

Anthropology Pilot Research

S T A R T S Fund

Student Training in
Anthropological Research
Tools and Skills

David Notkin & Cathy Tuttle
Founding Donors

A note of thanks to Cathy Tuttle

A decision to embark upon a PhD in anthropology represents a remarkable personal commitment to the value of understanding human lives in all their complexity and variety. These budding scholars devote their considerable talents and energies for some years, learning anthropological concepts, methods, and skills that will allow them to carry out original research that has the potential to make the world a better place, by expanding our understanding of what it means to be human.

In founding the STARTS* fund, you and David made your own remarkable personal investment in these emerging scholars, and the work that they will go on to do. For the individual students whose pilot research is supported, this gift of confidence makes many things possible; such gifts have a way of calling forth the best in people. The students whose work is featured in this booklet are doing their best to deserve the faith that you and other supporters have shown in them by producing excellent work. In a world much in need of increased human understanding, your hopeful vision of anthropological research as part of broader efforts to create a future worth striving toward is, in itself, a remarkable gift.

Thank you, Cathy, from the bottom of our hearts.



Janelle S. Taylor, Chair

On behalf of the Department of Anthropology

** The STARTS fund supports graduate students in the Department of Anthropology who are conducting pilot field research.*



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Pilot funding recipients by year

2007-08	Joyce LeCompte-Mastenbrook Emily Lynch Emily Peterson Chung-Ching Shiung Mia Siscawati Anusorn Unno Katherine Wander
2008-09	Shelby Anderson Jennifer Huff Gladys Jian Henry Lyle Laura Newlon Bonnie Tilland
2009-10	Megan Carney Amy Jordan Molly Odell Nicole Torres
2010-11	Jennifer Carroll Damarys Espinoza Jun Hong Kim Michele Statz Evi Sutrisno Benjamin Trumble
2011-12	Hsi-Wen Chang Adam Freeburg Salem Gugsu Lisbeth Louderback Anna Zogas
2012-13	William Brown Anna Cohen Joshua Griffin
2013-14	Baishakhi Basu David Carlson Shanna Scherbinske Kate Zyskowski

Joyce LeCompte-Mastenbrook 2007

I am a doctoral candidate in Environmental Anthropology. My research focuses on the history, ethnoecology, and cultural politics of natural resource management and access in the Pacific Northwest. Through an in-depth study of long-term and ever-evolving human connections to the mountain huckleberry and the fires that sustain them, my work grapples with questions of humans' place in nature and what it means to live in a landscape so recently colonized by predominately Euro-American settlers. As a settler myself with a deep sense of responsibility and attachment to my home, I approach all of my work with the following question in mind: How shall we (both human and non-human) live together in this place?



I address this question in conversation with Puget Salish tribes, tribal staff, and public land managers on issues of access to and management of mountain huckleberry on public lands in the western Cascade Mountains of Washington. A major goal is to contribute to a better understanding on the part of land managers and the public of the role that traditional foods—including their harvest,

consumption, and management—play in fostering and maintaining the physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of Native people. My work focuses primarily on “up-river” Puget Salish and their connections to montane habitats, and will bring into sharper focus the deep historical and ongoing connections that Puget Salish people have with the Cascade Mountains.



I received pilot funding in the summer of 2007 to co-organize a “Huckleberry Summit” at Pack Forest in Eatonville, WA. We brought together over sixty tribal members, land managers, anthropologists, historians and ecologists to share their expertise about big huckleberry culture, management, history, and politics. This event was essential to the success of my research. The connections made and the knowledge gained through the Summit have helped me to refine my project and ultimately to secure financial support from an NSF dissertation improvement grant as well as from the US Geological Survey, Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest, and the Tulalip Tribes.

Photographs:

Muckleshoot tribal members harvesting berries at Bone Lake, where ancestors of the Muckleshoot people historically burned the meadows.

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie staff and Muckleshoot tribal members are discussing the huckleberry enhancement project at Government Meadow.

Emily Lynch 2007

My research was conducted in the Pacific Northwest, where I examined the negotiation process over health insurance benefits between the unions representing King County government employees and their employers. I found that the complexity of details involved in health insurance discouraged both unions and management from seeking worker input in the process. I also found that unions and management were each allowing “wellness” language to disguise a general degradation in benefits. Workers themselves were ambivalent about “wellness” initiatives in their workplace. Some appreciated the motivation to become healthier (and ostensibly save the county on healthcare costs), while others suggested that a cut to healthcare benefits by any other name is still a cut.



Pilot funding helped me get my project off the ground. It paid for transportation to places as far-flung as the King County landfill and waste transfer station so that I could interview employees working in these locations. Pilot funding also enabled me to hire a much-appreciated transcription service for my interviews so that I could get right down to interview analysis.

I received my MA in Anthropology in 2008 and am now working as a public librarian after receiving my MLIS in 2012. Although I am not pursuing a career in academic anthropology, the research skills I gained during my pilot research project are extremely important to my work as a public servant in Washington State.

Photograph:

Exploring the King County labor movement on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 21, 2008.

Chung-Ching Shiung 2008

I received my PhD in Archaeology in 2011. My dissertation research explored the changes in material culture and settlement patterns in the Banda Islands, Maluku Province, Indonesia during the period from the 11th to 17th centuries. Currently I am a lecturer in the Department of Anthropology at Sun Yat-Sen University (Zhongshan University) in Guangzhou, China.

I received pilot funding in 2008. The pilot funding provided me with the opportunity to travel to the Banda Islands for one month and examine archaeological artifacts, thus giving me the opportunity to begin my research on ceramic data in this region. Thanks to the funding and my initial work, I was able to secure more funding later on that allowed me to continue with my research and to write my dissertation.



I am now conducting a new, but related, project in Ternate and Tidore, North Maluku, Indonesia. It was the pilot funding that provided the stepping-stone to my career. I was able to start my first research in Maluku, and now to

continue and extend ideas from that original work to my new field site. The pilot funding I received has made all the difference to my career in the archaeology of Indonesia.



Photographs:

Chung-Ching Shiung traveling by boat in the Banda Islands, Indonesia, 2007.

Chung-Ching Shiung investigating plant collections at the Herbarium Bogoriense and Treub Laboratory, Indonesia, 2007.

Anusorn Unno 2007

I am currently an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the Faculty of Sociology and Anthropology, Thammasat University, Thailand. I obtained my PhD from the University of Washington's Department of Anthropology in 2011. My dissertation explored the ways in which Malay Muslims in the volatile region of southern Thailand carried out their daily lives and how they addressed questions of identities and allegiances that had been exacerbated by the recent ethnic separatist insurgency. My dissertation had its beginning with the pilot funding I received in 2007.



Initially, I did not have a clear idea about what I wanted to look at among Malay Muslims of southern Thailand or how to conduct ethnographic research in this violence-plagued region. The pilot funding helped me with this in three respects. First, it provided me with an opportunity to travel across the region, to experience what was taking place, and to listen to how local residents talked and thought about the unrest. Second, it enabled me to meet local academics and concerned residents and to talk to them about their feelings about the unrest and the existing scholarly works on it. Third, it allowed me to establish contact with a host

family and evaluate the feasibility of doing fieldwork in the villages. With these experiences and insights that I gained over two months of pilot work in southern Thailand, I succeeded in writing dissertation proposals and later received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant.

Many scholars working in this area have referred to my dissertation as a “must-read” scholarly work on Malay Muslims of southern Thailand amidst the recent unrest, which turned me into an “expert” on this issue. As such, it is not an exaggeration to say that without the pilot funding I may not be where I am today in my profession.

Photograph:

Anusorn Unno performing Silat, a Malay martial art, in a village of southern Thailand as part of a ritual to pay respect to Silat teachers.

Shelby Anderson 2008



I received my PhD in Archaeology in 2011 and am currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Portland State University. I study how people in the past created, maintained, and manipulated social networks as a way of coping with periods of environmental instability. I do this in part by studying the movement of ceramic materials across a region and over time using various sourcing methods.

In 2008 I received pilot funding to support an initial analysis of ceramic materials from northwest Alaska. I traveled to the University of Alaska Museum in Fairbanks, where I spent several weeks studying ceramic collections and selecting a few samples for my initial sourcing effort. The results of this work showed that, contrary to what most archaeologists have thought, ceramic materials were indeed being moved across significant distances in my study area. Ceramics were therefore a good proxy for social networks and interactions in northwest Alaska over the last 1500 years. Establishing this information meant that I could move forward with my dissertation research.

In my study region very little prior ceramic research existed for me to build on. Thus, this pilot research was indispensable in helping me refine my dissertation

topic and methodology. It also helped me to later secure dissertation research funding from the National Science Foundation and led to my first major peer-reviewed publication in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*. The pilot funding was a critical first stepping stone towards the research that I continue with today.



Photographs:

Sampling clay materials on the Kobuk River, Alaska, 2010.

Contemplating a Thule house at Cape Espenberg, Alaska, 2011.

Gladys Jian 2008

I am a PhD candidate in the Sociocultural Anthropology program. My dissertation research is on private English education among the Turkic-speaking Uyghur college students in Xingjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in China.



I received pilot funding in the summer of 2008 to aid my pilot research on private English education in Beijing, China, right before the Beijing Olympics were about to start. It was a special time when the passion to learn English among Chinese people began to draw the attention of the global media. My major goal was to study the motives for learning and the future plans of the college students who chose to give up their summer vacation for crash courses in English at China's most famous English training center—the New Oriental Group. I spent one month living in the dorm with five college students and attended their GRE crash course every day, doing participant observation during the class and interviewing students and instructors after class. With the help of pilot funding I was able to get a general picture of the private English education system as well as to establish initial contacts for my dissertation fieldwork. More importantly, after this

pilot research, I had gained a better understanding of the dissertation project I wanted to undertake. This was to examine the power dynamics between the international language English, the national dominant language Mandarin Chinese, and the local ethnic minority language Uyghur (a Turkic language) in Xinjiang.

Because of the pilot funding for my initial research, I was able to secure research funding later from the University of Washington and the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research to carry out my dissertation fieldwork from 2010 to 2012. Now I am writing my dissertation and working as a teaching fellow at the UW Bothell campus.



Photographs:

College students in a GRE crash course at the New Oriental School, Beijing, China, July 2008.

An “English First” advertisement is displayed above a subway station in Beijing, China, July 2008. The image of bondage between the White man and the Chinese woman has elicited many different interpretations.

Henry Lyle 2008



Ever since I was an undergraduate I have been fascinated by the large degree of cooperation among humans compared to what we see among other primates. An ongoing debate in the study of cooperation is about how group collaboration can be maintained successfully over time. From an evolutionary and economic perspective, the best decision for an individual is to free ride on the cooperation of others (i.e., to share in the benefits but pay no costs). Such free riding, however, reduces the collective benefits of group cooperation and can unravel cooperative institutions. Interestingly, group cooperation is ubiquitous in human populations despite this challenge.

In order to find some answers to this conundrum, I conducted ethnographic research on cooperative behavior among villagers in a small indigenous community in the Andes of southern Peru. This research would not have been possible without a generous grant from the pilot fund. With this grant I was able to spend a month in the Andes, learning about how locals successfully manage

common property, such as communally owned herds and gardens. This experience provided helpful insights into how I should design my study, which community best fit my research goals, and the best way to effectively interact in Andean fashion. There is no doubt that without the pilot research I would not have received a grant from the National Science Foundation, which allowed me to complete my long-term dissertation research. After nine months of fieldwork in Andean Peru, I returned to the States with rich data that has the potential to make an important contribution to anthropological theory on cooperation.



Photographs:

Loading male alpacas to take to a farm for breeding.

A typical residence in the Andes of southern Peru.

Bonnie Tilland 2008

I am a PhD candidate in Sociocultural Anthropology. I previously earned an MA in Korea Studies from the Jackson School of International Studies, and also completed a graduate certificate in Feminist Studies. I conducted my dissertation fieldwork in 2010-12, and am currently writing my dissertation.



My research draws from the fields of media reception, new kinship, and the affective dimensions of citizenship, primarily in South Korea but also connecting the Korean case to broader transnational East Asian regional processes. The dissertation, based on two years of ethnographic fieldwork, includes extensive discourse analysis of television programming about the concept of family, as well as limited census and archival research. I carried out this research in the provincial city of Jeonju during weekly, in-depth group and individual interviews with women in their 30s to 50s, most of whom identified as middle class. Interviews addressed the women's and their family's education, work, and emotional lives; and included discussions of family images on television. I also conducted regular participant-observation over a period of eighteen months at three sites identified as spaces of women's self-development, reflection, and

resource gathering: 1) community center language classes, 2) a community film appreciation class, and 3) a mother-baby class in a department store.

I received pilot funding in the summer of 2008. This allowed me to spend the first month studying at an institute for interdisciplinary Korean Studies in the greater Seoul area, further improving my language skills and making academic connections. I then traveled to the provincial city of Jeonju to assess its feasibility as a field site. The pilot funding enabled me to pay for a month of room and board with a host family in Jeonju. It also covered incidental expenses as I moved around the city making connections with potential interviewees and local academics. Without the summer of pilot research I would not have been able to ease into dissertation fieldwork the way I did when I returned to Jeonju in 2010.



Photographs:

Hanok Village in Jeonju, where I occasionally met interviewees for tea. Two of my interviewees volunteered as tour guides there.

A mother-baby class held at a department store in Jeonju.

Amy Jordan 2010



I am a PhD candidate in the Archaeology program, investigating local responses to colonialism at early Dutch nutmeg plantations in Indonesia. These nutmeg plantations date from the early 17th to the early 20th century and are contemporary with the more familiar cotton and sugar plantations of the New World. While many research projects have focused on the English-speaking New World plantations, few other regions have been investigated in the same way. These Indonesian nutmeg plantations present an excellent opportunity for me to compare local responses to European colonization with those that had previously been studied in more traditional research areas.

Pilot funding in 2010 allowed me to travel to the remote Banda Islands in Indonesia's Maluku Province. These eleven islands, which comprise about 20 square miles of land, are the fabled "Spice Islands" and, until the Napoleonic Wars, were the only place in the world where nutmeg grew. Long ago, they were eclipsed in terms of nutmeg production. Today they are difficult to access. One

can reach them only after an eight-hour ride by a ferry that operates just every two weeks. During some seasons there is intermittent plane service, but landing on the islands is often not possible due to weather conditions. Thanks to the pilot funding I was able to visit the islands for two weeks in January 2010. During this visit I identified potential research sites, negotiated with potential workers, and identified potential problems about doing research in such a remote area. Without the pilot work, I would have been ill prepared for my later fieldwork in the Banda Islands. The pilot funding enabled me to better prepare for fieldwork, not only in terms of equipment and planning but also in terms of the psychological aspects of conducting fieldwork in a foreign country in a remote setting.

Photograph:

Remains of the nutmeg plantation "Ordatang" on Banda Besar, Banda Islands, Indonesia. I identified this plantation as a potential excavation site during my 2010 pilot research and subsequently excavated it during my 2011 fieldwork.

Nicole Torres 2010

I received my PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology in 2013 and am currently a Senior Fellow at the Center for Healthcare Improvement for Addictions, Mental Illness, and Medically Vulnerable Populations at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

My doctoral research explores and documents the social, political, and material consequences of militarization in the borderlands of Arizona. Basing my conclusions on two years of fieldwork in Phoenix, Tucson, and along the US-Mexico border, I identify militarization as a social and political phenomenon that gradually reconfigures both individuals and communities. What is most striking about the process of militarization is the way in which it is instrumentalized. Although fieldwork participants use the tropes of immigration and race as central points for discussion, I observed that these discourses point to a much broader trend of social, psychological, and political transformation connected to the proliferation of vigilantism, gated communities, and detention centers. Most recently, this transformation is embodied and articulated through the experiences of border crossers, who are migrants who enter the United States without authorization due to multiple factors, including socioeconomic constraints, and they include women, children, and men. Many cross the border hoping to reunite with family members who work in the United States and who can no longer risk returning to Mexico or other parts of Latin America.

My research fosters interdisciplinary collaborations that focus on environmental psychology, trauma, conflict resolution, and the effects of war and militarization on communities. Rather than examining the social and political environment as a problem of the border or immigration, I argue that such perspectives need to be decentered and critically examined. My aim is to offer a critical and holistic perspective that looks beyond the ways in which this topic has been studied in the past.



The pilot funding I received in 2010 for my preliminary dissertation fieldwork was an invaluable part of my research. The funding afforded me the opportunity to establish vital connections within the communities I studied and allowed for my travels and transportation to, and within, Arizona.

Photograph:

U.S.-Mexico border wall dividing Nogales, Arizona from Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

Jennifer Carroll 2010

I am a PhD candidate in Sociocultural Anthropology and am earning a concurrent Masters in Public Health in Epidemiology. I research the design and effectiveness of public health responses to HIV and IV (intravenous) drug use in Ukraine.

I received pilot funding in 2010. That summer, I was in Ukraine taking intensive language courses. The pilot funding allowed me to extend my stay in the country for one month and provided me with my first real, unencumbered opportunity to begin my research on harm reduction and public health services for IV drug users in this region. Thanks to the experience I gained from this pilot research, I was able to secure full financial support for my dissertation research from two other sources: a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and a fellowship from the IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board) Title VIII Policy Program.



I am now conducting a fourteen-month ethnographic project exploring why chronic narcotics addicts choose to enter or to avoid methadone-based treatment programs in Ukraine. Thanks to the connections I started forming in 2010, I have

gained access to methadone treatment centers in seven different cities. I am providing my services and expertise as a consultant for the USAID project, "Strengthening Tuberculosis Control in Ukraine," which is striving to improve the care and management of TB/HIV co-infection, an epidemic that disproportionately affects IV drug users in Ukraine. I am also working with Ukraine's national PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) office to improve the surveys that they use during HIV-prevention and education programs.

Had these relationships not been cultivated over several years, I would not have been able to accomplish any of this collaborative work, and my research would have been dramatically hampered. The pilot funding I received has made all the difference not only for my research but also for my entire career in medical anthropology and public health.

Photograph:

The Odessa Oblast Tuberculosis Hospital, where a methadone clinic for HIV/TB co-infected narcotics addicts is located. The sign reads, "EXITING the hospital grounds is FORBIDDEN to patients." On the left, one can see a patient in the in-patient TB ward speaking to a family member through the wrought iron fence at the edge of the facility.

Damarys Espinoza 2009

I recently received a PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology at the University of Washington. Currently, I hold a post-doctoral position at The Ohio State University.



My research focuses on how race, class, and gender shape the ways in which indigenous women in Peru experience and cope with intimate partner violence. Specifically, I focus on the experiences of displaced, rural-to-urban migrant women from the Peruvian highlands who live in domestic violence shelters in and around Lima. My dissertation advances three central ideas. First, I argue that

women's experiences of intimate partner violence are connected to broader forms of violence, including institutional, state, and structural violence. Second, I argue that displacement and migration, racialization, and class inequality are critical factors shaping the experience of intimate partner violence among women. Third, I argue that grassroots shelters have both positive and negative impacts. On the one hand, they fill a crucial need for women who are denied resources from social institutions and the state, and provide a space where women can exercise agency by practicing transformational survival strategies. On the other hand, their limited resources impact the quality of intervention services that shelters can provide to women who experience violence from an intimate partner.

In 2009, I received pilot funding. With this funding, I traveled to Peru and lived and worked in Lima's domestic violence shelters, where I completed the initial phases of my dissertation research. Without this initial work, I would not have been able to return to Peru and progress with my project.

Photograph:

The first domestic violence shelter in Peru is on this street. The exact location of the shelter is kept secret to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its residents.

Jun-Hong Kim 2010



I received my PhD in Biocultural Anthropology in 2013 and currently hold a postdoctoral position at the Institute of Cross-cultural Studies at Seoul National University. My research examines the structure of human cooperation on a large scale and tests hypotheses derived from cultural group selection theory. In order to explain cooperation beyond household members, it is necessary to consider peculiarities unique to human culture. Humans follow cultural norms and develop methods of punishment for people who do not follow these norms or who take advantage of people's altruistic behavior. Cultural group selection theory incorporates these "moral sentiments" in explaining inter-group differences of social norms and cooperative behavior. The research is important to cultural evolutionary theory and to a more general understanding of how human beings cooperate.

My project addresses four questions: (1) whether social support (from family, school, etc.) is important to adolescents' motivation to help others; (2) whether altruistic individuals tend to preferentially befriend other altruistic individuals; (3) whether individuals' altruistic and preferential association are linked with

neighborhood quality; and (4) whether neighborhoods with high “social” qualities have more individuals who sanction norm violators.

I conducted my research in Pohang, South Korea among high school students. I collected data using mixed methods, including surveys, semi-structured interviews, ethnographic observations and experimental games. Insights from this study can potentially be applied to neighborhood projects that enhance the quality of life for children and adolescents.

The pilot funding allowed me to explore potential field sites and test research instruments and procedures. Without being able to demonstrate the feasibility of my research methods, I would not have been able to obtain my NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant for doing the research.

Photograph:

Jun-Hong Kim is administering experimental games in one of the high schools in Pohang, South Korea.

Michele Statz 2010

I am a PhD candidate in Sociocultural Anthropology, and I'm concurrently completing a graduate certificate through the Comparative Law and Society Studies (CLASS) Center at the UW. My research is on the legal representation of Chinese youth who have migrated clandestinely and alone to the U.S., and who have been apprehended and placed in removal proceedings.



Because of the pilot funding I received in 2010, I was able to conduct preliminary research in Chicago that summer. I volunteered with a legal clinic at the University of Chicago that works exclusively with Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs). Not only did this experience familiarize me with many of the legal channels through which UACs move, but it also granted me rapport with, and access to, a broader network of attorneys who advocate on behalf of immigrant youth. When I began my dissertation fieldwork in 2011, once again my pilot research proved invaluable. My earlier affiliation with the University of Chicago clinic allowed me to connect with, and thereby interview and observe, attorneys in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Texas, and Wisconsin. I also realized that I had developed a necessary legal “language” during the summer of 2010, which permitted me, as a researcher, to ask more informed questions. When attorneys and other “informants” (youth, social workers, community leaders, etc.)

recognized that I was equipped and eager to talk about the more complex aspects of their work and lives, they were even more generous and candid than I expected. I was thereby granted a more intricate, colorful, and challenging reality to consider now, as I enter into the write-up stage of my dissertation.

The pilot funding I received provided a great foundation for subsequent research. Perhaps more importantly, it gave me a chance to move from the classroom into the field—and to develop key skills, to identify and ask new questions, and to recognize the great joy and satisfaction I find in this work.

Photograph:

Manhattan's Chinatown is often the "first stop" for unaccompanied youth from China. Given the sensitivity of my research, I prefer not to show images of the people with whom I work.

Evi Sutrisno 2010



When I left Indonesia and arrived at the University of Washington's anthropology program in 2007, I never expected that my research topic would take the shape that it has now. By my second year, I started to explore my topic—Confucianism and religious politics in Indonesia. My research seeks to understand the struggle and survival of Confucian adherents. Their religion had been acknowledged by the pre-1966 Indonesian state, but was banned under the Suharto regime (1966-1998). The Suharto government tried to cut off cultural and political ties between the Confucian adherents, who were mostly ethnic Chinese, and the People's Republic of China, which was Communist. By cutting off the ties, the Indonesian government was minimizing the risk of the infiltration of communism into Indonesia. The government also exercised its assimilationist policies toward the Chinese-Indonesians in the strictest sense. In 2000, under President Abdurrahman Wahid, the government re-acknowledged Confucianism in an effort to reinvigorate Indonesia's political and economic relationship with China.

In 2010, I received pilot funding, which allowed me to conduct field research in two cities in Indonesia—Jakarta and Surabaya. It was a golden opportunity to

meet with the Confucian adherents for the first time and to hear their perspectives. With support from other funding, I continued my fieldwork for ten months and gained sufficient data. I am currently writing my dissertation and preparing two articles for journal publications. I appreciate the initial financial support that facilitated the building of personal networks in Indonesia, which is very crucial for my study.



Photographs:

Boen Bio temple (Wen Miao – the Temple of Literature), founded in Surabaya in 1907, is the oldest Confucian temple in Indonesia. The Confucians of the Boen Bio temple became one of the most vibrant and resilient communities under Suharto's repressive regime during which several community members were interrogated and tortured.

A priest and his two assistants lead a prayer in the (Indonesian) Confucian tradition in the Boen Bio Temple. Community prayers and gatherings are conducted every week. They are also held on the first and fifteenth day of the lunar month, as well as on Chinese New Year and other celebrations.

Benjamin Trumble 2010

I earned my PhD in 2012 in Biocultural Anthropology. I am currently a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, Santa Barbara. My research focuses on how the environment shapes and influences hormones and behavior. In 2010, I received pilot funding, which was instrumental in allowing me to travel to South America to conduct pilot work for my dissertation research. I worked that summer, and continue to work, with the Tsimane, a subsistence population of forager-horticulturists living in the Bolivian Amazon. That summer I conducted several studies examining changes in testosterone on different occasions: when men played soccer, when they chopped down trees, and when they hunted. I also made lasting friendships with many Tsimane families, and formed important social connections with other researchers that have helped shape my career.



Previous research on competition and testosterone had focused on young college-aged men living in industrialized populations. Although these studies are interesting, they offer a view of only a small portion of the contemporary population. Throughout most of human evolution, people lived in relatively small groups and practiced subsistence strategies like hunting and gathering.

Industrialized cities have completely changed the way people live. We no longer have to hunt for or grow our food, we live in relatively clean environments with safe drinking water, and people are relatively healthy. By working with the Tsimane, I have had the opportunity to expand our current understanding of testosterone dynamics beyond the work done with populations of relatively wealthy people living under nearly ideal conditions. I have found that despite lower baseline levels of testosterone, Tsimane men show the same acute changes in testosterone as the changes seen in industrial populations. None of this research would have been possible without the amazing pilot funding I received.



Photographs:

A Tsimane man returns from a successful hunting trip with a collared peccary.

After clearing trees to plant his field, a Tsimane man pauses to collect saliva for a testosterone test.

Adam Freeburg 2011

As an archaeologist, I study long-term social phenomena and change. Personally, I am interested in human-environmental interactions. How did changes in the environment affect the diets of Arctic people over thousands of years? In Northwest Alaska, it is known that different cultures hunted and consumed animals in differing ratios. Two thousand years ago, the Ipiutak culture relied heavily on seal hunting when living on the coast. One thousand years ago, the animal remains in sites from Thule culture show a high dependence on caribou as well as seals. Five hundred years ago, there is an increased emphasis on fish as evidenced by net sinkers and other fishing gear found in archaeological sites of the Kotzebue period. Were these differences due to environmental changes?



My research addresses this question by comparing the archaeological record to a marine paleoecology record. To derive a paleoecological record of the marine environment, I measure the isotopic concentration of marine mammal bones found in archaeological deposits for the three culture periods mentioned above. The ratios of heavy to light isotopes—variants of the same element that have

different atomic masses—can provide information on things like animals' diet and health. By measuring carbon and nitrogen isotopes in seal remains found at Cape Krusenstern, Alaska, I can derive a record of marine productivity and trophic level to compare with the record of changes in the human diet.



The pilot funding I received allowed me to run twenty isotope samples as a test study, to show that isotopes were still present in the up to 2000-year-old bones and that statistically significant differences of isotope ratios could, in fact, be seen over time. These pilot results gave me the confidence to analyze an additional eighty samples to create a more robust paleoecological record needed for my dissertation research.

Photographs:

Adam Freeburg in Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Alaska.

Archaeologists, seen in the distance, surveying the Cape Krusenstern tundra, Alaska.

Lisbeth Louderback 2011



I am investigating the impact of climate change on dietary choice during the early Holocene (c. 10,000 years BP) to middle Holocene (c. 6,000 years BP) at North Creek Shelter, a well-stratified archaeological site in southern Utah. Between 8,500 and 8,000 years BP, a major dietary shift occurred in the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau. It is associated with the intensive utilization of small seed processing, as evidenced both by a diverse variety of plant remains and by changing grinding stone technologies. My primary hypothesis attempts to explain this shift by suggesting that people only resorted to calorically low-return small seeds after higher-return resources and high-quality resource patches had diminished. On a global basis, increasing aridity and subsequent changes in vegetation composition have been offered as the ecosystem drivers of these changes in dietary patterns. In the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau, in particular, this shift has been attributed to intense aridification that began about 8,000 years BP. Using extensive plant macro- and microfossil data sets that I am generating, along with ground stone tools from museum collections, I am testing this hypothesis from a single site in the northern Colorado Plateau.

The pilot funding helped me begin my fieldwork for my dissertation project. This involved obtaining specimens that aided in the identification of plant macro- and microfossils at, above, and below North Creek Shelter. I intensively collected herbarium grade materials along each vegetation sampling elevation. Having

these collections strengthened my project by allowing me to make the identifications that lie at the heart of my research.



Photographs:

Lisbeth Louderback in the field, Saratoga Springs, Mojave Desert, CA.

Conducting vegetation sampling at North Creek Shelter, Escalante, Utah.

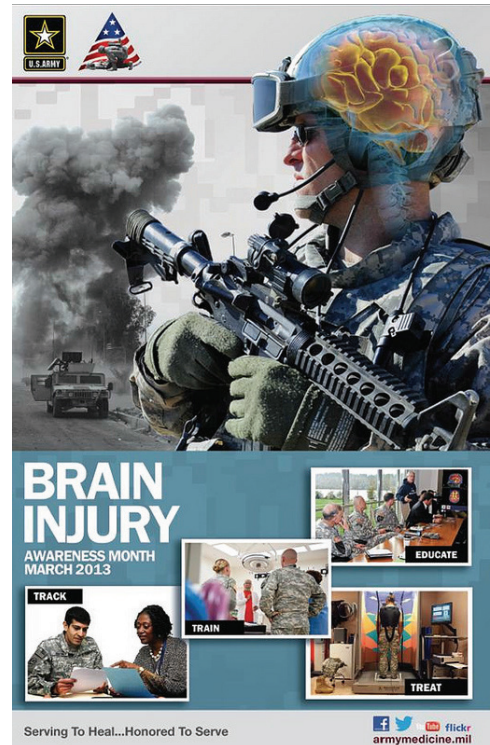
Anna Zogas 2012

My dissertation research is about mild traumatic brain injury (mild TBI), an injury better known as concussion. During the United States' wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, concussion has been rearticulated as a "signature wound" of combat. My research explores how these new, combat-related meanings of brain injury have developed, and how they affect a new generation of veterans and their healthcare needs. I am studying how patients, doctors, and administrators deal with the invisibility of this signature wound, and how they conceptualize war-related disabilities when warfare is increasingly technologized and neurology is an increasingly prominent way to explain human behavior and experience.



Choosing an appropriate field site for this study has been one of my challenges, since the Defense Department and Veterans Affairs (VA) systems are vast, yet inconsistently integrated. Receiving pilot funding allowed me to make a well-informed decision. During the preliminary phases of this study, I received pilot funding to observe a training camp for military personnel assigned to the Army's and Marines' "Wounded Warrior" units across the country. While I observed injured troops and therapists working together, I learned that brain injury was an

even more prominent issue than I had anticipated. I also learned that the questions that propelled my interest in TBI could not be answered by doing ethnography in “Wounded Warrior” units. Thus, I spent the next year developing the project, and in the summer of 2012, I was able to use pilot funding to conduct exploratory research in the Veterans Affairs Healthcare System, where I have established a long-term field site at the Los Angeles VA. I am now observing and interviewing doctors, researchers, disability benefits specialists, and veterans about their various experiences with mild TBI. Because of the success of my pilot research, I have secured full funding for my research from the National Science Foundation.



Photographs:

This is a state-of-the-art fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) machine, housed at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego, CA. fMRI provides a visual representation of data about brain function, in contrast to other kinds of imaging that produce representations of brain structure. This distinction is crucial in mild and moderate forms of TBI: the injuries are said to be “invisible” because although they can cause behavioral and emotional changes, doctors have not (yet) identified any physiological brain damage that can be detected using CT or MRI scans and that explain patients’ persistent symptoms.

This U.S. Army poster features a soldier who is heavily outfitted with electronics over which a colorful image of a brain has been superimposed. This represents some of the military’s institutional efforts to raise awareness and change the “culture” around brain injury.

Anna Cohen 2013

I am an archaeologist specializing in Mesoamerican political organization. I am interested in the material expression of political control in the areas of economy, ritual, and gender. My dissertation research uses ceramic artifacts from Angamuco, an ancient city in the Lake Patzcuaro Basin of Michoacan, Mexico to understand how broader political changes impacted daily life.



After excavating at my field site during the winter and spring of 2013, pilot funds allowed me to return to a laboratory in Mexico City where the artifacts are currently held. This lab trip was crucial because my research involves studying pottery, ceramic figurines, and spindle whorls that can only be accessed in Mexico. I am now analyzing how household pottery production, food consumption, and ritual at one urban site may have changed during political fluctuations in western Mesoamerica. With the generous help of the pilot funds I was also able to submit several carbon samples for dating, which will help me establish a more robust chronology in this understudied region of Mexico.

Most importantly, my six weeks in Mexico City allowed me to make connections with other institutions in the country. Meeting with researchers and officials from

the Mexican government, the Franco-Mexican community, and local universities has helped me to set up a collaborative environment for my upcoming dissertation field and lab work in Mexico. Without the help of the pilot funds, I would not have been able to make significant progress on my dissertation research or cultivate these vital professional relationships.

Photograph:

Anna Cohen excavating a possible granary from 900-1100 CE at the site of Angamuco, Michoacan, Mexico. Much help was received from the hard work and knowledge of local Ejido community members such as Gerardo (to the left of Anna).

Joshua Griffin 2012



I'm a third year doctoral student pursuing a multi-sited project on the impacts, perceptions, and ethics of climate change. Pilot funding enabled me to travel to my main site, Kivalina on the Northwest coast of Alaska, in June of 2012. Kivalina is an Inupiaq community that is seeking to relocate its village because of the ecological hazards presented by climate change, including rapid coastal erosion, thawing permafrost, and the risks of flooding. In tandem with my general research in Kivalina I am also pursuing an applied project in collaboration with the community and other researchers.

In June 2012 I spent time getting to know local residents, watching the NBA playoffs with them, and participating in various subsistence activities—mostly catching, cutting, and storing a nice spring run of Dolly Varden trout. I was able to speak in depth with community leaders about the political and physical challenges they currently face. Through these emerging friendships it was suggested that I participate in an interdisciplinary project now developing to

support village relocation—ReLocate Kivalina. From Kivalina I also traveled to Fairbanks to visit the University of Alaska-Fairbanks archives where I photographed over 3,000 pages of material from the late anthropologist, Ernest S. Burch, Jr.



In the winter of 2013 I also received a Small Grant for Collaborative Problem Solving from the Anthropology and Environment section of the American Anthropological Society. This was for my proposal “Towards an Environmental History of Kivalina, Alaska: A Collaborative Ethnography of Place, in Support of Climate-Induced Relocation.” This allowed me to return to Kivalina in July 2013 to join up with the rest of the ReLocate team and continue shaping my project in conjunction with community leaders. In December 2013 and April 2014 I will return to conduct oral history interviews focused on the history of dwelling-site selection in and around Kivalina. I am grateful for the pilot funding, which allowed me to get my research off to a great start.

Photographs:

Harvesting rainwater (for drinking) from on top of the sea ice. Kivalina, June 2012.

Looking for ugruk (bearded seal) on the sea ice. Kivalina, June 2012.

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