



Newsletter 2017

Statement from the Chair

The Geography Graduate Group (or GGG) has had another wonderful year. Our annual orientation trip for incoming students took place closer to home than usual, at the UC Davis Quail Ridge Reserve. Students and faculty enjoyed kayaking on Lake Berryessa and learning about our local human physical environments. The orientation trip gives incoming students a chance to bond with their cohort, and to discuss the program with faculty and continuing students.

In administrative news, this was supposed to be my last year as Chair of the GGG, but I have been extended for an additional year. I am excited to continue leading the GGG before passing the torch to our next Chair.

The students are the heart and soul of the GGG. Our students are always looking for ways to improve the GGG and create a more collaborative community. Students created the Community Development and Geography Graduate Students of Color group to foster support and connectivity between students of color. GLOBAL, our graduate student social group, organized a number of events. And many of us can't wait for the annual GLOBAL Trivia Night, coming later this spring. Students also initiated the creation of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the International Geographical Honors Society chapter at UC Davis.

A number of faculty have recently joined our ranks, including professors Noli Brazil, Ben Houlton, Kurt Kornbluth, Bill Lacey, and Kate Scow. Jeff Loux retired last year, and he will be missed. I would like to thank Diana Davis, Bill Lacey, Sheryl-Ann Simpson, Steve Wheeler, and Preshant Hedao for teaching our core courses this year. As always, I have to extend a special thank you to Carrie Armstrong-Ruport who keeps our program running and keeps us all on track. I have no idea what we would do without her.

Spring quarter has arrived and I am looking forward to seeing all of you that are in Davis at our weekly Geography Speaker Series, now on Thursdays! I also look forward to seeing a great Davis representation at the upcoming American Association of Geographers Annual Conference in New Orleans and at the California Society Spring Conference at nearby Cosumnes River College.



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Geography logo created by Sarah Byer

Spotlight On: Students

Fieldwork Notes from Southeastern Europe

By: Dustin Tsai

From the sleepy seaside towns dotting the Adriatic coast to the inland villages nestled between rolling hills of farmland, I spent the second half of 2017 traveling through the former Yugoslavia conducting my dissertation fieldwork. As a political geographer, I study conflict events between ethnic groups and how state-led nationalist movements structure and maintain these social divisions. Twenty-five years after the collapse of Yugoslavia and its subsequent wars, I sought to uncover how nationalist fervor in Serbia and Croatia continues to be constructed today among the youth. How are young people's political views in these new states being shaped today?

And so, for six months, I set out by bus, train, car — and even the occasional hitchhiking — through towns and villages, in order to meet and talk to young Serbs and Croats, ranging from farmers and students to business owners and engineers. I attended heated soccer matches, drank *Šljivovica* in taverns, and enjoyed homecooked *Prebranac* and *Sarma* from the ceaselessly hospitable people I encountered. In all, I conducted over 200 interviews, with most of them evolving into deeper conversations about their upbringing, aspirations, and how these young people saw life. Loss is not something unfamiliar to most in this region, and many of the stories I heard — of lives lost and of families torn apart by war — were profoundly humbling. I saw patterns emerge that contravened most of the assumptions and hypotheses I entered the field having. More importantly, this experience reminded me of how rewarding it is to do interpersonal qualitative work.

When you work solely with quantitative data, it is often easy to lose sight of what your data represents. For me, using an inductive, on-the-ground, qualitative methodology, I saw the nuances behind each of these patterns and just how complex our research subjects are. You see the humanity behind the data and how these people's lives are so much more than just the 'data points' they embody. They are real people, and it is highly rewarding — albeit sensitive — endeavor to approach the field with that mindset. Therefore, I believe it is a huge privilege, as social scientists, for us to have access to these endless stories waiting to be heard. In my own fieldwork, through the friendships I made and the kindness I observed along the way, I feel profoundly lucky to have had the opportunity to document these stories.



Above: Spending Thanksgiving with newfound friends (Belgrade, Serbia)

Top left: The southern Bosnian countryside (Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Bottom Left: A typical town square on a wintry day (Sombor, Serbia)

Spotlight On: Students

Foray into Frozen Fish: An Antarctic Adventure

By: Meghan Klasic

In late 2017, Nick Santos, a first year Geography Master's student, spent 8 weeks with a research team from the University of Oregon studying fish that live in the below freezing, but still liquid, waters of Antarctica. Specifically, this research team was interested in one of the fish adaptations related to a protein that prevents ice from growing in their bodies. The research team, including Santos, installed a set of instruments on the ocean floor (70 feet below the sea ice) that would provide them with data on conductivity, temperature, pressure, and a highly sensitive acoustic hydrophone to capture marine mammal sounds. They also installed a remote controlled HD video camera with live feed. The instrumentation was set up in the hopes of better understanding: 1) how ice enters fish bodies, 2) whether the ice harm fish, and 3) how (if it does) ice leaves fish and over what timeframe.

When asked what some of his favorite memories from the trip were, Santos said, “[The] best part of the trip was taking a helicopter trip out to the middle of nowhere and being dropped off and having the helicopter leave. Standing on the ice, as one of only 4 humans within 50 miles, with views of glaciers, sea ice, mountains, icebergs — and without a *single* sound — no wind that day, no trees to rustle in the wind. It’s a truly magical experience”. Santos was also quick to note that the weather was variable and though calm on that particular day, on other days they often found themselves huddled in a small hut catching fish when gusts of wind would blow open the door and suck out their loose belongings! At the opposite end of the extreme, Santos described the hardest part of his trip as being away from his wife. Working in Antarctica is other-worldly — the internet is extremely limited and with about 1,000 people, there were a lot of rules and restrictions on usage. For example, you couldn’t use video calling or WiFi in the dorms. The station did have one computer, however, that could be reserved for Skype calls for up to 30 minutes a week.

During his time in Antarctica, Santos stayed in the dormitories with the rest of the project team at a former navy station. Santos has Celiac disease, which made eating slightly more complicated (he shipped some of his own food in), but he reports that the station had a wide range of food items and a great cooking staff. Santos and the rest of the research team capture a ton of media while in Antarctica. You can read more about his amazing trip on his blog (<http://antarcnick.wordpress.com> — recommended reading bottom to top). You can also [view his full photo gallery](#), and beginning April 9th, you can view audio clips, live frames of the video streams, data visualizations, and data interpretations (all public friendly) on the McMurdo Oceanographic Observatory website (<http://moo-antarctica.net>)

Poetry in Research

*You can always come home
You can never go home again
I'm always on the edge of time*

on the verge of time stopping

We hang on to our yogurt containers.

*We think they will make us useful.
We think that we shall never be replaced.*

*slow flow
of less lethal weapons*

— Excerpt from “Myth of the Garbage Patch”

Maya Weeks, a first year Geography Ph.D. student, combines creative expression with her dissertation research. Maya writes poetry, nonfiction and photo essays about marine debris in the context of climate change, capital accumulation, gender and logistics, which are also the topics of her academic work. Her work has been in various magazines, including *GUTS Canadian Feminist Magazine* and *The Wanderer*. Recently, a



Maya Weeks sorts marine debris on deck of the S/V Antigua in Svalbard

photo essay has been published in *Canadian Feminist Magazine*, available here <http://www.gutsmagazine.ca/a-log-of-the-sea/> and three poems from her project “Myth of the Garbage Patch” available here: <http://www.wandererpoetry.com/3-myth-garbage-patch-maya-weeks/>

Spotlight On: Students

Bringing Climate Change Education to the Spanish Speaking World



First Year Ph.D. student Bernardo (Berny) Bastien is leveraging his background atmospheric sciences to teach climate change science using social media, targeting Spanish speakers. Bastien's collaborative group, Planeteando, includes scientists from various backgrounds to help examine both the causes and effects of climate change on various facets of society. The group aims to not only educate the Spanish speaking world about climate science in an engaging and fun manner, but they also call their viewers to action on climate-related

issues. This work ties in to Bastien's academic research on modeling climatic data to simulate future social and economic dynamics under future climate scenarios. You can find Planeteando on Youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgV2HC2599REwibgUWIKEjA>) and on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Planetea/>).

GLOBAL

GLOBAL is a graduate student organization that historically represented the UC Davis Geography Graduate Group only. In 2017, we expanded GLOBAL's cause to include the UC Davis Community Development Graduate Group. GLOBAL serves as a student-led organization that plans social and educational activities for graduate students. In the past, GLOBAL sponsored activities like Trivia Night, Halloween Pumpkin Carving, Scarecrow Design Contest (we won 2nd place in a community contest!) and Town Hall meetings. For more information, contact Meghan Klasic

(mrklasic@ucdavis.edu)



GLOBAL Pumpkin Carving Night, 2017.

Community Development and Geography Students of Color

Our group formed in summer 2017 to support graduate students of color in the Geography and Community Development Graduate Groups. We go by CDOGS, because that's what you get when you re-arrange GGG & CDGG GSoC and take out all those redundant letters. We share an excitement to connect, build community, and support one another in our academic goals. So far, our events have included a fall welcome dinner, a knowledge-share to help new students get their questions answered, and a writing group series for focused feedback and writing time for students in all years. We've gotten support from the Davis Humanities Institute, CDGG, and Jonathan London's research lab. For more information, contact Mia Dawson (GGG) mkdawson@ucdavis.edu or Joyce Yee (CDGG) jmuyee@ucdavis.edu.

Spotlight On: Alumni

Class of 2018

Ty Beal recently completed his dissertation on *The Geography of Malnutrition*, where he conducted a political economic analysis of the development of the fresh fruit and vegetable supply chain in Colorado. Ty now resides in Washington D.C. with his wife and 7 month old daughter, where he works at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Class of 2016

Libby Christensen and her husband, **Brad Christensen** (GGG alum of 2017) moved to Fort Collins, CO, where they welcomed their son, Clayton. While in Fort Collins, Libby completed a postdoc with Colorado State University in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. In this position, Libby studied the economic impact of farmer to school programs across the county, opportunities for food/agriculture to be an economic and community development tool in rural communities, and the future of food and agricultural production in Colorado. At the end of her post-doc, Libby was offered a position with Cooperative Extension in Routt County where she continues her work on building partnerships between the University and various stakeholders along the food supply chain.

Alumni — Where are they now?

- **Adebayo Akintunde** — Program Analyst, California Department of Social Services
- **Katherine Bradley** — Researcher, Food Dignity Project, UC Davis
- **Sarah Byer** — GIS Specialist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System, Inventory & Monitoring Program
- **Hyeyeong Choe** — Postdoctoral Scholar, UC Davis
- **Bradley Christensen** — Lecturer, The New School
- **Laura Daly** — Research Associate, California Civic Engagement Project, UC Davis
- **John DeGeode** — The Wonderful Company
- **Kristen Denninger Snyder** — Postdoctoral Scholar, Colorado State University and Singita Grumeti Fund
- **Jillian Jackson** — Program Coordinator for Safety and Security, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
- **Lillian Hayden**, Environmental Scientist, California Department of Water Resources
- **Sean Hogan**, IGIS Academic Coordinator II, UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Informatics and GIS Program
- **Preshant Hedao** — Consultant, GIS and Information Management, World Health Organization
- **Bonnie Magnuson-Skeels** — Data Scientist, Samba TV
- **Amber Manfree** — Postdoctoral Scholar, Center for Watershed Sciences, UC Davis
- **Michael C. McGrann** — Assistant Professor, William Jessup University
- **Michael Norton** — Geospatial Project Manager, Chesapeake Conservancy
- **Maggie La Rochelle** — Manager, Putah Creek Café Garden
- **Kat Powelson** — Science Communication Coordinator, California Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- **Josh Watkins** — Visiting Lecturer, Texas A&M University

Fellowships, Grants & Awards

Students

- **Alfonso Aranda** — Research Award, UC Davis Center for Regional Change & Institute for Social Sciences
- **Bernardo Bastien** — Fulbright Scholarship, US Department of State
- **Elizabeth Castner** — Provost's First-Year Fellowship, UC Davis
- **Angie Chapman** — Buzzard Graduate Scholarship, Gamma Theta Upsilon
- **Yasmina Choueiri** — Doctoral Fellowship in Sustainability Studies, The Diamond Developers
- **Mia Dawson** — Evelyn L. Pruitt National Minority Fellowship, Society of Woman Geographers; Switzer Fellowship, Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation
- **Nermin Dessouky** — Doctoral Fellowship in Sustainability Studies, The Diamond Developers
- **Amanda Fencl** — Geosystems Award for Best Physical Geography Paper and Travel Award, California Geographical Society
- **Megan Foster** — Jarena Wright Fellowship, UC Davis
- **Kate Munden-Dixon** — Miller Plant Sciences Award, UC Cooperative Extension; Graduate Student Grants in Sustainable Agriculture, Western Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education
- **Erica Orcutt** — Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Fund Grant, American Museum of Natural History
- **Cory Parker** — California Poverty and Socioeconomic Inequality Fellowship, Blum Initiative for Global and Regional Poverty; Pacific Southwest Region University Transportation Center Dissertation Grant
- **Natalia Pinzon** — James Monroe McDonald Scholarship, UC Davis College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences
- **Sean Pries** — Tom McKnight and Joan Clemens Award for Outstanding Student Paper, Association of Pacific Coast Geographers; Travel Grant, American Association of Geographers
- **Nicholas Robinson** — Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group Graduate Research Grant, American Association of Geographers
- **Mayra Sanchez** — Research Award, UC Davis Center for Regional Change & Institute for Social Sciences

Faculty

- **Gwen Arnold** — “Escaping the Boom-Bust Cycle: Identifying Sustainable Governance Strategies for Shale-Dependent Communities” (2017-2020) (co-PI with Abby York at Arizona State University), National Science Foundation Decision, Risk, and Management Sciences (\$560,258 total, UCD \$208,677)
- **Rebecca R. Hernandez** — E.O. Wilson Award for Outstanding Science in Biodiversity Conservation, Center for Biological Diversity
- **Benjamin Houlton** — Appointed Member, UC Global Climate Leadership Council, UC Davis
- **Beth Rose Middleton** — Chancellor's Fellow (2018), UC Davis
- **Bettina Ng'weno** — Co-Director of “Reimagining Indian Ocean Worlds”, Mellon Research Initiative
- **Patsy Eubanks Owens** — Outstanding Administrator Award (2018), Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA)



Selected Publications

- Floodplains: Processes and Management Services (2017) Jeffrey J. Opperman, Peter B. Moyle, **Eric W. Larsen**, Joan L. Florsheim, and **Amber D. Manfree**, University of California Press, Oakland, CA, 280 pp.
- “Policy Expansion in Local Government Environmental Policy Making” (2018) **Gwen Arnold** and Le Anh Nguyen Long, *Public Administration Review*, Online Version Ahead of Print, 12 pg.
- “Visualizing the Social and Geographical Embeddedness of Local Food Systems” (2017) **Catherine Brinkley**, *Journal of Rural Studies*, 54, 314-325.
- “Engaging Youth in Climate Resilience Planning with Social Media: Lessons from #OurChangingClimate” (2017) **N. Claire Napawan**, **Sheryl-Ann Simpson**, and Brett Snyder, *Urban Planning*, 2, 51-63.
- “Are We Sustainable? Promoting a Culture of Sustainability in Planned Communities with a Sustainability Focus” (2017) **Nermin Dessouky**, Chelsea Estevez, Alan Meier, Yara Moustafa, and Richard Tutwiler, *QScience Connect: Shaping Qatar’s Sustainable Built Environment*, 2, 9.
- “A Carbon-Neutral California: Social Ecology and Prospects for 2050 GHG Reduction” (2017) **Stephen M. Wheeler**, *Urban Planning*, 2, 5-18.
- “Gauging Climate Preparedness to Inform Adaptation Needs: Local Level Adaptation in Drinking Water Quality in CA, USA” (2017) Julia A. Ekstrom, Louise Bedsworth, and **Amanda Fencl**, *Climatic Change*, 140, 467-481.
- “Economic Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture: A Comparison of Process-Based and Statistical Yield Models” (2017) **Frances C. Moore**, Uris Baldos, and Thomas Hertel, *Environmental Research Letters*, 12, 065008:1-9.
- “Adaptive Social Strategies in a Solitary Carnivore” (2017) L. Mark Elbroch, Michael Levy, **Mark Lubell**, Howard Quigley, and Anthony Caragiulo, *Science Advances*, 3, e1701218:1-8.
- “Global Trends in Dietary Micronutrient Supplies and Estimated Prevalence of Inadequate Intakes” (2017) **Ty Beal**, Eric Massiot, Joanne E. Arsenault, Matthew R. Smith, and **Robert J. Hijmans**, *PLoS One*, 12, e0175554:1-20.
- “Detecting Drought-Induced Tree Mortality in Sierra Nevada Forests with Time Series of Satellite Data” (2017) **Sarah Byer** and **Yufang Jin**, *Remote Sensing*, 9, 929:1-23.
- “Trial by the Bay: Treasure Island and Segregation in the Navy’s Lake” (2017) **Javier Arbona**, Chapter 6 in Horiuchi, L. and Sankalia, T., Eds., *Urban Reinventions: San Francisco’s Treasure Island*. University of Hawai’i Press, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- “Sustainability of Utility-Scale Solar Energy — Critical Ecological Concepts” (2017) Kara A. Moore-O’Leary, **Rebecca R. Hernandez**, Dave S. Johnston, Scott R. Abella, Karen E. Tanner, Amanda C. Swanson, Jason Kreitler, and Jeffrey E. Lovich, *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 15, 385-394.
- “The (Un)making of CSA People: The Paradox of Member Retention in Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in California” (Conditionally Accepted) **Ryan E. Galt**, **Libby O. Christensen**, **Kate Munden-Dixon**, *Journal of Rural Studies*.

Orientation at Quail Ridge Reserve



New GGG students enjoy hiking and kayaking in the Coast Range around Quail Ridge Reserve.

See you at AAG 2018!

Come see us at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting in New Orleans! Stop by our booth in the Exhibit Hall, check out presentations by over 40 faculty, students and alumni, or join us for our annual social event!

You're Invited!

GGG social event at the AAG

Where: Upstairs at The Cane and Table
1113 Decatur St., New Orleans

When: Thursday, April 12 from 6-8pm

Enjoy hosted appetizers and no-host cocktails and get to know our Geographers!