



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Anthropology explores the dynamics and diversity of human cultures. Students have the opportunity to study social relations and inequalities, religion and world views, political economies and globalization, the connections among language and social dynamics, visual cultures and popular media, cultural understandings of medicine and disease, human evolution, and what we can learn about past societies through the study of architecture, earthenware vessels, stone tools and the remains of the human body itself. With its focus on understanding and interpreting human diversity and group behavior, anthropology is both deeply introspective and highly applicable in business, medicine, law, public policy and more.

What makes the program distinctive?

Anthropology at Brandeis offers courses in the discipline's four major subfields: social-cultural, archaeological, biological and linguistic anthropology. Students benefit from close collaboration with faculty and

abundant opportunities to engage in fieldwork and to develop original research projects. The department's emphasis on writing and in-class discussion sharpens students' capacity for critical thinking and expression.

FAST FACTS

Current number of majors and minors: 80

Number of faculty: 9

Can you minor in this program? Yes

Emphasis within the major:

archaeology; computer-mediated communication; cultural, medical and psychological anthropology; linguistics; gender and sexuality; political economy and development; religion

Popular second majors:

East Asian studies; health: science, society and policy; history; international and global studies; Latin American and Latino studies; sociology; women's and gender studies

Website:

brandeis.edu/departments/anthro

ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Hands-on experience

Courses in field and laboratory methods provide hands-on opportunities for students to conduct mapping and excavation of archaeological sites on the Brandeis campus and to analyze ancient artifacts. Students also get hands-on experience with materials in the archaeology lab and Material Culture Study Center, and the collection provides internship and original research opportunities.

Independent student research

Jeffrey Dobereiner '09 conducted X-ray fluorescence analysis of obsidian from the ancient Mayan site of San Bartolo, Guatemala. His study represented a key piece of research for understanding ancient trade routes in this important center of Mayan civilization. His work formed the basis of a senior honors thesis, and he pursued graduate studies at MIT before entering the Ph.D. program in anthropology at Harvard.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Faculty awards

Recently, several faculty members have won prestigious fellowships and awards. Charles Golden received a National Science Foundation fellowship to support archaeological fieldwork on ancient Mayan polities in Guatemala and Mexico; Elizabeth Ferry received the Newhouse fellowship at Wellesley College; Sarah Lamb and Ellen Schattschneider received Fulbright grants to fund fieldwork in India and Japan; and Janet McIntosh received a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship as well as the Clifford Geertz Prize for her book "The Edge of Islam." Three faculty members were honored recently with outstanding teaching awards.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Jeff Arak '07 created a documentary about indigenous media in southern Mexico, "Los con Voz/Those With Voice," which he produced as his senior honors thesis. Arak received a Jane's Travel Grant from Brandeis to fund the project and a Davis Project for Peace Grant upon graduation.

Mariel Gruszko '10 wrote her senior thesis based on original fieldwork on indigenous radio stations in post-civil war Guatemala,

in conjunction with an internship at Cultural Survival in Cambridge, Mass. Gruszko is now pursuing a master's degree at the University of Chicago.

Eli Terris '11 studied abroad in Cameroon and says, "This was one of the most interesting, challenging and exciting academic semesters of my life. While I was in Cameroon, as little as opening my eyes felt like an intensified anthropology class; my preconceived beliefs about gender roles, religion, family and more were challenged through the act of living."

Matt Kupfer '12 received a Sorensen fellowship to investigate AIDS prevention efforts in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, during summer 2010. He worked for the International Research and Exchanges Board, a non-profit organization focused on improving education and fostering civil society development in countries around the world.

AFTER BRANDEIS

Wendy Herrera '09 received a Samuel Huntington Service Award to construct ecological sanitation toilets in Tanzania. She is the founder and director of the Ardhi Umma Project in Usa River, Tanzania, which manages the construction and implementation of the toilets.

Dina Fine Maron '08 began work as a journalist and received the 2009 Outstanding Media Award in News Reporting from the National Alliance on Mental Illness for her Newsweek piece exploring television coverage of mental illness and its impact on stigma. She is a staff reporter for ClimateWire, in Washington, D.C., covering federal agencies and environmental policy.

Joshua Rosenthal '07 worked for several years at the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C., and is starting law school at Yale.

Khayam Allen '07 received an M.Sc. in 2008 from the London School of Economics and has since been working for the French nongovernmental organization Solidarités International in Afghanistan.

Julie Goldman '05 completed both a bachelor's and a master's degree focusing on medical anthropology at Brandeis and is now studying medicine at New York Medical College.

"For 18 years before coming to college, I thought that my Indian family, with all of its fears, beliefs and superstitions, was just crazy. Then I started taking anthropology courses with this amazing department. What is so great about anthropology is that it gives us the means not only to understand diverse people's beliefs but also to gain an appreciation for their existence."

Sandhya Narayanan '10



Photo by Ken Schles

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