

# IUAES

# NEWS

July 2025

## IUAES

International UNION of  
ANTHROPOLOGICAL and  
ETHNOLOGICAL sciences



wcaa  
World Council  
of Anthropological  
Associations



<https://www.waunet.org/iuaes/>



## NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the final IUAES newsletter in the new series inaugurated by Subhadra Channa and Junji Koizumi in 2016. We will be transitioning to a WAU newsletter in the second half of 2025, integrating articles reporting on activities of the IUAES, WCAA and WAU itself in a single newsletter to be edited by Michel Bouchard and James Chen from the WCAA and Greg Acciaioli and Soumendra Patnaik from the IUAES. Besides transitioning to a new design format using templates, we will be using Mailchimp to facilitate wider distribution of the newsletter to members of both WAU chambers and beyond to a wider anthropological constituency to provide a higher global profile for WAU. We will also endeavour to include a wider range of feature articles and other types of contributions in line with discussions and suggestions of the IUAES Council of Commissions, IUAES EC, WCAA OC, and WAU SC. So, please look forward to the first issue of this new newsletter in the second half of 2025 as we approach the WAU Congress next November in Antigua, Guatemala.

As usual, this issue begins with a report from the IUAES Executive Committee (EC) by the IUAES Secretary General Virginia Dominguez covering the major topics of discussion and actions taken in EC meetings in the first half of 2025. The issue then proceeds to reports of their activities by various IUAES commissions, including (in alphabetical order) those on Anthropological Publishing, Anthropology and the Environment, Anthropology of Food and Nutrition, Anthropology of Religion, Anthropology of the Middle East, Digital Anthropology, Migration, and Nomadic Peoples. These articles detail recent activities by the commissions, including panels and roundtables at the 2024 WAU Congress in Johannesburg, upcoming activities such as conferences, symposia, webinars, and competitions, as well as panels, roundtables and other events such as photo exhibitions that are affiliated with these commissions at the upcoming WAU Congress.

Following these specific commission reports is an article by Giovanna Guslini that explains a number of joint initiatives by the long-standing IUAES Commission on Anthropology and Education and the recently formed WCAA Task Force on Anthropological Education and New Audiences, including the WAU webinar held on February 28, 2025, that publicly announced their collaboration. As in many of the commission reports, this article details the activities that the commission and task force will be running at the 2025 WAU Congress in Guatemala next November. This article is followed by a report on the subsequent WAU webinar on April 25, 2025, focused on the Anthropology of Statelessness, which also provides the link to the website where all past WAU webinars can be accessed.

This issue ends with an extended feature article focused on the IUAES Social Media Internship Program written by the interns themselves. This inspiring piece details the transformative impact of this programme upon these emerging anthropologists, extending well beyond their training in social media to encompass the emergence of a deep feeling of belonging to the global community of anthropologists. This article provides a fitting culmination not only for this issue, but for the entire new series of the IUAES Newsletter, as we transition to the publication of a WAU newsletter. We look forward to joining you in this next stage of the integration of the IUAES and WCAA in the World Anthropological Union.

**Greg Acciaioli**  
**Soumendra Patnaik**



## FROM THE IUAES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The IUAES Executive Committee has met monthly throughout 2025 and has so far met once jointly with the Organizing Committee of the WCAA (the World Council of Anthropological Associations), the other chamber of WAU (the World Anthropological Union). As I reported in the last IUAES Newsletter, the IUAES Executive Committee is looking for ways to work jointly with the WCAA to strengthen the work and value of anthropology worldwide. This work continues, and we plan to meet jointly with the WCAA Organising Committee at least once or twice more in 2025.

In 2024 we chose to alternate WAU webinars, which had started out as nearly monthly WCAA Webinars in 2020. In this new rotational system, Clara Saraiva (of the WCAA) organizes and moderates one webinar, followed two months later by Virginia Dominguez (of the IUAES) organizing and moderating another. That work continues in 2025. We have already had two WAU webinars, one in February on anthropology and education organized by Giovanna Guslini (see her article below on this webinar) and moderated by Clara Saraiva and one in April on the anthropology of statelessness organized by Greg Acciaioli (see his article below on this webinar) and moderated by Virginia Dominguez.

Also in 2024 we created three bicameral committees: one to search for a communications and digital director for the IUAES, the WCAA, and WAU itself after the resignation of Ricardo Fagoaga; one to revise the OGRs; and one to work on future (post-2025) Congresses. The first of these bicameral committees has already completed its work by choosing Dr. Tian Chen (in South Africa), negotiating with him, and developing a clear outline of his duties. The second and third bicameral committees are still at work meeting, coming up with ideas, and checking in with each chamber's executive committee. We expect their work to be completed in the last quarter of 2025.

Over the past few months, we have also expected that the newsletters produced separately by the IUAES and WCAA would merge to become a joint WAU Newsletter, rather than being produced and distributed separately. We do not know exactly when this will happen, but we expect it to happen in the second half of 2025. This planned joint newsletter would still produce sections on the IUAES and the WCAA. It is just that production would be joint rather than separate.

Of course, much of the joint work centers on the upcoming WAU Congress in Antigua, Guatemala. The Congress is a WAU Congress, the second such Congress after the South Africa one, but many of the panels proposed and accepted are affiliated with IUAES Commissions. The EC is pleased that a Memorandum of Understanding has now been signed by the main Congress organizer for the Guatemala Congress and the co-heads of the WAU Steering Committee, including Isaac Nyamongo, the current president of the IUAES.

We have also worked on finances and are happy to report that WAU has opened a bank account in Washington, D.C. that works for both WAU and for its constituent chambers, including the IUAES. It was with the help of Ed Liebow, member of the WAU Steering Committee and resident of the Washington, D.C. area, that we succeeded in registering WAU (and with it the IUAES) as a non-profit organisation and establishing a bank account there. In addition, Ed reports receiving



funds from the Delhi Congress in 2023 and the South Africa Congress in 2024 that had been paid by registrants for their IUAES memberships. Both are partial deposits, and more is expected, but it allows the IUAES to pay what it owes Raul Moyado (the general webmaster), Felipe Fernandes (for creating the voting system we used in January and February), and more. The banking transition has taken a while, but we are confident that we now have a lasting and productive arrangement.

Two other things required voting. Firstly, early in 2025 the Council of Commissions vetted proposals for two new IUAES Commissions, and the IUAES Executive Committee voted to accept them both. One is the Commission on Fieldwork and Innovative Methodologies, and the other is the Commission on Anarchist Anthropology and Autonomy Studies. The second item concerns motions entered at the end of the General Assembly in Johannesburg. Four motions were put to an electronic vote in late January and early February by all paid-up members of IUAES (at the time nearly a thousand, as sent to me by Helen Macdonald (lead organiser of the South Africa WAU Congress). They all passed, though not that many members voted, and we hope more members will vote in future electronic votes. The IUAES Executive Committee has since voted to create the working groups that were requested by two of these motions. It has contacted the lead members who proposed these motions with details of its plans.

Last, we are continuing to discuss ideas for growing the membership and welcome any ideas you have.

Virginia R. Dominguez  
IUAES Secretary-General

### **Commission on Anthropological Publishing (ICAP)**

The Commission on Anthropological Publishing is planning a new panel for the 2025 WAU Congress, to be held from 3 to 5 November in Guatemala. Organized by Carmen Rial and Virginia R. Dominguez, the panel aims to foster a more inclusive, transparent, and ethically grounded approach to academic publishing. It will be an open space to exchange ideas, share challenges, and explore solutions for a more inclusive and sustainable academic publishing system.

The panel invites editors of anthropological journals, peer reviewers, writers, and readers to join the discussion on publishing good practices and editorial experiences. It will bring together editors and publishing professionals to debate best practices and challenges in scholarly publishing. Key topics include the impact of digital media, the rise of open access, the increasing strain on the peer review system due to lack of proper incentives, the effects of AI-generated content, and the persistence of inequalities in global publishing, such as disparities in North-South participation in editorial boards and concerns over intellectual extractivism. Additionally, the discussion will explore issues surrounding paywalled research, the ethics of knowledge access, and strategies to ensure more equitable and sustainable publishing models.

The commission has been carrying out cooperative work since 2024 WAU Congress in South Africa, when it held a roundtable and a panel about good practices and worldwide perspectives in Global Publishing, with the participation of several members and strong audience



participation and engagement. The committee aims to bring together voices from around the globe that have been underrepresented in national, regional, and global anthropologies, even though they possess the potential to enrich knowledge production. This includes alternative approaches to theory that have been neglected and ignored.

The commission has been growing and attracting new academics and researchers in recent months. We would like to welcome the new members, who enrich the group with new ideas and experiences.

- Andréa Zhouri, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil ([azhouri@gmail.com](mailto:azhouri@gmail.com))
- Bela Feldman Bianco, State University of Campinas, Brazil ([bfb@uol.com.br](mailto:bfb@uol.com.br))
- Clara Saraiva, ICS - Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal ([maria-saraiva@edu.ulisboa.pt](mailto:maria-saraiva@edu.ulisboa.pt))
- Cornélia Eckert, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil ([chicaeckert@gmail.com](mailto:chicaeckert@gmail.com))
- Emily Metzner, University of Illinois, United States ([emilymetzner@gmail.com](mailto:emilymetzner@gmail.com))
- Felipe Fernandes, Federal University of Bahia, Brazil ([fernandes.felipebruno@gmail.com](mailto:fernandes.felipebruno@gmail.com))
- Gordon Mathews, Chinese University of Hong Kong, China ([gordonmathews22@gmail.com](mailto:gordonmathews22@gmail.com))
- Gustavo Lins Ribeiro, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana - Lerma, México ([gustavo.lins.ribeiro@gmail.com](mailto:gustavo.lins.ribeiro@gmail.com))
- Junji Koizumi, Osaka University, Japan ([koizumi@hus.osaka-u.ac.jp](mailto:koizumi@hus.osaka-u.ac.jp))
- Lia Ferrero, IESCODE-UNPAZ; FPyCS-UNLP, Argentina ([liaferrero@gmail.com](mailto:liaferrero@gmail.com))
- Mary Hallin, University of Nebraska at Omaha, United States ([mhallin@unomaha.edu](mailto:mhallin@unomaha.edu))
- Michel Bouchard, University of Northern British Columbia, United States ([dr.bouchard@gmail.com](mailto:dr.bouchard@gmail.com))
- Monica Heller, University of Toronto, Canada ([monica.heller@utoronto.ca](mailto:monica.heller@utoronto.ca))
- Ricardo Fagoaga, Universidad Iberoamericana, México ([rfagoaga@gmail.com](mailto:rfagoaga@gmail.com))
- Vinicius Kauê Ferreira, State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil ([v.ferreira@sephis.org](mailto:v.ferreira@sephis.org))
- Yasmeen Arif, Shiv Nadar University, India ([yasmeen.arif@snu.edu.in](mailto:yasmeen.arif@snu.edu.in))
- Tarminder Kaur, University of Johannesburg, South Africa ([tkaur@uj.ac.za](mailto:tkaur@uj.ac.za))



Participants of the ICAP panel in South Africa





Roundtable of African delegates at the WCAA meeting, when it was discussed how best to publicize African journals.



Some of the new commission members

Co-chairs: Carmen Rial and Virginia R. Dominguez



## Commission on Anthropology and the Environment (CAE)

In May-June of this year our commission conducted an online election for a new chair and deputy chair. Dr. Man Bahadur Khattri, Associate Professor at Tribhuvan University in Nepal, was elected as the new chair, and Dr. Sweta Tiwari, currently serving as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Mahatma Gandhi Central University (MGCUB), Bihar, and as a 2025, Charles Wallace Visiting Fellow at Queen's University Belfast, was elected as Deputy Chair. During the transition period Greg Acciaioli is continuing in an advisory capacity.



Incoming chair of CAE, Man Bahadur Khattri (center left) with head of the CoC, Felipe Fernandes (center right) and other congress delegates at the end of the CoC meeting in Johannesburg where the CAE managed to recruit several new members

To date, 30 panels for the upcoming WAU Congress in Antigua, Guatemala, have been listed as affiliated with the Commission on Anthropology and the Environment. 16 of these panels are exclusively affiliated with the CAE, while 14 are also co-affiliated with other IUAES commissions and/or WCAA task forces as well. As it has not yet been determined at the time of drafting this report whether all these panels will have a sufficient number of papers to be viable, some of these panels may be amalgamated, thus changing the total number.

1. Experiencias, alcances y desafíos en la transición agroecológica y la transformación de los sistemas alimentarios
2. Repensar la salud ante los desafíos biosociales del Capitalo/Antropoceno
3. Tres grandes ámbitos para discutir la “crisis de la antropología” en México
4. Narrar mundos, trazar tiempos: historias nativas, memorias materiales y cosmopolíticas del devenir
5. Mirando el desastre: antropología visual y de la imagen en tiempos de crisis climática
6. Hidrosferas en Disputa: Enfoques Interdisciplinarios sobre Gobernanza, Exclusión y



## Justicia Hídrica en América Latina

7. Antropología del agua
8. Experiencias y aprendizajes en la investigación y la incidencia con comunidades Nnancue Ñomndaa de Guerrero
9. Cuerpo-territorios, género y políticas en America Latina y el Caribe
10. Title in Spanish - Metodologías descolonizadoras: repensando saberes y prácticas en la investigación
11. Dilemas de la representación de los otros en el quehacer antropológico: acciones teórico-prácticas en el registro etnográfico, la producción académica y su difusión
12. An Archaeologist Amongst the Ethnographers": Ethnography As a Potent Proxy To Decode the Behavioural Niches and The Climate-Human Interactions from the Late Middle Pleistocene to Contemporary Times
13. Anthropology of Climate and Environment: Building Understanding and Advocacy for Disaster, Adaptation and Resilience in the Himalaya
14. Beyond Climate Resilience: Ontological Spatialities, Public Policies and Collective Actions
15. Bridging Methodologies for a More-than-Human Anthropology
16. Festivals as a Site of Contesting Heritagisation: Contending Local Aspirations and Governmental Authorisations
17. Food and Violence: Eating Our Way Into the World
18. Food Sovereignty through Traditional Foodways: Kitchen Gardens and Agrobiodiversity Conservation
19. Gender and Climate Justice: Intersecting Pathways for Sustainable and Inclusive Futures
20. How to Organize Festivals Today? Challenges of the Climate Crisis and Emerging Participant Needs
21. Human-animal relations in modern urban and rural societies: food security, technology, resources
22. Hydro-sociology: Theories, Methods and Politics of Working with Waters and People
23. Indigenous Environmental Knowledge: Exploring gender and sustainable development
24. Knowledge and Practice in Crisis: The Dynamics of Environmental Expertise amidst Rural Change
25. Law at the Edge of the World: Legal Futures in the Age of Crisis
26. Multispecies ethnographies for choreographies of worlds to come: Animalities, vegetalities, mineralities and other more-than-humans in the scenarios of the Anthropocene
27. Observing Above and Below: Power, Affect, and Knowledge Production in Space and Earth Sciences
28. Reclaiming Energy: Community-controlled Renewables and the Politics of Sustainability
29. Rethinking Rootedness: Participation, Restitution, and Heritage as Common Goods
30. Rethinking the future from the South: Collective Responses and Creative Resistances to the Crisis of the Capitalocene

The CAE thanks both the WAU Congress Scientific Committee and the Council of Commissions chair and co-chair in helping with the work of affiliating panels to CAE. At the time of drafting this article, it was not possible to list the number of papers accepted in each panel, as some papers



were still being assigned to panels by the congress's Scientific Committee. Similarly, at this time the number of roundtables and other events affiliated to the CAE has yet to be announced, although the roundtable "Transforming long-term field research: The impacts of new methodologies, media, technologies and understandings of 'the field'", co-affiliated with the CAE, Commission on Fieldwork and Innovative Methodologies, and Commission on Documentation, had been accepted.

Special recognition should be given to the work of our CAE intern, Tausi Feruzi, who has been assiduously advertising our affiliated panels and other activities on the CAE Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558440863401>) and on other social media.

**Greg Acciaioli, Outgoing Acting Chair**

### **Commission on the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition (ICAF)**

The IUAES Commission on the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition (ICAF) has presented a couple of initiatives over the past two years that it would like to share publicly. First, it has established the "Igor de Garine International Prize", which aims to recognize postgraduate work (master's or doctoral theses) dedicated to the anthropology of food.

The Igor de Garine Prize for the best research work on food and nutrition from the fields of humanities and social sciences was created with the intention of continuing the intellectual and human legacy of the man who was the driving force behind ICAF, the French anthropologist Igor de Garine (1931-2018). A pioneer in the field of food anthropology, his written and film work encompasses more than half a century of profound theoretical reflection and scrupulous fieldwork in various locations in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Polynesia, and Europe. This award is established in his memory. The 2025 call for submissions for this prize is now open. Originals can be submitted in any of the following languages: Spanish, Portuguese, English, Catalan, Basque, and Galician. The award includes, in addition to the recognition, the online publication of the book in the "Alimus" collection of the UNESCO-UOC Chair in Food, Culture, and Development. More information is available at: <https://www.icafspainportugal.org/>

Second, ICAF is also pleased to publicly present its new journal: *Archives on Food, Culture and Nutrition* (AFOCUN), a multilingual online journal (English, Spanish, Portuguese) devoted to food from social and cultural perspectives. *Archives on Food, Culture and Nutrition* is an international journal open to multidisciplinary-interdisciplinary reflection on food, where researchers from different social and cultural fields can express their points of view about food as an essential element of human life. This journal is peer-reviewed and open access; it is published twice a year. It is supported by the International Commission on the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition (ICAF), an international network of academic researchers with a common interest in food from a social and cultural perspective. More information is available at: <https://revista-afocun.unex.es/index.php/afocun>

Finally, here is some information on the three ICAF meetings planned for 2025.

1. Food Landscapes: Sustainable Territories and Identities. (Spanish/Portuguese/English). Barreiros (Spain), June 9-10, 2025



(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P-AU68w6Fo79kD3OyxY6KW0mF0ntyHg-/view>)

2. Political Economy of Food Heritage: Critical Approaches and Interdisciplinary Intersections (Spanish/English). Antigua, Guatemala, as part of the WAU-IUAES 2025 conference.

3. Gastronomies and cuisines for the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Social gastronomy. Social, economic, and cultural challenges of food. (Spanish/English). Mexico City, November 13-15, 2025 (<https://educacioncontinua.elclauastro.mx/producto/congreso-internacional/>)

**F. Xavier Medina and David Conde-Caballero**

## Commission on the Anthropology of Religion (CoAoR)

It has been a busy year for the Anthropology of Religion. Co-chair Hanna Kim would like to acknowledge the role of Co-chair Daniela Calvo in spearheading the leadership and activities of the Commission during the past year.

### *Photo Essay Award*

International Union of Anthropological and  
Ethnological Sciences (IUAES)  
Commission on the Anthropology of Religion  
Commission on Museums and Cultural Heritage  
Commission on Visual Anthropology  
Commission on Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology  
Commission on the Anthropology of Pandemics

# Portraying Religion & Health PHOTO ESSAY AWARD

Exhibition | Antigua, Guatemala  
November 3-8, 2025

Submit entries via the email  
[iuaes.photocontest2025@gmail.com](mailto:iuaes.photocontest2025@gmail.com)  
before February 28, 2025, 12 p.m. UTC.



The IUAES Portraying Religion and Health Award is a Photo contest that invites visual explorations of the multifaceted relationships between religion, spirituality, and health across geographical and cultural contexts, through a plurality of methodological, theoretical and aesthetic perspectives. We seek photo essays that capture the experiences, actors, contexts and materialities that emerge from these relationships.

Theme: The relationship between religion/spirituality and health is an expanding area of anthropological research, prompted in part by the global spread of alternative, complementary and nonconventional medicines, the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, and greater public interest in the intersection of religion and health.

Various forms of collaboration, intersection, negotiation, competition and conflict between religions and spiritualities on one side and biomedicine, and alternative, complementary, non-conventional and traditional medicines on the other side continue to exist and form. Religions and spiritualities may also include not only healing rituals, but also harmful practices to oneself or the others, like collective suicide, witchcraft, ingestion of harmful substances, and extreme body practices.



For more information  
Portraying Religion and Health



The Commission on the Anthropology of Religion (CoAoR) is excited to announce the results of a multi-commission project, “Portraying Religion and Health Photo Essay Award,” a collaborative initiative of the IUAES Commissions on the Anthropology of Religion, Visual Anthropology, Museums and Cultural Heritage, Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology, and the Anthropology of Pandemics. Organized in partnership with the World Anthropological Union (WAU) Congress 2025, this initiative is part of the hybrid congress taking place in Antigua, Guatemala, from November 3 to 8, 2025.

Congratulations to the winners!

**1<sup>st</sup>** Samuel Fernando Rivera Andrade, with the essay “Aquí hasta Cristo está tunco. Solidaridad y rituales de recomposición corporal hacia personas lesionadas y con discapacidad en situación de movilidad humana”

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Vincenzo Scamardella, with the essay “Tarot of healing, encounter, and presence of the ambivalent figure of Sousa Martins”

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Natasha Ferreira Martins, with the essay “Between Herbs and Prayers: Portuguese Benzimentos, Rituals of Healing and Well-Being”

**4<sup>th</sup>** Markus S. Enk, with the essay “Grupo de Mulheres Indígenas e Plantas Medicinais da Terra Indígena Caititu, Amazônia Brasileira”

The award addresses, through visual exploration, the intersections between religion and health, and was open to young scholars (University, College, Masters, and PhD students).

The first place winner is awarded a DJI Osmo Pocket 3, and all winners are invited to participate in the Round Table and the Photo Exhibition at the upcoming World Anthropological Union (WAU) Congress 2025 (IUAES and WAU fees included), in the exhibition book (open access) with other series and photographs selected, and have selected photos in the 2026 calendar, that will be produced as part of the project.

We are grateful to our judges Daniela Calvo, Mihai Andrei Leaha, Renato Athias, Paulina Pezzat, Marta Wójtowicz-Wcisło, Jan Lorenz, and Andrew Skinner for identifying the four winners. We also thank Ricardo Fagoaga for the opportunity to have a Photo Exhibition with the selected essays in WAU 2025 and for his support for the project.

The CoAoR wishes to warmly thank our first social media intern, Vishal Kamath, for his work since the start of the internship program until May 2025. We wish him well in his graduate studies in India. We also welcome the new intern, doctoral student Daniel Stack. With his creative efforts, we look forward to expanding our social media following and providing content about the commission and worldwide Anthropology of Religion announcements.

### **WAU World Congress Panels**

At WAU 2025, the CoAoR will have 13 affiliated panels and 2 affiliated roundtables, which are included in the CoAoR track number 18, as well as in other tracks, representing the interest of



the commission on various intersections of Anthropology of Religion with other fields and themes. We see this as a robust indication of why and how the Anthropology of Religion continues to be a necessary and compelling area of anthropological enquiry. Thank you to everyone who chose CoAoR for their participation at WAU and we hope to see many of you in Antigua at the panels, roundtables, and the exhibition featuring the photographs from Portraying Religion and Health Photo Essay Contest.

Below is a list of our 13 panels and 3 roundtables at WAU 2025. The CoAoR track is number 18 and has 6 panels from CoAR. The additional panels and roundtables (with affiliated tracks) show the range of panels and roundtable referencing the CoAoR.

"Mental mapping of environmental health crises" (Track 2), Organizers: Reet Hiimäe and Jenny Butler.

"Veneration of Virgin Mary among the Roma – global challenges and local diversities" (Track 3), Organizers: Elena Marushiakova, and Tatiana Zachar Podolinska.

"Festival as a social act of preservation of memories in African society" (Track 6), Organizers: Ojo Joseph Rapheal, Ilesanmi Akanmidu Paul, Benson Ohihon Igboin, and Bimbo Stanley Omopo.

"Death, Memory, and Heritage: Anthropology of ancestral worship and funeral custom in present and past" (Track 6), Organizers: Veena-Mushrif Tripathy, Seema Mamta Minz, Himanshu Shekhar, and Vivek Kumar.

"The concept of time, its understanding and impact on life" (Track 6), Organizers: Agnieszka Podolecka, and Joana Bahia.

"Narrar mundos, trazar tiempos: historias nativas, memorias materiales y cosmopolíticas del devenir" (Track 6), Organizers: Mathieu Picas, and Anaid Karla Ortiz Becerril.

"Religions and migrations, diasporas, displacements and transnational processes" (Track 8), Organizers: Daniela Calvo, Mariko Hamaya, Marta Wójtowicz-Wcisło, and Itishree Padhi.

"Crossing the boundaries of science and the supernatural: Religious perspectives on illness and healing" (Track 13), Organizers: Subhadra Channa and Clara Saraiva.

"The relationship between religion, spirituality, and politics in the contemporary world" (Track 18), Organizers: Marta Wójtowicz-Wcisło and Witold Jacorzynski.

"Solastalgia and spirituality" (Track 18), Organizers: Francesca Declich and Clara Saraiva.

"Sacred continuities and transformations: Indigenous rituals, beliefs, and social change in South Asia" (Track 18), Organizers: Sreehari K R and Vijila C M.



“Grupos religiosos minoritarios en América Latina y sus relaciones con las creencias mayoritarias” (Track 18), Organizer: Eva Kalny.

“Epiphanies and revelations: Productive ‘Susceptibilities’ in the Anthropology of Religion” (Track 18), Organizers: Hanna Hea-Sun Kim and Kanako Nakagawa.

### **WAU 2025 Roundtables**

Below are listed the roundtables co-affiliated with the CoAoR:

“Mental Mapping of Environmental Health Crises”. Participants: Reet Hiimäe, Jenny Butler, and Andrus Tins. Moderator: Reet Hiimäe; Commenter: Andrus Tins. IUAES Affiliation: Commission on the Anthropology of Religion, and Commission on Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology.

“Portraying Religion and Health”. Participants: Vincenzo Scamardella, Markus S. Enk, Samuel Fernando Rivera Andrade, and Natasha Martins; Moderators: Mihai Andrei Leaha, and Daniela Calvo; Commenters: Daniela Calvo, Mihai Andrei Leaha, and Renato Athias. IUAES Affiliation: Commissions on the Anthropology of Religion, Visual Anthropology, Museums and Cultural Heritage, Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology, and the Anthropology of Pandemics.

Moreover, some of the Commission members will participate in the following two roundtables:

“Indigenous Women, Religious Practices and Environmental Sustainability”. Participants: Annapurna Devi Pandey, Ajailiu Niumai, Itishree Padhi, Anjali Kurane, Opesen C. Columbus, and Daniela Calvo; Moderators: Annapurna Devi Pandey, and Triloki Nath Pandey; Commenter: Annapurna Devi Pandey.

“Indigenous Ontologies and Healing Practices”. Participants: Lidia Julianna Guzy, Carlos Gómez Rincón, Bobby Luthra Sinha, and Stefano Beggiora; Moderator: Bhumika Raj Sonwane; Commenter: Ranju Hasini Sahoo.

Looking ahead, for 2025-2026, the CoAoR will host a webinar or two featuring our members and others. Interested? Please contact Daniela Calvo and Hanna Kim to add your idea to the list.

We also intend to strengthen collaborations among the commission members and with other commissions for collaborations, joint projects, organization of panels, roundtables, seminars, and publications.

Interested in joining the CoAoR and meeting a global group of scholars committed to innovative fieldwork and publishing in anthropology of religion? You are warmly invited to write to Daniela Calvo (<dnlclv7@gmail.com>) and Hanna Kim ([hannakim@adelphi.edu](mailto:hannakim@adelphi.edu)).

Please visit Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/IUAES.religion>) for continuing information and details about our events.







## Commission on the Anthropology of the Middle East

The IUAES Commission on the Anthropology of the Middle East announces its 2025 conference, entitled “Anthropology Transforming, Middle East in Tension”, to be held September 10–12<sup>th</sup> at IFEA, Istanbul. The conference is being facilitated by various regional representatives: Soraya Tremayne & Christian Bromberger (Europe); Mary Hegland (United States and Canada); Paulo Pinto (South America); Tomoko Yamagishi (East Asia). The following panels have been proposed for the conference:

1. **Medicalisation** / Convenor: Soraya Tremayne (soraya.tremayne@anthro.ox.ac.uk)
2. **Games and Sports** / Convenor: Christian Bromberger (brombergerchristian8@gmail.com)
3. **Human-Animal Relations** / Convenor: Jean-Pierre Digard (jpdigard@gmail.com)
4. **Gender and Sexuality in Iran and the South Caucasus at the Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century** / Convenor: Janet Afary ([jafary@ucsb.edu](mailto:jafary@ucsb.edu))
5. **Memoirs, Life Histories, Stories, Narratives, Oral History and Memory: Individuals of Middle Eastern Societies** / Convenor: Mary Elaine Hegland (mhegland@scu.edu)
6. **New Realities: The Role of Technology in Shaping Everyday Life in the Middle East** / Convenor: Seyed Abdolreza Hosseini (abdr.hosseini@gmail.com)
7. **Rituals in Movement: Pilgrimage, Globalization, and Diaspora** / Convenors: Paulo Pinto and Gisele Fonseca Chagas (philu99@gmail.com; giselechagas@id.uff.br)
8. **Decolonial and Feminist Movements in Central Asia: Resistance, Agency, and Transformation** / Convenor: Rano Turaeva (Rano.Turaeva@lmu.de)
9. **Emerging Spiritualities: The Trajectory of New Spiritual Practices in Turkish Society** / Convenor: Kerem Görkem Arslan (kg.arslan@unistra.fr)
10. **Research in Progress** / Convenor: Soheila Shahshahani (soheilairan@gmail.com)
11. **Toward Visual Anthropology: A screening of documentary films from the Middle East followed by a discussion** / Convenor: Shilan Sa'adi (shilan.saadi80@gmail.com)

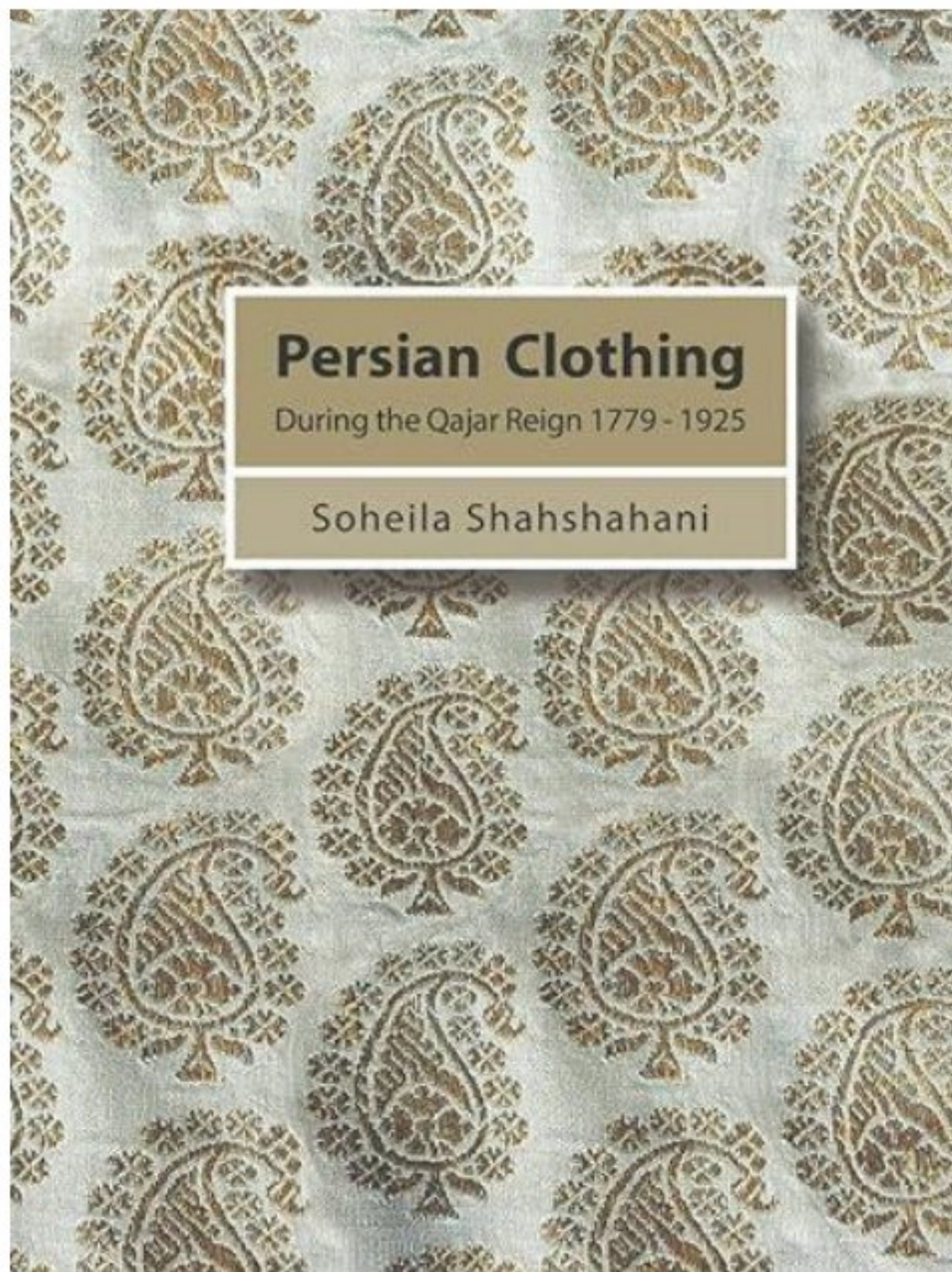
Further information on the conference can be found at: <https://iismm.hypotheses.org/125028>.

The commission also announces the publication of the June 2025 issue no. 20(1) of its semiannual journal *Anthropology of the Middle East*, published by Berghahn. This is a special issue entitled “Trans, Queer and ‘Third Gender’ in Muslim Countries”, guest edited by Corinne Fortier. All the articles are open access and available at:

<<https://www.berghahnjournals.com/view/journals/ame/20/1/ame.20.issue-1.xml>>.

In addition, the chair of the Commission on the Anthropology of the Middle East, Soheila Shahshahani, has just published an English-language edition of the book *Persian Clothing: During the Qajar Reign 1779-1925*. This hardcover book is available for purchase through Amazon.com.





The book's scope is given in the following description:

This book concerns 146 years of Iranian clothing as found in historical texts, written by Iranians or by foreign travellers to Iran. Various parts of clothing of different classes of society, men, women and children are discussed. The meaning of clothing and particularly the gift of clothing to various dignitaries of the country are discussed, under the title of *khal'at*. Then different areas of the country are shown in their different clothing, from shoes to all that covers their entire bodies. There is a bibliography of Persian and non-Persian books. There are a few indexes which send the readers to all that has been discussed in the book including different words for colors, different cloth, and terminology for clothing. This work is written from an

anthropological perspective, in a narration which makes the text readable by all.

**Chair:** Soheila Shahshahani

**Co-Chair:** Paulo Pinto

**Executive Secretary:** Magdalena Rodziewicz

## Commission on Digital Anthropology (CoDA)

Since January 2025, the Commission of Digital Anthropology – CoDA for short – has been promoting the lecture series “Digital Anthropology Across the Globe”. The idea behind the lecture series is to explore the emerging discipline of Digital Anthropology through a global lens. To that effect, we invited a series of speakers from different regions around the world to share their work and experiences working in the still emerging field.

Lecture series announcement poster



The first lecture in this series took place in January, with Professor Carolina Parreiras (USP – Brazil) as our speaker. Her lecture was titled “Digital Inequalities in Brazilian Favelas: Reflections on



Uses, Infrastructures, and Meaningful Connectivity.” The recording can be found on our YouTube channel: [click here](#).

The second lecture was held in February, featuring Professor Jennifer Deger (Charles Darwin University – Australia). In her talk, she shared insights from her ongoing projects, focusing on “exploring the diverse voices and knowledges that intermedial ‘writing’ can bring together, even as digitally driven regimes of value and knowledge production impose their own brutalising forms of academic compliance and conservatism.” To learn more about her lecture: [click here](#).

Our third speaker was Dr. Davide Casciano (KU Leuven – Belgium), who spoke to us in March about his current research. The title of his lecture was “Is the Next Silicon Valley Rising? Neoliberal Extroversions and Techno-Revolutionism in Lagos, Nigeria.” To find out more about his lecture: [click here](#).

In the fourth lecture in early May with Dr. Issifou Moumouni (University of Parakou), insights from his ongoing research in Benin were shared in a lecture titled “We Need Public Services to Go to the People Rather Than the People Always Going to the Public Services: The Digitalisation of Public Services Between the Logic of Modernisation and the Realities of Contexts in Benin.”

Our final lecture of the series took place on June 9th, with Professor Paolo Favero (University of Antwerp – Belgium) joining us. More details can be found on our social media accounts soon.

Between December and January of 2024, the IUAES Commission on Digital Anthropology also held a competition to promote digital anthropology research papers originally published in languages other than English. Those were shared on our various social media channels for public vote. Kostia Lenne’s paper “The Researcher, the Escort Boy and the Client: Making and Exploiting Ambiguities on a Male-for-Male Escorting Platform”, originally in French), emerged as the winner. His prize included a waiver of the IUAES/WAU Congress 2025 online conference registration fee and a professional translation of his work into English. He will also present this paper and co-host our panel with the CoDA team at the congress.



Post-competition winner announcement poster



Please consider yourself invited to join the panel titled “Dismantling rupture and tech determinism: Digital transformations and their impacts on social lives, media practices and economies” and learn more in the abstract below:

Events and innovations in the realm of technology and digitisation are typically framed as either moments of social rupture or as an inevitable trajectory that humans merely follow. But within these developments lie smaller-scaled, often overlooked disruptions—unanticipated shifts, gradual transitions, and entirely unscripted ways of doing things. How do people in different social contexts experience and respond to the tension between continuity and change? What drives resistance to transformation, and how do people navigate it? And what do people want change to look like? What do they want to preserve and what to alter? What alternative futures to those scratched out by an elite few are being imagined? Digital anthropology allows us to explore these questions – the social textures and everyday realities of living with technology – whether through social media and their latest AI add-ons, e-governance, or the environmental consequences of digital expansion. This panel invites us to look beyond grand narratives of rupture and technological determinism and get into the messiness of our digitally substantiated life worlds, into the imaginations of “change” (as transition, as rupture, etc.) and into the expectations regarding digital futures. We are particularly interested in papers that can be included in a special issue or edited volume on the topic.

We hope to see you at the WAU Congress and invite you to join our media channels to stay up-to-date on our work! You can find us here:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IUAES.digital>  
X (formerly known as Twitter): [https://x.com/iaaes\\_coda](https://x.com/iaaes_coda)  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/iaaes.coda>  
Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/iaaes-coda/>  
Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/@iaaes\\_coda](https://www.youtube.com/@iaaes_coda)  
Substack: <https://substack.com/@iaaes coda>



This update was authored by the commission’s Social Media Manager Vitoria da Silveira, Social Anthropology Graduate Student (PPGAS) and researcher in the Study Collective on Environment, Perceptions and Practices (CANOA) at Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC).

The chairs of the Commission – Dr Leah Junck (Global Center on AI Governance / African Observatory on Responsible AI) and Ass Prof Katrien Pype (KU Leuven) – express their gratitude for Vitoria’s ongoing commitment and support.



## Commission on Migration

The IUAES Commission on Migration has continued to deepen and diversify its engagement with anthropological approaches to mobility, displacement, and border regimes. Over the past year, our members have contributed actively to public debates, academic scholarship, and institutional initiatives that address the complexities of migration in the current global context. This report offers an overview of our most recent activities, including new book publications by commission members, a public webinar, and a robust presence at the most recent World Anthropological Union (WAU) Congress.

### ***2024 Johannesburg World Congress***

The Commission also played a central role in the 2024 WAU Congress, convening seven panels under its banner. These panels reflected the richness and diversity of current research in migration anthropology, drawing participants from across geographic regions and academic traditions. In the panel “Migration and the Politics of Vulnerability”, presenters examined how humanitarian and state discourses construct and mobilize vulnerability, often to control migrant mobility or justify restrictive policies. “Language, Bureaucracy, and the Migrant Experience” focused on how administrative systems, linguistic practices, and documentation processes shape the lived experiences of migrants and their access to rights. The panel “Forced Migration and the Question of Belonging” brought together scholars working on refugee camps, diasporic communities, and urban displacement to analyze how different forms of belonging are claimed, denied, and negotiated.

Another panel, “Migration and Urban Margins”, explored the role of informal settlements, peripheries, and contested urban spaces in shaping migrant subjectivities and survival strategies. “Border Regimes and Resistance” addressed the material and symbolic infrastructures of borders, while also highlighting migrant resistance, advocacy, and everyday forms of subversion. In “Gender, Migration, and Care Work”, researchers focused on the experiences of women migrants in domestic and caregiving roles, examining the intersections of gendered labor, migration policy, and household economies. Finally, “Youth on the Move” looked at the particular challenges and aspirations of young migrants, with discussions on education, legal status, and intergenerational belonging.





*Commission's Meeting at the Congress*

The Roundtable “Scholars Against Genocide and Repression” was a central activity co-organized by the Commission on Migration at the WAU World Congress, bringing together anthropologists and academics from diverse contexts to address the ongoing assaults on Palestinian lives, academic freedom, and the perpetration of genocide and scholasticide. The session critically examined the personal and institutional pressures that deter scholarly dissent, as well as the mechanisms used by academic institutions to suppress pro-Palestinian voices. The roundtable provided a timely space for reflecting on the ethical responsibilities of scholars and the potential for transnational solidarity. A motion arising from this discussion was read at the General Assembly of the World Congress and subsequently approved in an online vote, reinforcing the IUAES’s commitment to academic freedom, human rights, and the role of anthropology in confronting injustice.



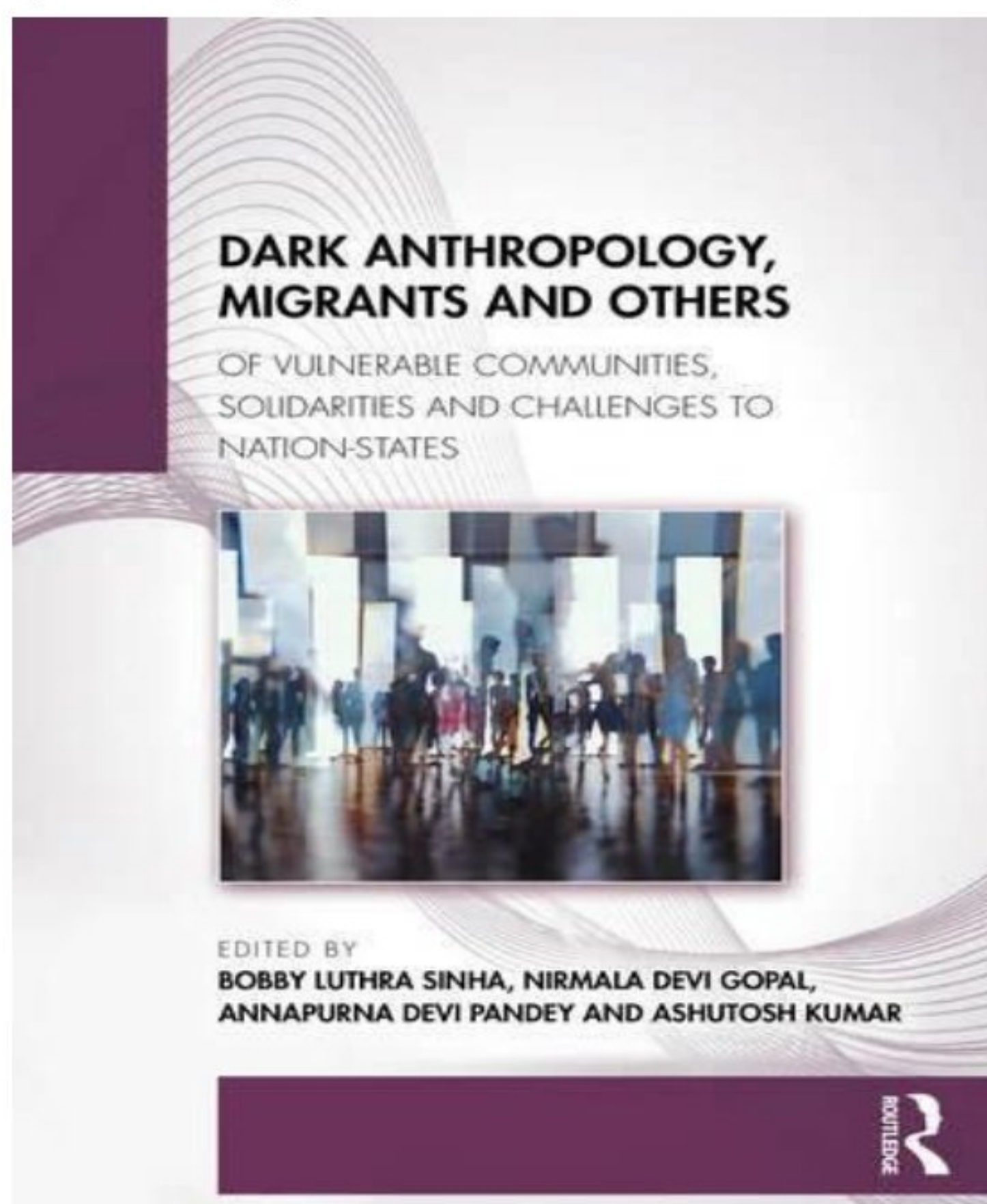
*Roundtable Scholars Against Genocide and Repression*

These panels offered space for early-career scholars to present their work and engage in international dialogue, and they underscored the commission’s dedication to intersectional, critical, and empirically grounded approaches. They also created bridges between academic research and the lived experiences of migrants, an orientation that has long guided the ethos of the Commission.



## **Books published**

Among the highlights of this period are two new books published by members of the Commission, each offering important contributions to contemporary debates in migration studies. The first is *Dark Anthropology, Migrants and Others: Of Vulnerable Communities, Solidarities and Challenges to Nation-States* (Routledge, 2024), co-edited by one of our members and former chairs, Bobby Luthra Sinha. This volume engages with the theoretical turn toward “dark anthropology” by examining how precarity, violence, and exclusion have come to dominate ethnographic accounts of migration. Through a series of ethnographic vignettes and critical reflections, Sinha interrogates the conceptualization of migrant vulnerability, while also highlighting the forms of solidarity and resistance that emerge in response to exclusionary nation-state practices. The book offers a powerful critique of the moral and political dilemmas anthropologists face when working with marginalized communities, particularly in contexts shaped by surveillance, nationalism, and humanitarianism.



The second volume, *Processos de pertencimento e organização social entre migrantes forçados árabes* (Editora Fi, 2024), authored by our co-chair Leonardo Schiocchet, focuses on the experiences of Arab forced migrants, particularly in Latin American and Middle Eastern contexts. Drawing from extensive fieldwork, the book explores how displaced individuals construct new social structures and meanings of belonging under conditions of exile. It examines the challenges faced by these communities in navigating host society expectations, legal precarity, and cultural negotiation, while also foregrounding their agency in shaping collective life. Written in Portuguese, the book makes an important contribution to expanding the linguistic and regional scope of migration studies and reflects the Commission on Migration’s commitment to multilingual and contextually grounded scholarship.

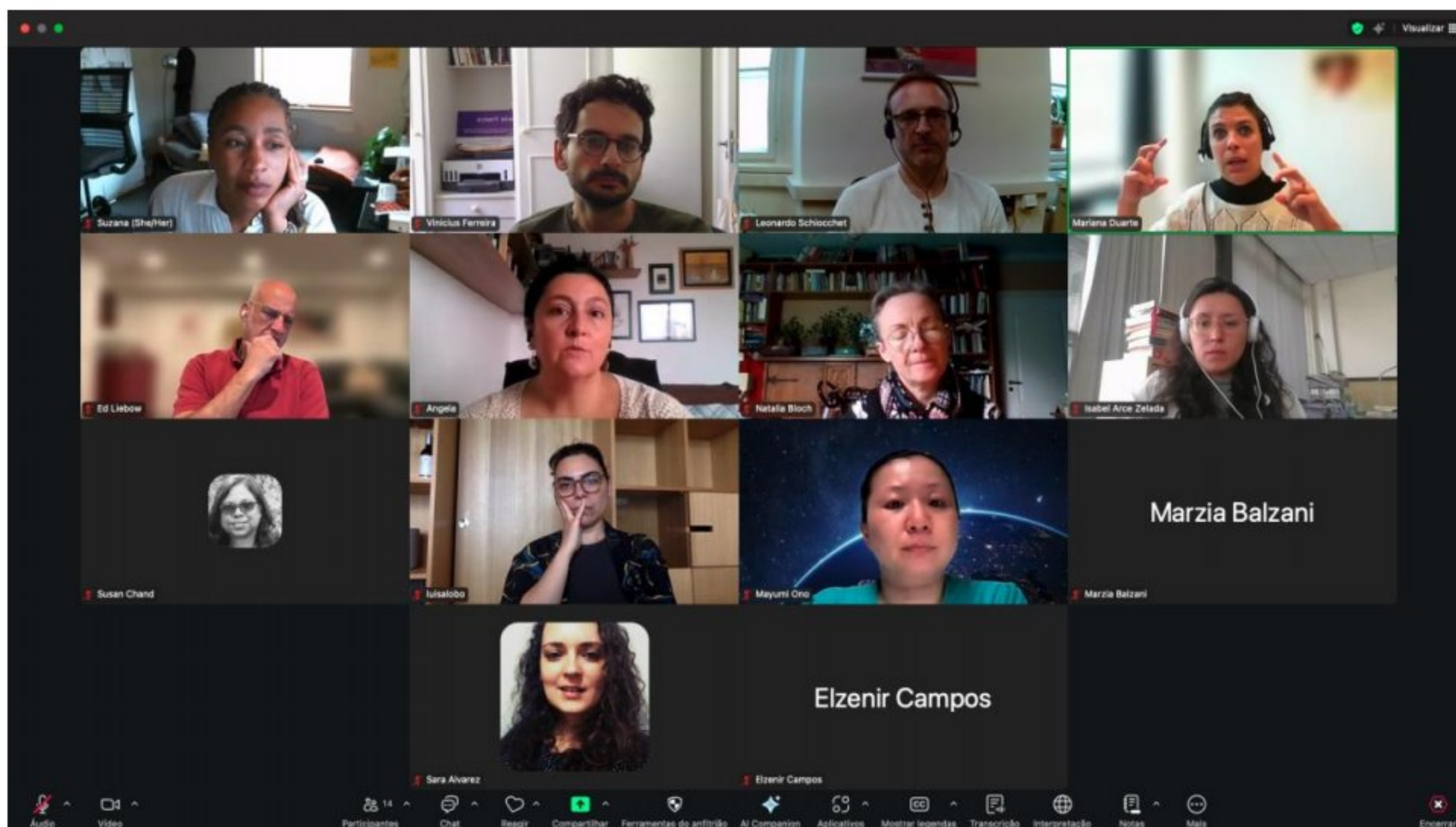


### **Webinar series**

On April 24, 2025, the Commission organized a public webinar titled “Migration, Borders, and Belonging in Times of Crisis”, which was broadcast live via Instagram. The invited speaker was Dr<sup>a</sup> Susana Duarte Santos Mallard, a psychologist (UFPR), psychoanalyst, and scholar with a doctorate in Psychosociology from UFRJ. Dr<sup>a</sup> Mallard is a specialist in transculturality and diasporic identities, and a founding member of the Instituto Diáspora em Diálogo. She is also a professor in the Graduate Program in Migration and Mental Health at PUC-Minas, and co-coordinator of the Psychoanalysis and Culture space at the Freudian Library of Curitiba. Her clinical and academic work is deeply embedded in cross-border practices, and she currently serves as an advisory member of the NGO Terr’Ativa, which supports at-risk children in the Fubá community of Rio de Janeiro. Her presentation drew on both clinical experience and psychosocial research to reflect on the psychic dimensions of migration, the politics of belonging, and the need for ethically situated responses to displacement and trauma.







The session was discussed by Mariana Bassoi Duarte, Director of the Graduate Program in Psychology and Migrations at PUC-MG and co-founder of *Diáspora em Diálogo*. Duarte is a doctoral candidate in Clinical Psychology at ISPA (Lisbon), with a Master's in Psychosocial Studies from Birkbeck, University of London, and a Master's in Clinical Psychology from UFPR. She is also a researcher at the Applied Psychology Research Center Capabilities & Inclusion (APPsyCI) and at Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), France. Her response emphasized the importance of listening practices, transnational care, and the epistemologies that emerge from migrant and diasporic subjectivities. The dialogue between speaker and discussant opened rich avenues for interdisciplinary engagement, drawing together perspectives from psychoanalysis, migration studies, and community-based practice.

### ***Commission's future***

Looking ahead, the Commission on Migration is pleased to share that the upcoming WAU Congress in Guatemala will feature a significant presence from our group, with 15 panels promoted under our banner. This strong representation reflects both the growing relevance of migration studies within global anthropology and the expanding network of scholars engaged with our commission. These panels will address a wide array of themes – including forced displacement, migrant epistemologies, diasporic identities, care and transnational health, violence and forms of marginalization, politics of return, labor, gender, and the politics of mobility in Latin America and beyond – demonstrating our ongoing commitment to fostering critical, interdisciplinary, and globally inclusive dialogues.

In addition, the IUAES Commission on Migration plans to build on this momentum through several new initiatives. We are currently organizing the next sessions of our webinar series, which will address emerging issues. We are also working to create regional working groups that will facilitate horizontal collaboration among scholars in different parts of the world. These efforts are aligned with our broader goal of fostering inclusive, transnational, and multilingual spaces for the anthropology of migration.



At the same time, we remain committed to supporting early-career researchers through mentorship, visibility at conferences, and opportunities for publication. We also recognize the importance of integrating the voices of non-academic actors – migrants, organizers, practitioners – into our events and projects. As mobility becomes increasingly criminalized and as racialized, gendered, and class-based inequalities intensify, we believe that anthropology has a vital role to play in both understanding and challenging these dynamics.

We invite all IUAES members interested in migration to join our mailing list, participate in our upcoming events, and contribute to the development of a vibrant and engaged community of scholarship and practice. To join us as a member please send us an email with a short biography describing your research interest to: [migration.iuaes@gmail.com](mailto:migration.iuaes@gmail.com).

## Commission on Nomadic Peoples

The Nomadic Peoples Commission is happy to invite submissions for the **2025 Best Student Essay Prize** on the broad topic of nomadic peoples, as defined in the journal *Nomadic Peoples*. Essays should have been written during the period of graduate study or within a year of completing and should not exceed **7,500 words**. Exceptionally, undergraduate students may also apply. The award is £250, together with guaranteed open access publication in *Nomadic Peoples* in 2026.

Feel free to share this opportunity widely with your students and recent graduates!

Please submit by filling in [this form](#) or by emailing: [nomadicpeoplesiuaescommission@gmail.com](mailto:nomadicpeoplesiuaescommission@gmail.com).

The deadline is **July 15th, 2025**.

## Anthropological Education and New Audiences: An experimental “bridge” project between the IUAES Commission on Anthropology and Education and the WCAA Member Associations.

The WAU “umbrella”, under which IUAES and WCAA have united, is proving to be an amazing opportunity for anthropological education. Education is essential in reaching new audiences (i.e. non-anthropologists), but it needs to experience a systematic, organized, and not just sporadic collaboration between the two chambers that make up WAU. This collaboration has recently materialised with the establishment of the new [WCAA Task Force ‘Anthropological Education and New Audiences’](#), which since January 2025 has brought together some members of WCAA associations already active in the field of education together with some members of the Anthropology and Education Commission.

Commission members are almost always also part of an anthropological association that supports them and offers them resources and opportunities. Among these, the task force would like to increase the number of networks, sections and working /interest groups that focus on the topic of education, starting with best practices in communicating anthropology to new audiences. This means not only monitoring, documenting and mapping, but above all giving support and/or organizing activities, whether individual or collective, where anthropology



engages the public. These tend to systematically foster, with the aid of particular techniques and methods, the attainment of predetermined knowledge, skills, and competences by individuals throughout their lives; only a lifelong education will be able to spill over into universities as well as society.

Much has been said about public anthropology, but little about the previous steps, the very educational prerequisites needed to approach, reach and train new interlocutors. We asked ourselves: how can we make the educational commitment of anthropology concrete and incisive in today's world? How to translate our research into action step by step? How to convert the sector-specific and academic language of anthropology experts into various attractive languages suitable for different interlocutors?

The launch activity of the task force was the WAU webinar on this subject that was conducted on 28 February 2025 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjTvjcfjimpA>). There had been some initial steps earlier that led to the task force's formation. I will mention just a couple of them: the 2019 in-person workshop "Writing for a public of non-anthropologists" [Commission on Anthropology and Education] in the IUAES Inter-Congress "World Solidarities" in Poznan (Poland) and the first WAU online workshop in 2021 "Writing stories for an audience of non-anthropologists".

Between 2021 and 2024 we had both the experimentation of activities aimed at new audiences (IUAES panels, papers, workshops, roundtables) and the networking with some anthropological associations that are members of the WCAA, primarily: Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI Education Committee), EASA Teaching Anthropology Network, Council on Anthropology and Education, a section of the American Anthropological Association, Association of Social Anthropologists and ASA 2022: Anthropology Educates. This networking has had a positive impact on the success of the Major Conference "Anthropology and Education", 25 June – 28 June 2024, Face-to-Face RAI Conference at Senate House, University of London.

More recent initiatives included the *lekgotla* "Public anthropology of food: interdisciplinary and intercultural insights on nutrition and human health", co-organized with the Italian Institute of Culture and the Italian Embassy in Pretoria during the WAU Congress in South Africa, Johannesburg, November 2024, which was a successful example of a public anthropology and education event. During the same congress, the panel "Anthropology and creativity: reaching new audiences", convened by Giovanna Guslini, Mary J. Hallin, and Łukasz Kaczmarek, took place (albeit late due to technical issues) with three sessions and excellent presentations.

It was in Johannesburg that, thanks to the WAU, WCAA and IUAES decision-makers, our idea for the task force took shape. We were encouraged by past experiences and confident that the task force would greatly facilitate immediate targeted actions by experts in galvanizing educational initiatives for new audiences in and outside the university, including life-long learning and bottom-up methodologies, as well as best educational practices. It is important to coordinate events with other organisations for public consumption, and this requires understanding what is going on in each anthropological association and connecting with each other.



## Anthropological Education and New Audiences

### WAU - World Anthropological Union Webinar

Organized by the IUAES & WCAA



**28 February 2025 (Friday) 2 pm UTC**

6 am Canada (Vancouver) and United States (California)

/ 11 am Brazil / 2 pm Ireland, Portugal, United Kingdom /

10 pm Hong Kong

Clara Saraiva  
WCAA/ ICS-Universidade de Lisboa  
Convenor

#### Participants:

**Marzia Balzani** - New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE

**Caroline Gatt** - Institut für Kulturanthropologie und Europäische Ethnologie Universität, Graz, Austria

**Shelene Gomes** - University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus, Trinidad and Tobago, Caribbean)

**Skilty Labastilla** - Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

**Antonella Tassinari** - Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil

**Giovanna Guslini** - IUAES Chair of the Commission on Anthropology and Education



Registration: <https://shorturl.at/mLgLI> or QR code

To further explore the activities already undertaken by the Task Force and the IUAES Commission on Anthropology and Education, we invite you to follow our affiliated panels and roundtables in the upcoming WAU congress 2025 in Guatemala:

#### ➤ Three roundtable discussions

- I. Anthropological education and new audiences I - How to engage non - anthropologists?
- II. Anthropological education and new audiences II - How to engage schools?
- III. Anthropological education and new audiences III - How to engage bodies and organizations?

#### ➤ Four panels

- I. Towards epistemic justice in anthropological education
- II. Anthropology and educational policies: Decolonial possibilities and critical interventions
- III. Building bridges in education between Anthropology and new audiences: Local and international partnerships as crossroads of disciplines and technologies
- IV. The role of education in improving healthcare

The above roundtables and panels are affiliated with the WCAA Task Force “Anthropological Education and New Audiences” and the IUAES Commission on Anthropology and Education. Panel IV is also affiliated with the Medical Anthropology Commission.

In the future, other cross-cutting activities will be explored. While anthropological education primarily requires meta-cognition and self-reflection, it also offers itself as a valuable cross-



cutting tool for various current issues and as a useful approach for practical spillover into education for other commissions interested in this topic.

**Giovanna Guslini**

## **WAU Webinar: The Anthropology of Statelessness**

On April 25, 2025, the WAU webinar “The Anthropology of Statelessness” was presented online to an audience of several dozen participants. Amanda Cheong began by presenting a global account of how stateless people have been depicted as vulnerable victims rather than as people who show great flexibility in confronting their exclusion and maintain strong attachments to their land and communities. Anne Baltazar then presented the situation with regard to statelessness in Sabah, one of the two states in East Malaysia. She emphasised how children came to realise their condition of statelessness as they grew up and how mothers carry the main emotional and logistical burden for stateless families. Statelessness has to be seen as not just a legal condition, but as a lived experience of exclusion and disempowerment. Lara Tienchi Chen emphasised that stateless people exercise their agency in the face of exclusion and suggested that perhaps the entire system of nationality law had to be rethought in the light of statelessness. Stephen McIntyre highlighted that statelessness gives people a sense of permanent temporariness, providing insights into the condition of Kurdish and Rohingya people in Japan. Vilashini Somiah rounded out the presentations by also stressing the state of emotional and spiritual marooning that stateless people experience and pointed to the usefulness of the tools of anthropology in combatting stereotypes of stateless people as simply “legal ghosts”. She emphasized the complex entanglement of state and identity and the role of kin and other collective groups in sustaining people who have been so excluded by the state. As a discussant, the convenor Greg Acciaioli emphasised the importance of considering how the determination of borders in the Westphalian state system had created the situation of statelessness and how the exclusions of stateless people also problematised the notion of Indigeneity.

The following discussion with the online audience was far-ranging and brought up many other aspects of the dimensions that the webinar panellists had presented. Throughout there was a refrain concerning how statelessness illustrated why the global system of nation-states had to be problematised. The discussion also highlighted the contributions of anthropology to illuminating the experiential dimension of statelessness. For example, anthropologists such as Liisa Malkki and Catherine Allerton had opened up the study of statelessness by analysing the interconnections of identity, belonging and national sovereignty and emphasising the important role of studying how children come to realise their own statelessness. Participants were able to bring in their own experiences of statelessness, such as Lara’s childhood situation of being stateless when Japan derecognised the Republic of China and no longer recognised citizenship documents that the Taiwanese government issued. One highlight of the discussion was when the moderator Virginia Dominguez admitted that the discussion brought her to realise that she too had been stateless for some of her childhood with neither Cuban nor USA citizenship despite holding identification papers from both countries. That realisation evidenced how the webinar had brought participants to realise how the anthropological study of statelessness allowed them to rethink their own identities and sense of belonging within the global nation-state system. For those interested, a recording of this WAU Webinar, along with previous webinars, including the



webinar “Anthropological Education and New Audiences” discussed in the immediately above article, is available on the WAU website at < <https://waunet.org/videos/>>.



**World Anthropological Union Webinar**

**25 April Friday 14:00 UTC**  
Vancouver, Canada: 7 AM PDT / California, USA: 7 AM PDT / Brazil (São Paulo): 11 AM BRT / Ireland: 3 PM BST / Portugal: 3 PM BST / United Kingdom: 3 PM BST / Hong Kong: 10 PM HKT

**The Anthropology of Statelessness**

Convenor: Greg Acciaioli  
Moderator: Virginia Dominguez

Participants:  
Amanda Cheong, University of British Columbia, Canada  
Anne Baltazar, Universiti Malaya, Malaysia  
Vilashini Somiah, Universiti Malaya, Malaysia  
Lara Tienshi Chen, Waseda University, Japan  
Stephen P. McIntyre, Hitotsubashi University, Japan



Registration via this link or QR code: <https://shorturl.at/P81Zd>

Greg Acciaioli

### **Global Voices in Motion: The IUAES Social Media Internship Program**

**Stories of learning, connection, and transformation building Anthropology from around the world**

Since January 2024, the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) has welcomed anthropology students from around the world into its Social Media Internship Program, under the guidance of Anita Nudelman, Deputy Head of the IUAES Council of Commissions and Interns' Program Coordinator, Leah Junck, Researcher and Intern's Program Supporter, and Ricardo Fagoaga, Digital Impact Consultant for IUAES when the program started. These interns work collaboratively to manage the association's communication platforms — Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, and more — supporting the many commissions that make up the IUAES.

*Joining the IUAES team was as terrifying as it was exciting. I remember stumbling through my interview, surrounded by noise and chaos, trying my best to express my academic passions. Since then, I've found myself part of an intellectually vibrant, diverse group — and I'm incredibly grateful for the trust and opportunities I've received.*

— **Miracle May, South Africa**

*When I applied to the IUAES internship, I imagined I'd spend a few months drafting social media posts. What I didn't expect was to find a community that would redefine how I see academia — and myself.*

— **Saptarshi Bairagi, India**



*Participating in the IUAES interns program was truly inspiring, and the experience proved invaluable. Working and collaborating with fellow interns from diverse contexts significantly enriched my personal and professional development. Participating in such academic spaces has immensely improved my professional and academic skills. I am truly grateful to the leadership and mentors of the IUAES interns program.*

— **Gabriel Ziyambi, Zimbabwe**

*When I joined the IUAES internship program, I had a few goals: to learn more about working with social media, stay connected with researchers in gender and feminist studies from different backgrounds, and help promote the committee's activities. In just over a year of work, the program gave me far more than I expected: a network of friends, meaningful exchanges of experiences, and a thoughtful, careful approach to guiding our initiatives.*

— **Carolina Giordano Bergmann, Brazil**

However, the scope of this program extends beyond the realm of social media. This initiative functions as a mentorship and training space, connecting early-career scholars with global networks and offering practical experience in the emerging domain of digital anthropological communication. One of its most powerful aspects is the intentional inclusion of interns from underrepresented regions — including Brazil, Peru, South Africa, India, and Mexico — ensuring that diverse perspectives actively shape how anthropology is communicated worldwide.



**Global Collaboration in Action:** Interns connect virtually during a 2024 program meeting. Image credit: Personal screenshot by Bruna Fani Duarte Rocha. We have Ricardo Fagoaga, Bruna Fani Duarte, Priscilla Oliveira dos Anjos, Jimena López, Anita Nudelman, Isabel Arce Zelada, Kwandisa Nxumalo, Milena Geisa, Felipe, Yashmine Tabasoom, Bhakti Costaunau, Tausi Feruzi, Jade, Ermias Gumante, Vitória da Silveira, Ela Eslami, Gabriel Ziyambi, Jack Visser, Vishal V Kamath, Miracle May, Anvi, Saptarshi Bairagi e Yubai Li.



## ***Perspectives from Our Interns: A Training Ground for the Future of Anthropology***

*Joining the IUAES community was, above all, about giving myself permission — to be there as a Brazilian, a Latin American, and someone from the Global South. It reminded me that our perspectives matter and are vital for reshaping dominant narratives.*

**— Bruna Fani Duarte Rocha, Brazil**

*Being part of this team has taught me the value of behind-the-scenes work in institutional spaces. I've become more attentive to trends and now deeply value the role of digital advocacy.*

**— Miracle May, South Africa**

*This experience placed me at the center of global anthropological dialogue and helped me build digital skills. Our intern group is amazing — I've made friendships that will last a lifetime!*

**— Thainá Saciloto Paulon, Brazil**



**Faces of the 2025 Program:** Interns from diverse backgrounds come together. Image credit: Personal screenshot by Bruna Fani Duarte Rocha. We have Anita Nudelman, Matan Boni, Milena Geisa Martins, YasminesTabasoon, Daniel Stack, Maxine Nyoni, Thaina Saciloto, Leah Junck, Tatum Alexander, Vitoria da Silveira, Carolina Giordano Bergmann, Bhakti Lostaunau, Gabriel Zyambi, Miracle May, Bruna Fani Duarte, Kwandisa Nxumalu, Saptarshi Bairagi, Humbulani Ramudzwagi, Anvi Sawant.

The program is designed to serve as a practical laboratory for translating anthropology into content that is accessible and cross-cultural. It invites interns to engage with complex ideas, develop visual strategies, and collaborate across time zones, disciplines, and languages. Beyond skills, it fosters a sense of community and shared purpose among early-career scholars, creating a multilingual, multicultural, and globally engaged space for knowledge sharing.




## ***Why Does This Program Matter?***

In a world increasingly mediated by algorithms and platforms, the public dissemination of anthropological knowledge is not a marginal undertaking; rather, it constitutes a critical, ethical, and political endeavor.

This program brings together scholars from the Global South who often work in English as a second or third language. Interns contribute to the development of effective and inclusive academic communication by engaging in collaborative, creative, and thoughtful processes.

These actors are not merely establishing connections across national boundaries; they are assuming pivotal roles in shaping the very foundation of anthropological knowledge. A notable example is Milena Geisa dos Santos Martins, from Brazil, a former intern who has since become co-chair and co-founder of the IUAES Commission on Fieldwork and Innovative Methodologies in Anthropology.



 **WAU Congress in Johannesburg:** Personal Photo by Miracle May in the 2024. We have Carolina Giordano Bergmann, Saptarshi Bairagi, Miracle May, Jack Visser and Gabriel Ziyambi.

Supportive initiatives — such as travel grants and inclusive contests — have allowed interns to participate in global conferences, promoting a more democratic and decentralized academic landscape.

*These coordinated efforts by mentors fostered networking and collaboration among interns. This wasn't just an internship — it was a learning environment that helped me discover and develop my potential.*

— **Gabriel Ziyambi, Zimbabwe**



This is a model that reimagines who has the right to voice their perspectives, assume leadership roles, and influence the future trajectory of the discipline.

### ***Highlights and Achievements: Expanding the Digital Presence***

Since its inception, the IUAES Interns' Program has played a pivotal role in expanding the digital presence of several commissions, launching culturally resonant campaigns, and fostering meaningful global engagement across platforms. Here are just a few examples of what our interns have accomplished:

**Miracle May** helped launch a commission's X (formerly Twitter) account, growing it from zero to over 100 followers, and co-managed the Instagram page, increasing its followers from 20 to 120. Posts regularly reached between 200 and 400 impressions, despite frequent shifts in platform dynamics.

**Bruna Fani Duarte Rocha** managed the social media of two commissions. In one, she grew the Instagram account to 650 followers and sustained over 13,000 monthly impressions. She now leads the social media for the Nomadic Peoples Commission, building its Facebook and Instagram presence from the ground up to 278 followers, while adapting strategies to the distinct pace and goals of each team. Here's an example of art she created with her colleague, Daniel Stack, for the Nomadic Peoples commission. It was made for one of the Chairs, Joana Roque, who co-chairs with Allisson Hahn.



**Thainá Saciloto Paulon** designed and implemented a visibility campaign for the commission on Anthropology and Public Policy. Her work resulted in a 75% increase in Facebook reach and a 31.5% rise in engagement, with many posts reaching 150% more non-followers than existing ones — expanding both impact and audience. She developed a new design and reorganized the information about the commission, in collaboration with the work initially prepared by former intern Jack Wisser, streamlining the visual materials to ensure consistency across all communications. Below are some examples of her design work:





**Saptarshi Bairagi** began their IUAES internship with the Scientific Commission on Global Feminisms and Queer Politics, co-managing social media with a Brazilian intern and creating vibrant, culturally grounded content such as posters and videos that boosted global engagement. In 2024, they joined the Commission on Human Rights, where they helped launch and manage its Facebook page, building a following from scratch. Saptarshi continues to collaborate with the Feminisms and Queer Politics Commission and is currently co-developing a Pride Month podcast series to spotlight diverse queer and feminist voices in Anthropology.

Example of the content of Social Media, during the Internship Programme in 2024



These achievements are indicative of two things: first, the commitment and creativity of each intern and, second, the value of collaborative work in amplifying anthropological voices





worldwide. The IUAES Interns' Program exemplifies the efficacy of integrating strategic communication with cultural sensitivity in fostering academic networking, cultivating public interest, and facilitating inclusive knowledge-sharing. We are proud of the accomplishments of our team and are enthusiastic about the future.

### ***What the Program Means to Us: Reflections from Interns Around the Globe***

Over the past cycles, the IUAES Internship Program has been an incredible journey for us. It's not just been a chance to grow our professional skills, but it's also been a beautiful opportunity to reflect on who we are and how we fit into the academic world. It's not just about learning, it's about building a global community of support and connection. Here's what some of us shared:

*I remember how special I felt during the interview. No one I knew had ever accessed a space like this before.*

— **Bruna Fani Duarte, Brazil**



**2024 WAU Congress in Johannesburg: Personal Photo by Saptarshi Bairagi.**

We have Leah Junck, Kwandisa Nxumalo, Carolina Giordano Bergmann, Saptarshi Bairagi and Jack Visser.



Accessing international conversations, once distant, has become tangible. Whether through mentorship, language practice, or creative collaboration, we've grown so much! We've grown personally and professionally. This incredible journey of opening doors and breaking barriers is a recurring theme among our interns, and it's truly inspiring to witness! Being part of the program opened doors to international conversations that had previously seemed out of reach. Whether through capacity-building workshops, language practice, or direct mentorship, interns repeatedly emphasized how much they grew — not only professionally, but personally.

*This experience boosted my confidence, gave me hands-on training, and enriched my resume.*

— **Gabriel Ziyambi, Zimbabwe**

*The IUAES Internship Program provided us with an integral accompaniment that will stay with us for the rest of our lives. Not only was it a rich experience regarding social media management and content creation, but a perfect exercise to connect with people all over the world. I got to work with the IUAES Commission on Age and the Life Course, and it has been a heartwarming experience to get to know researchers and scholars working on similar topics. Anthropology is a science that is fortified by dialogue and group reflections — not only inside our commissions, but also during training and intern meetings. I take with me the importance of listening to various points of view, of properly managed social media for science communication, and the joy of working with people from all around the world. These experiences will linger both in our professional and personal lives.*

— **Jimena López, México**



📷 **2024 WAU Congress in Johannesburg: From Left Ramiro Fernandez Unsain, Gabriel Ziyambi and Nishant Saxena**



## ***From Isolation to Belonging***

*At the beginning of the year, I was about to leave the program due to my mother's health and a difficult time I was going through. Anita didn't let me go [laughs]. She supported me, reminded me of the importance of being part of a community, and told me I mattered to the work. I felt seen. So, I stayed.*

**— Bruna Fani Duarte, Brazil**

*I especially appreciate the excellent mentorship provided by our commission leaders and Professor Anita. She has always been willing to support us academically, particularly with applying to present papers at the World Union Congress. Before joining this program, I often felt isolated from the academic world, with lecturers who were either unwilling or unable to assist with my academic challenges and uncertainties. However, this program has completely changed that.*

**— Miracle May, South Africa**

This program shows the power of community care in professional environments. Beyond skill development, it nurtures human relationships and emotional resilience — qualities essential to academic life, yet so often overlooked.

*I believe that scientific practice is not a solitary endeavor, and our relationships form a crucial foundation for advancing on this path.*

**— Thainá Saciloto Paulon, Brazil**

Each IUAES commission becomes a vibrant home for the interns, offering not just tasks but mentorship, belonging, and academic growth. Interns get to work hand-in-hand with the chairs and co-chairs, opening doors to the world of renowned anthropologists and exciting new intellectual frameworks.

*My journey began with the Global Feminisms and Queer Politics Commission, where I quickly realized this wasn't just another "internship." Prof. Martha Patricia Salgado and Prof. Miriam Grossi didn't just guide me—they welcomed me into their world and introduced me to Latin American feminist thought that reshaped how I understand power, resistance, and community.*

**— Saptarshi Bairagi, India**

*Working with the Commission on Museum and Cultural Heritage has been a rewarding experience, especially alongside Bhakti and Dr. Renato Athias. The team, supported by contributions from various scholars, is working on publishing a book based on topics from past WAU Congresses. A key focus is the 2024 working group initiative, which explores legal challenges in repatriating ethnographic objects to Indigenous communities. This effort aims to support reconciliation and cultural preservation through legal research, stakeholder consultation, and the development of best practices, culminating in a public report with recommendations.*

**— Miracle May, South Africa**



*Through my work with the commission, I've had the opportunity to expand my professional network and engage with a variety of research, cultural, and academic activities led by its members. This has shown me just how diverse my field of research truly is. Through my social media work, I've strived to bring greater visibility to these important initiatives! It's important to highlight that the commission's chairs, Professors Miriam Grossi and Martha Patricia Salgado, welcomed me warmly and have been incredibly supportive of my work. They actively include me in all of the commission's activities, making me feel like a valued part of the team!*  
— **Carolina Giordano Bergmann, Brazil**



**📷 Networking and Exchanges at WAU Congress 2024:** *Miracle May (center) with Professor Renato Athias, Co-chair of COMACH, (left) and Professor Noel B Salazar, Commission member, (right) at the World Anthropological Congress 2024, an example of the program's networking opportunities.*

### **Crossing Borders and Building Bridges**

It's truly incredible: over 60% of interns from previous cycles report an increase in international academic opportunities after the program! These opportunities may include conference participation, calls for papers, or networking. For many, the fear of using English — often a major barrier — was softened in the presence of peers who also spoke it as a second or third language.

*Most importantly, I've lost the fear of speaking English with a Brazilian accent.*  
— **Bruna Fani Duarte, Brazil**

*I overcame challenges such as the language barrier (since English is not my native language) and expanded my network of anthropological research connections.*  
— **Thainá Saciloto Paulon, Brazil**



The presence of mentors such as Professor Anita Nudelman, Ricardo Fagoaga, and Matan Boni (social media digital consultant and trainer (2025), was also central to this transformation:

*Mentors such as Anita and Ricardo shared their own experiences and helped me identify both my strengths and the areas I needed to improve. These coordinated efforts created a sense of possibility — and potential collaborations in the future.*

— **Gabriel Ziyambi, Zimbabwe**

*Anita's attentiveness, humility, and consistent encouragement reignited my motivation — not just to complete tasks, but to move forward in academia with greater confidence and clarity.*

— **Saptarshi, India**

*Anita, Ricardo and also Matan have been especially important to me in this process. I learned so much from Ricardo from the very first training. He's incredibly quick and knowledgeable in so many areas. And Anita is like a mother to our community.*

— **Bruna Duarte, Brazil**

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the generous guidance and support of our mentors. From the very first training, Ricardo's sharp insights and broad knowledge helped many of us navigate the technical and strategic dimensions of our work. Anita, with her care and dedication, has been more than a coordinator — she's the heart of this community. As one intern beautifully put it, "Anita is like a mother to our community." Their mentorship has created a space where we feel both challenged and supported, learning not only professional skills but also how to trust in our own voices.

### ***Looking Ahead: Sharing the Path – Belonging, Representation, and the Power of Speaking Up***

Many of us are now encouraging our peers to apply for future cycles. For some, language is still a barrier, but it's no longer a wall:

*I have other dear friends who would be great for the program, but they don't speak English yet. This year, they've been studying hard — hopefully, they'll be able to join the next edition.*

— **Bruna Fani Duarte, Brazil**

The desire to bring others along is part of a shared vision: to keep diversifying who gets to do anthropology, and how.

*Occupying this space alongside others who are committed to making anthropology a multicultural field — beyond the dominant knowledge centers — is, above all, a great privilege.*

— **Thainá Saciloto Paulon, Brazil**

### ***"It gave me more than skills—it gave me a sense of global belonging": Anthropology Across Borders***



*It gave me more than skills—it gave me a sense of global belonging and the belief that our voices, especially those from the margins, have a place in shaping anthropology's future.*

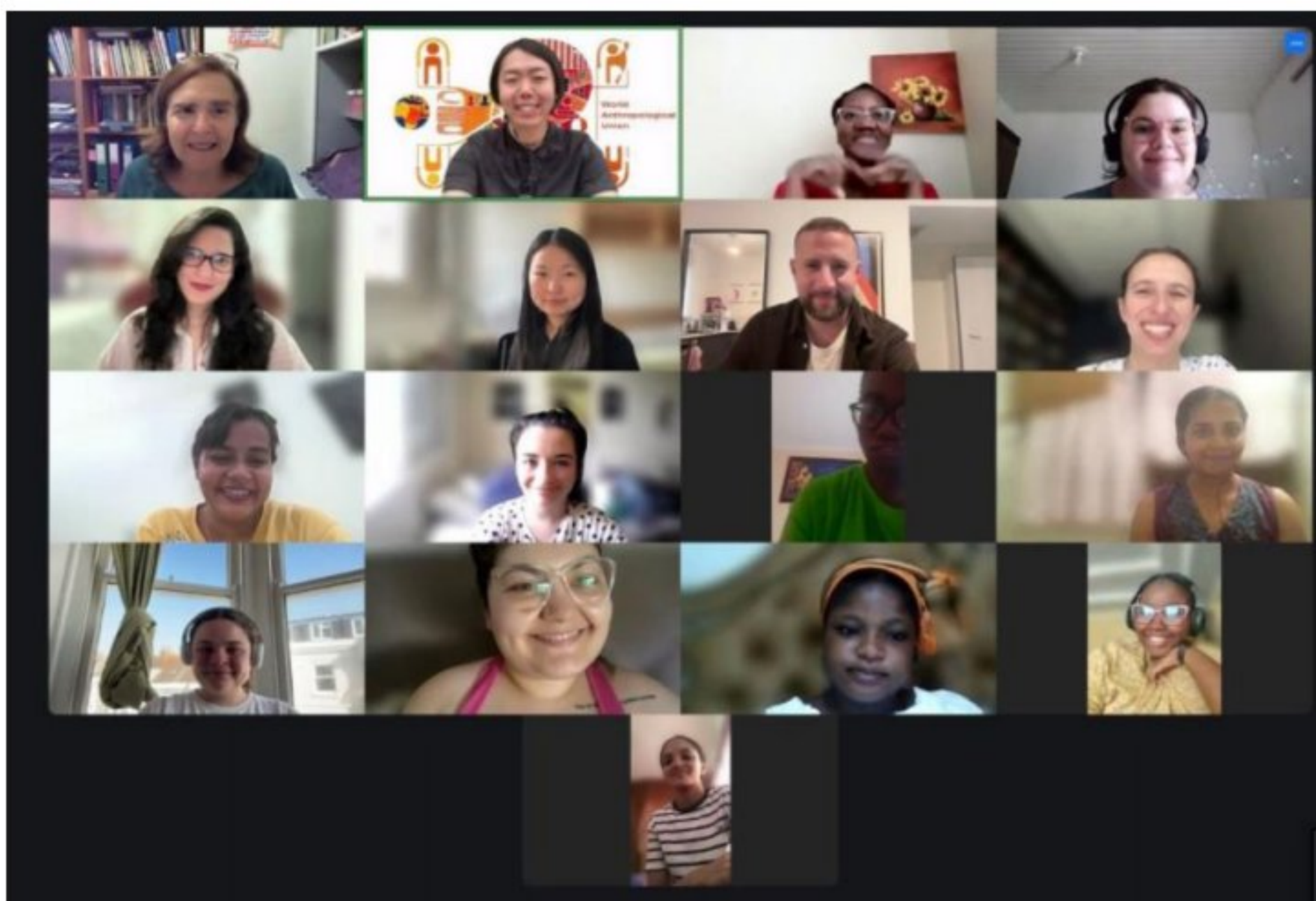
— **Saptarshi Bairagi, India**

From learning to navigate time zones to engaging in deep intercultural dialogues, from refining our CVs to building lasting relationships — the IUAES Internship Program has equipped us with practical skills, global connections, and a renewed sense of academic purpose. From Brazil to Zimbabwe, from India to South Africa, from Mexico to Mozambique, we have come together to share a diverse yet connected narrative, a tapestry of voices, accents, and aspirations. We have come to understand the value of transcending our differences, recognizing that they can serve as a foundation for meaningful dialogue and collaboration.

More than anything, this journey has taught us that we don't have to walk this path alone. As Bruna shared, "Now, I have 'anthro-friends' from all over the world. I'm no longer afraid to pursue international opportunities. I genuinely want to keep expanding my horizons and go further and further."

And as Saptarshi beautifully put it, "This internship has shown me that managing social media is just one part of the work. It's really about fostering dialogue, building bridges, and making academic spaces feel alive, accessible, and human."

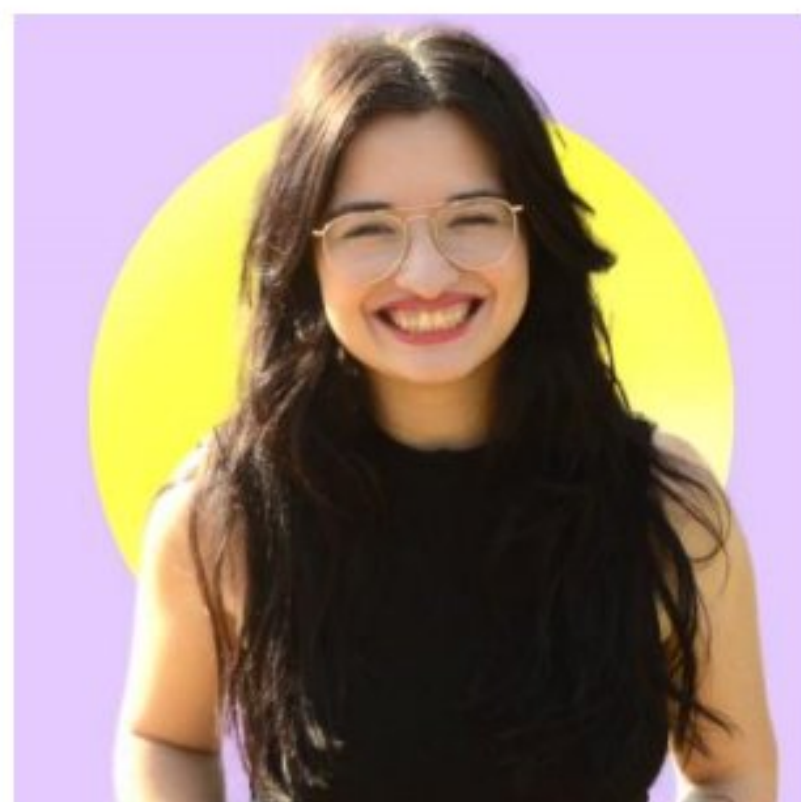
What we built here is not just about strategy or scheduling; it's about connection. Trust is the key. We must make space for voices from the margins to speak, create, and shape the future of anthropology together.



**Faces of the 2025 Program:** Interns from diverse backgrounds come together. Image credit: Personal screenshot by Tian Chen, Communication Strategist for the official accounts from IUAES. We have Anita Nudelman, Tian, Maxine Nyoni, Vitória da Silveira, Milena Geisa, Liling Yan, Matan Boni, Carolina Bergmann, Yasmine Tabasoom, Bruna Fani, Miracle May, Anvi Sawant, Bhakti Lostaunau, Thainá Saciloto, Kwandisa Nxumalo, Humbulani Ramudzwagi and Tatum Alexander.



## Biographies of participants



**Bruna Fani Duarte Rocha** is currently enrolled in the doctoral program in Social Anthropology at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), located in Brazil. Her research is centered on the interdisciplinary study of gender, sexuality, feminist activism, and childbirth rights in Brazil and Spain. She employs ethnographic methods to investigate the intersections of bodies, experiences, and technologies in the formation of political subjectivities. In 2022, she was awarded an honorable mention from the Brazilian Anthropological Association (ABA) in recognition of her research on obstetric violence and bereaved women in Brazil. In addition, she was awarded the competitive IUAES scholarship, which will allow her to attend the 2025 WAU Congress in Guatemala. In

addition to her academic pursuits, Bruna serves as a project manager and administrator at Politics for Her, an organization dedicated to empowering women in political leadership. In 2024, she initiated her involvement with the IUAES Social Media Internship Program, subsequently assuming the role of Social Media Manager for the IUAES Commission on Nomadic Peoples in 2025.



**Carolina Giordano Bergmann** is a PhD in Human Sciences with a focus on Gender and Sexuality Studies at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), Brazil. Her research examines women in science, women in positions of power, and women in politics, critically analyzing the intersections of gender, knowledge production, power and institutional hierarchies. She also serves as a Social Media Intern for the Commission on Global Feminisms and Queer Politics (IUAES) since 2024, supporting the commission's outreach initiatives and digital advocacy.



**Gabriel Ziyambi** is a PhD Candidate, and an Associate Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), South Africa. His research interests include Women, Peace, and Security, as well as Medical Anthropology. He worked as a Tutor, Tutor Coordinator, and a Graduate Lecturing Assistant in the Department of Anthropology. Gabriel received a Volkswagen Stiftung Foundation Fellowship for his MA Studies, and a prestigious Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Doctoral Research Fellowship Award for his Doctoral Studies. He joined the

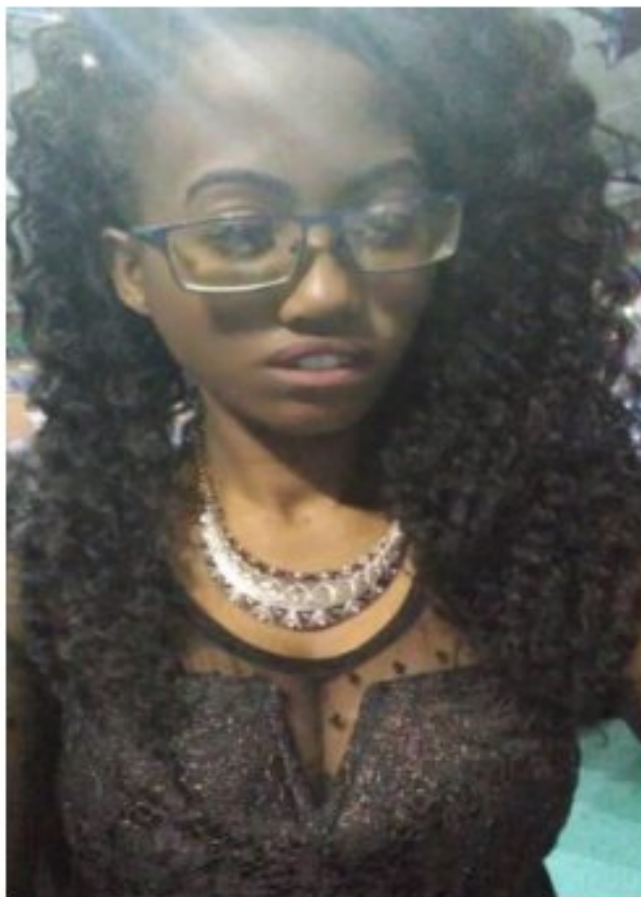
IUAES Social Media Internship Program as Social Media Manager for two (IUAES) Commissions, Commission on Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology, and Commission on Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainable Development. He chaired a panel at the World Anthropological Congress (WAU) 2024 and co-chairs the panel "Cultural dimensions of self health care" at the 2025 World Anthropological Congress (WAU).





**Jimena López** is a PhD Candidate in the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS-Sureste) in Southern Mexico. She has specialized in the Anthropology of Health and the Life Course from an ontological perspective. Her research topics include the body and self, mental health, and menstrual health in the Tsotsil and Tseltal population from the Highlands of Chiapas. She has been awarded the National Award of Research granted by the Instituto de Antropología e Historia (INAH) twice: first, for her bachelor's degree with a dissertation surrounding the “crazy” disease in a Tsotsil family in Huixtán; second, for her Master's degree, with

research surrounding menopause and menstrual experience between Tsotsil women of different ages. Currently, she is working on doctoral research regarding menstrual experience and emotions from an ontological and local perspective between Tsotsil and Tseltal women in Chiapas.



**Miracle May** (born on January 19, 1997, in South Africa's North West Province) is a passionate advocate for disability rights and cultural heritage. As a Moebius Syndrome Ambassador for Rare Diseases South Africa, she effectively leverages her lived experiences to promote awareness and inclusion. She holds degrees in Indigenous Knowledge Systems from North-West University and an Honours in Curatorship from the University of Cape Town. Her diverse professional journey includes roles at the Sorelle Sciarone art gallery and an internship at Iziko Museums, leading to her current position with the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences. A dedicated volunteer and writer, Miracle actively contributes to organizations such as the Smile Foundation and the Children with Cancer Organization. Her unwavering commitment to

representation and heritage resonates profoundly on both local and global stages.



**Saptarshi Bairagi** is a Dalit-queer anthropologist and ethnographer based in New Delhi, currently pursuing a PhD in Anthropology at the University of Delhi, India. Their work focuses on intersectional subaltern gender and sexuality studies, with a strong emphasis on experiential ethnography, decolonial vernacular feminist theory, and the lived experiences of marginalized queer communities in rural and urban South Asia. As a first-generation learner from a remote village near the India-Bangladesh border, Saptarshi's academic and activist journey has been shaped by resilience and a commitment to amplifying voices often excluded from mainstream queer and academic discourse. They are associated with different grassroots queer

collectives or organisations, and their writing blends personal narratives with critical theory to challenge patriarchy and caste-based exclusions in both scholarly and activist spaces.





**Thainá Saciloto Paulon** is a PhD student in Social Sciences at the Federal University of Santa Maria (Brazil). Her research focuses on consumption, material culture, and digital media, with current work on Opala car consumers in Brazil. She is a member of NEERD (UFSM) and part of the 2025 Social Media Interns team for the IUAES Commission on Anthropology, Public Policy, and Development Practices. With experience in ethnographic and quantitative (survey based) research, Thainá has worked on topics such as fashion, luxury, and family heirlooms. She also acts as a UX and consumer researcher and contributes to HubIS (UFSM), promoting social innovation and entrepreneurship

through a critical social science lens. She serves on the IUAES Commission for Anthropology, Public Policy, and Development Practices, and chairs the Panel on Identity and Digital Culture for WAU 2025, alongside Bruna Fani Duarte and Daniel Stack.