

**UCLA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ANTHROPOLOGY**



**M.A. Recipients  
&  
Ph.D. Graduates  
2023-24**



The Department of Anthropology at UCLA acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of **Tovaangar** (the Los Angeles basin and South Channel Islands).

As a land grant institution, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work for the **taraxotam** (indigenous peoples, in Tongva) in this place. We pay our respects to **Honuukvetam** (ancestors), **'Ahihirom** (Elders), and **'Eyoohiinkem** (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging.

# CONGRATS, CLASS OF 2024!

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**Brooke Scelza**  
Vice Chair of Graduate Studies  
Associate Professor



**C. Jason Throop**  
Department Chair  
Professor





# M.A. Recipients

**ELIZABETH ARNOLD, M.A.**

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*Chair: Monica L. Smith, Ph.D.*

**UNVEILING DIASPORIC  
MARKETS: AN ARCHAEOLOGY  
OF CONSUMPTION IN  
CALIFORNIA'S CHINATOWNS**

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“I am profoundly grateful for the support I have received from my family, committee, peers, and other researchers throughout every step of this project. I have learned a great deal about what it means to be a well-rounded scholar and I look forward to what awaits!”

# NATALIE FINNEGAN, M.A.

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*Chair: Jessica Lynch, Ph.D*

## **MITOCHONDRIAL DNA FOR PHYLOGENY BUILDING: ASSESSING INDIVIDUAL AND GROUPED MTGENES AS PROXIES FOR THE MTGENOME IN PLATYRRHINES**

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Thank you to my mentors, friends, and family for their support during these two years. And of course, thank you to the monkeys. Thank you, monkeys!



**THOMAS GABRIEL GERZ, M.A.**

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*Chair: Erin Debenport, Ph.D*

**COLONIALISM; LANGUAGE  
IDEOLOGIES; LINGUISTIC  
LANDSCAPE; RYUKYUAN  
LANGUAGES; US MILITARY &  
OKINAWA**

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**SOPHIE ELIZABETH KLITGAARD,  
M.A.**

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*Co-Chairs: H. Clark Barrett, Ph.D. and Daniel Fessler,  
Ph.D.*

**AN EVOLUTIONARY  
APPROACH TO PRIVACY**

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**LEROY F. MOORE, M.A.**

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*Co-Chairs: H. Samy Alim, Ph.D. and Norma Mendoza-Denton, Ph.D.*

**KRIP-HOP NATION:  
COMMUNITY-BASED  
EDUCATION AT THE  
INTERSECTION OF  
BLACKNESS & DISABILITY**

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# Ph.D. Graduates

**VINCENT M. BELLETTO, PH.D .**

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*Chair: C. Jason Throop, Ph.D.*

**ATTITUDES OF LOSS: A  
PHENOMENOLOGICAL  
ANALYSIS OF IDENTITY,  
CULTURAL SHIFT, AND  
LANGUAGE DEATH AMONG  
THE UNSERDEUTSCH CREOLE  
GERMAN COMMUNITY OF  
AUSTRALIA**

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**BLAKE ERICKSON, PH.D .**

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*Chair: Laurie Kain Hart, Ph.D.*

**CHALLENGES TO  
PSYCHIATRIC CARE: A  
CLINICAL AND  
ANTHROPOLOGICAL  
ANALYSIS OF PSYCHOSIS AND  
DEPENDENCY**

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**LILIT GHAZARYAN, PH.D .**

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*Co-Chairs: Alessandro Duranti, Ph.D. and Erica Cartmill, Ph.D.*

**COMRADES, CONFLICTS, AND  
CLASSROOMS: LANGUAGE  
POLICY AND PRACTICE IN  
POST-SOVIET ARMENIAN  
EDUCATION**

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**ADITI ANAND HALBE, PH.D.**

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*Chair: Akhil Gupta, Ph.D.*

**TRADEMARKS OF TRADITION:  
ARTISAN LABOR,  
DEVELOPMENT AND PLACE  
MAKING IN RURAL INDIA**

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**DELANEY KNORR, PH.D.**

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*Chair: Molly Fox, Ph.D.*

**EMBODIED EXPERIENCES: A  
MIXED-METHODS APPROACH  
TO UNDERSTANDING STRESS  
AND RESILIENCE IN LATINA  
MOTHERS**

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**NAAKOSHIE AWURAMA MILLS,  
PH.D.**

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*Chair: Laurie Kain Hart, Ph.D.*

**CULTURES OF FOREIGN  
POLICYMAKING: STATE  
DEPARTMENT DIPLOMATS  
AND RACE IN US-AFRICA  
STRATEGY**

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**MOLLY THEODORA BILLINGS  
ORINGER, PH.D.**

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*Co-Chairs: Laurie Kain Hart, Ph.D. and Susan  
Slyomovics, Ph.D.*

**SPATIAL RELATIONS: POST-  
WAR RECONSTRUCTION AND  
THE AFTERLIVES OF JEWISH  
TERRAINS IN LEBANON**

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To all Gazan, Sudanese, & Congolese  
students whose graduations and lives  
were cut short by genocide.

**RACHEL PARKS, PH.D.**

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*Chair: C. Jason Throop, Ph.D.*

**TRANSLATING PAIN,  
COMMUNICATING CARE:  
REPRESENTING EXPERTISE,  
KINSHIP, AND DISABILITY  
THROUGH THE DisDAT FORM**

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**REUVEN SINENSKY, PH.D.**

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*Chair: Gregson Schachner, Ph.D.*

**EARLY AGRICULTURE AND  
INDIGENOUS FOODWAYS IN  
THE US SOUTHWEST AND  
MESOAMERICA: CUISINE AND  
SOCIAL CHANGE IN MOBILE  
FARMING SOCIETIES**

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**ANDREW MARCUS SMITH, PH.D.**

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*Co-Chairs: H. Clark Barrett, Ph.D. and Erica Cartmill, Ph.D.*

**VARIATION AND UNIFORMITY  
IN MENTAL STATE TALK  
ACROSS THREE LANGUAGES**

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Thank you, thank you, thank you. This degree has been a labor of love and I could not have done it without the endless support of my family, my friends, my committee, my beloved fiancée, Abby, and my fat orange cat, Patty. I am grateful beyond words for my time here at UCLA and for everyone who helped to make it possible. This work is as much yours as it is mine and I am overjoyed to be able to celebrate its completion together.



**JAIME VELA, PH.D.**

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*Chair: Russell Thornton, Ph.D.*

**DIABETES PREVENTION  
STRATEGIES FOR THE DINÉ:  
CULTURAL LEARNING TO  
IMPLEMENT CHANGE. A  
QUALITATIVE STUDY**

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**SASHA LUTZ WINKLER, PH.D.**

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*Co-Chairs: Erica Cartmill, Ph.D. and Susan Perry, Ph.D.*

**EVOLUTIONARY  
PERSPECTIVES ON PLAY AND  
LAUGHTER**

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**HAOYAN ZHUANG, PH.D.**

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*Co-Chairs: Nancy E. Levine, Ph.D. and Yunxiang Yan, Ph.D.*

**COLLECTIVE  
INDIVIDUALIZATION: CO-  
LIVING AMONG YOUTH IN  
CONTEMPORARY CHINA**

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*Congratulations!*