FACULTY UPDATES
TALKS OF THE TOWN
CLASS SPOTLIGHT

Photo by Anne Guttridge ’19
It wouldn’t be a Carleton term without some wacky weather. A tornado roared through September 20th and we had snow October 14th!
The above photo was taken during my first fall term at Carleton in 2014. Before the Bald Spot(s) were under construction, before Mudd met its doom, and before the plans for the shiny new concert hall were even announced, I was able to spend my afternoons under the leaves reading for Liz Raleigh’s Introduction to Sociology class.

This term I spent most of my time in the third libe computer lab (which I call the “Pit of Dispair”) writing and editing my comps. Now that comps is over, I don't know what to do with myself. I've spent the past year with it taking up some part of my mind and now, all of a sudden, it's done.

And soon my time at Carleton (and my time as editor of the Emic) will be ending too. It’s been an absolute pleasure to help compile the department newsletter the past three terms!

Before you ask, no, I don't know what I'm doing after I graduate after this term. I'm trying (unsuccessfully) to convince myself that the unknown is what makes life fun.

A look of post-comps relief. The author after presenting her comps titled, " ‘You can’t make this stuff up’: Exploring the Narratives of Female Documentary Filmmakers”

The author trying her hand at squirrel hunting. She and her "family" were able to successfully hunt and gather to feed themselves for two days.
“Is THIS lavender?” were one of the many questions that Caroline and I asked each other while on the prowl for edible plants around campus.

With our toy bow and arrow in one hand, and our harvested apples, mint, and basil (a short list of only some of the plants were managed to successful forage for) in the other, we set out to successfully feed our family for two days while out in the metaphorical wilderness.

What I’m describing here is a hunting exercise that all students in Anthropology of Good Intentions are expected to participate in. While this activity proved to be very exciting and high energy, Professor Constanza Ocampo-Raeder managed to perfectly balance the “fun” with a deep understanding of Traditional Ecological Knowledge. The purpose of spending two hours foraging around the periphery of Carleton’s campus was to first-hand grapple with the pressures and dangers that come from living in a subsistence economy.

Is this mushroom even edible? Who knows. You’ll just have to try it and find out.
Talks of the Town

ANNETTE NIEROBISZ
Broom Fellow for Public Scholarship, Professor of Sociology

WHAT MATTERS TO ME AND WHY Reflections - "The view from here: A reflection on two decades of teaching"

WES MARKOFSKI,
Assistant Professor of Sociology

Three faculty fellows in the 2017–18 Humanities Center Faculty Research Seminar will speak about their scholarly work on the democratic activity of social movement among grassroots activists in Spain, evangelicals in America, and musicians in the former German Democratic Republic.

CONSTANZA OCAMPO-RAEDER,
Assistant Professor of Sociology

A celebration of 10 years of intellectual community through the work of the Humanities Center.
Faculty Book Recommendations

Need book recommendations for winter break? Here are some picks from SOAN faculty and staff!

Wes Markofski

This is an aspirational recommendation (I rarely have time to read for pleasure anymore!), for myself and fellow SOAN comrades: Arundhati Roy’s *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*.

*The God of Small Things* is perhaps my favorite novel, which I read innocently before Roy’s explosion into fame. Despite (at best) mixed reviews, I am curious to see for myself what she did with her latest offering. (SOAN folks might also be interested in checking out *War Talk* and some of Roy’s other political tracts.)

Pamela Feldman-Savelsberg

We (Joachim and I) just finished reading *Country of My Skull*, by Antjie Krog. She is a South African poet and novelist who reported on radio to increase access for low-resource and illiterate citizens on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings for the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

The book is striking, difficult, and a beautiful work of creative non-fiction, dealing with issues such as victimhood and perpetration, guilt and shame, individual and community.
Faculty Book Recommendations

Meryl Lauer

I'm currently reading Katherine Verdery’s *My Life as a Spy*, an ethnographic memoir about her discovery of her 2,700 page secret service file, compiled as she was conducting fieldwork in Romania in the 1970s and 1980s.

Not only is it a compelling story about spies and spying, it also reflects on anthropology’s role in a growing surveillance culture. It’s really good and I think students would enjoy it a lot.

Annette Nierobisz

On the recommendation of Liz Raleigh, I’m currently reading *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande.

The book is a fascinating account of how our society medicalizes aging and death rather than viewing these progressions as natural and inevitable. I plan to incorporate *Being Mortal* into my future class, *Growing Up in an Aging Society*.

Tammi Shintre

*One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez. I read this round and round during a recent international trip.

What could be merely a vivid, entertaining, and weighty allegory of South American history—an achievement in itself—is made heartbreakingly human by its ambitious, flawed, and colorful characters. It tackled themes of fate and family while also making me laugh.
Where in the World is Professor Pamela Feldman-Savelsberg?

Pamela is the Broom Professor of Anthropology and Social Demography at Carleton and is currently on sabbatical. Since July she has been a fellow at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) at the Wallenberg Research Centre at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. Here is a little update on what she has been up to this term!

For this first half of my sabbatical, my (sociologist) husband and I are both fellows at STIAS, the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study, in South Africa. It’s a welcoming place where we sit quietly, working on our research and writing, and eat lunch with all the other fellows each weekday. This, and our weekly Thursday afternoon seminars, are opportunities to interact with people from a broad range of fields (from natural sciences to law, humanities, and even an artist-in-residence). The fellows come from many countries, but especially from many African countries (including Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Cameroon, South Africa).

We sometimes have visitors here, too. My guests have been the chair of anthropology at the University of Cape Town (with whom I discussed my project on child fostering in relation to her project on the “first thousand days” of human life), and guest editors of the journal Global Public Health (where I just submitted an article manuscript on migrant women’s and their providers’ contrasting expectations for obstetric care).

On the weekends so far we’ve explored Cape Town, the Indian Ocean coast (penguins!), the wine country of the Western Cape, and some botanical gardens and nature preserves. We have driven by Langa (which some majors will remember from AT&T) and seen the development of new housing there, as part of the “N2 Gateway Project.” When I gave a talk to the anthropology department at the University of Witwatersrand, we were able to visit Johannesburg and Soweto (Nelson Mandela’s house, Hector Pietersen Museum...), also tracing some of the history of Apartheid and struggle. We are currently reading Antjie Krog’s Country of my Skull, a piece of creative nonfiction about South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
The town we live in is small, dominated by the university and by tourism surrounding the nearby wine estates, and surrounded by dramatic mountains. Legacies of Apartheid are visible in enduring spatial segregation in town, and in the way people continue to use racial categories from the Apartheid era to identify themselves. In short, we find here much beauty, much despair, great warmth, and much impatience with social-political-economic change.

The main thing I’m doing here is not our daily walks in the nature preserve next to the institute, nor our weekend hikes and explorations, nor even my determination to for once get enough sleep, but research and writing. I am working on a book that explores the puzzling absence of a social form—child fostering—and a turn toward a new way of thinking about kinship and caring for children. For an abstract-like precis: Contrary to common practice just a few decades ago, as well as contemporary literature on transnational families, Cameroonian migrants to Germany and France rarely send toddlers home to granny, rebellious teens home to auntie, or foster-in their less-advantaged relatives. New kinscripts—moving from the generalized reciprocity of “all our kin” to an emphasis on “just for my kids”—reveal effects of governance and class as migrant mothers simultaneously pursue geographic and social mobility. In sum, it’s about (transformations in) kinship, migration, the state, and what some call the new middle class among cosmopolitan Africans.

I decided to stick with the Germany-France comparison, two different European Union countries with a colonial relationship to Cameroon, rather than attempting to do new fieldwork in South Africa. The circumstances, our locale and lack of transportation, and particularly the logic of the comparison finally steered me away from fieldwork in South Africa, even though I have met and interviewed a number of Cameroonians here.

I miss you all and wish you all the best in your sociological and anthropological adventures!
What bodies can do and how bodies are understood changes dramatically across historical and cultural contexts. In this class, we investigate how human bodies are valued, transformed, and experienced in different societies around the world.

**Anthropology of the Body**

This course examines contemporary criminological issues from a critical, sociological perspective. Our focus is on the United States with topics under examination including white collar crime, racial disparities in the criminal justice system, mass incarceration and other transformations in punishment, prisoner reentry, and the risk of recidivism.
**Kudos!**

**LIZ RALEIGH**
- Presented the paper, "Implications of Selling Transracial Adoption," at the International Conference on Adoption Research in Montreal.
- Organized and participated in the session, "Latest Research on Transracial Adoption," at the Korean American Adoptee Network Conference in Minneapolis.
- Gave an invited talk titled, "What does transracial adoption tell us about the colorline in America," at Mississippi State University as part of their Race in America series.

**ANNETTE NIEROBISZ**
- Was invited by Northfield's Bethel Lutheran Church to present at their fall forum series on the criminal justice system. Her presentation was titled, "The United States of Mass Incarceration"

**CONSTANZA OCAMPO-RAEDER**
- Presented a chapter from her upcoming book at the Culture and Environment seminar at Columbia University's Anthropology Department in New York, NY

**WES MARKOFSKI**
- Was a panelist for "Author Meets Critics: Religious Vitality in Christian Intentional Communities: A Comparative Ethnographic Study" at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV