine Puzzle: Unmasking the Phenomenon of Purplewashing’

Maria Pia Tenerello (she/her) (I-Contact, DBC, University of Bologna): ‘Digital Backlash: Disinformation Campaigns and Queer Activism Online in Italy’

After the seminar we will have a picnic lunch at the park to celebrate the end of the academic year and say goodbye to friends who recently graduated! Bring food, drinks, blankets, and musical instruments!

6) Friday 24th May 2024, 12:00-13:00 (CET)

“What are we to do?”: Opening potentialities and creating possibilities in contemporary Albania

Nataša Gregorič Bon, Research Associate & Assistant Professor, Institute of Anthropological and Spatial Studies, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU)

Abstract: Accelerated extractionism, increasing emigration, gentrification, land grabbing and general political crises seem to be plunging contemporary lifeworlds in Albania into uncertainty and mistrust. How can this gloomy present be restructured in the everyday lives of people in Albania, which is often referred to as one of the lowest income countries in Europe according to international economic assessments? While many local economists and politicians still cling to the discourse of postcommunist transition, which by definition should promise a better future and prosperity for all, inhabitants are increasingly confronted with a sense of powerlessness in their everyday lives, where alternative scenarios often seem non-existent and overdrawn with the passive attitude that is often explained with the rhetorical question ‘what are we to do’. In the midst of this passive and uncertain present, this presentation attends to specific individuals - artists, environmental and social activists - who are trying to overcome this prevailing thought matrix in order to ensure general well-being. The presentation explores the processes, plans and aspirations of these few individuals who, through their artistic projects and various social and environmental actions, juxtapose different layers of the past, restore and interpret them in the nexus of contemporary events. By engaging in sensory and affective domains, these rare individuals seek to open up a space that has the potential and capacity to restore collective commons, unlock future possibilities and improve well-being in the country.

Short bio: **Nataša Gregorič Bon** (she/her) is a social anthropologist with a long standing research in Albania. Her interests include spatial anthropology, movements, mobility and migrations, border dynamics, anthropology of water and environmental anthropology. She is the author of the monograph *Spaces of Discordance* (ZRC Publishing House, 2008), translated into Albanian and published by Morava Publishing House in 2015. She is also co-author of the monograph *(Non)movement and Place-Making* (ZRC Publishing House, 2013) and co-editor of the volumes *Remitting, Restoring and Building Contemporary Albania* (Palgrave MacMillan/Springer Books, 2021) and *Moving Places* (Berghahn Books, 2016). For the latter, she and co-editor Jaka Repič received the Slovenian Research Agency's award Excellent in Science. She has an editor for *Anthropological Notebooks* since 2023 and co-editor of the *Space, Place, Time* at the ZRC Publishing House since 2013. She was Departmental Visitor at the University of Canberra (Australia), Visiting Fellow at SSEES, UCL (UK) and Centre of South Eastern and European Studies (CSEES), University of Graz (Austria) and Visiting Lecturer at Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki (Finland).

Zoom registration link:

https://unibo.zoom.us/joining/register/tZUod--orzkpHtTDZAmkVsH2i2_sQnwErQir