

UCLA DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY



**M.A. Recipients
&
Ph.D. Graduates
2024-25**



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 **taraaxotam** (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.



M.A. Recipients

Brenda de Groot, M.A.

Chair: H. Clark Barrett, Ph.D.

**Patterns and Dynamics of Infant
Transfers in Hatinh Langurs
(*Trachypithecus hatinhensis*) and
Delacour's Langurs (*T. delacouri*)**



“This work marks the closing of one chapter and the opening of another. Thank you, friends, family, mentors, and staff, for your support through every page.”

Isabella Ding, M.A.

Chair: Purnima Mankekar, Ph.D.

**Cyborg Metrics: Biopower, Race, and the
Political Economy of Biometric
Surveillance**



"Thank you to my family, friends,
and mentors for your guidance,
love, and encouragement every
step of the way!"

Aiko Dzikowski, M.A.

Chair: Paul Kroskrity, Ph.D.

**Japanese American Princess: A
Linguistic Anthropological Approach
to Transnational Identity, Political
Ideology, and Pageantry within the
Nikkei Community**

Erick Matus, M.A.

Co-Chairs: H. Samy Alim, Ph.D. and Jason De León, Ph.D.

**Puttin it on the Map: Rap Music,
Gentrification, and the Lyrical
Cartography of Los Angeles**

Edson Morales Sanchez, M.A.

Co-Chairs: Philippe Bourgois, Ph.D. and Laurie Kain Hart, Ph.D.

**The Logics of a Pro-Housing
Organization: YIMBY and its
(Im)potence**

Carolyn Park, M.A.

Chair: Norma Mendoza-Denton, Ph.D.

**Language as/at Work:
Metapragmatic Awareness
Among Koreatown's Restaurant
Workers**

Cathy Román, M.A.

Chair: Ippolytos Kalofonos, Ph.D.

**‘The Birthkeeper within Us’: Analyzing
Los Angeles’ Birthworkers of Color
Communities through the History of
Obstetrics in the United States**

Sienna Ruiz, M.A.

Chair: Jason De León, Ph.D.

**Externalized Bodies: Migration,
Affect, and the Politics of Care in the
Mexican Refugee System**

Kasey Schleper, M.A.

Chair: Brooke Scelza, Ph.D.

Mason Smith, M.A.

Co-Chairs: Nancy Levine, Ph.D. and Christopher Kelty, Ph.D.

**These Cows Are My
Children: Biotechnology
and Agrarian Labor in
Kazakhstan**



Ph.D. Graduates

Bader Mohammad Alfarhan, Ph.D.

Co-Chairs: Erin Debenport, Ph.D. and Jemima Pierre, Ph.D.

Burcu Buğru, Ph.D.

Chair: Salih Can Açıksöz, Ph.D.

**Navigating State Power: Urban Space,
Memory, and Affect in Dersim, Turkey**

Viki Eagle, Ph.D.

Co-Chairs: Jason De León, Ph.D. and Shannon Speed, Ph.D.

Rez Metal: (Re)Mapping a ReZ Metal ReZistance



Viki Eagle - Sicangu Lakota/Japanese
Sociocultural Anthropology & American
Indian Studies

"Thank you to my dissertation
committee for a wonderful
adventure at UCLA."

Stephanie Keeney Parks, Ph.D.

Chair: H. Samy Alim, Ph.D.

"Gaming the System": How Black Families Navigate "Autism" at the Intersection of Race and Disability



"This thank you belongs to so many. To my committee, who never quit on me, believed in me, and cheered me on throughout this process, thank you will never be adequate. C-BLAAC – you are the JOY of my graduate school experience. A special shout-out to Tracy Humbert, who always held me down! Thank you to so many colleagues and comrades who turned into friends and family! Most importantly, thank you to my sweet babies, God's exact right child for me, Wendell Parks, and to the little girl I have always prayed for, Isabella Grace Parks – Mama loves you."

Daniel Kennedy, Ph.D.

Co-Chairs: C. Jason Throop, Ph.D. and Helena Hansen, MD, Ph.D.

**No Place Like Home: Dwelling,
Relationality, and Resistance with
Unhoused Kansans**

Jeremy Levenson, Ph.D.

Chair: Philippe Bourgois, Ph.D.

**Breaking the Chains from Inside: Los
Angeles' Carceral Psychiatric Fix and
Jail (Dis-)Alienation**

Karime Parodi Ambel, Ph.D.

Co-Chairs: Laurie Kain Hart, Ph.D. and M. Kamari Clarke, Ph.D.

**Gendering Justice in the Chilean Courts:
Legal Actors' Perspectives and Unequal
Access to Justice**



Kimberly Zhu, Ph.D.

Chair: Abigail Bigham, Ph.D.

**Multi-Omic Investigations of Human
Adaptations to High-Altitude Hypoxia in
the Himalayas and Andes**





Congratulations!