Well-being & the Common Good

May 18 to 20, 2023

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
Welcome to the 43rd annual meeting of the Society for Economic Anthropology. Our conference on “Well-being and the Common Good” is organized by John Millhauser and hosted by Hirokazu Miyazaki with the generous support of the Department of Anthropology at Northwestern University.

Thursday 5/18
Keynote: “Toward an Economic Anthropology of Wisdom”
Kathleen Millar  
Simon Fraser University  
McCorkmick Auditorium, 5:00  
Reception follows at 7:00 in the Great Room, 600 Haven Street  
(10 minute walk from the Norris University Center)

Friday 5/19
Norris University Center, Lake and Northwestern Rooms  
7:30  Registration, coffee, and pastries  
8:00  Opening remarks  
8:20  Session 1  
12:00 Business Lunch & Kate Browne Award  
1:30  Sessions 2a & 2b  
5:10  Harold K. Schneider Award  
6:00  Poster session & reception

Saturday 5/20
Norris University Center, Lake and Northwestern Rooms  
7:30  Coffee and pastries  
8:00  Sessions 3a & 3b  
11:40  Lunch on your own

Harris Hall, Room L07  
1:00  Session 4  
4:40  Closing discussion  
6:00  Banquet at Mt. Everest (630 Church Street)

Special thanks  
The Department of Anthropology at Northwestern University, Cynthia Robin, Mary Weismantel, Nancy Hickey, Adam Wagner, Austin Bryan, Seyma Kabaoglu, Mounica Sree, Will Voltz  
Nora Haenn, Richard Wallace, Daniel Souleles, Brandon Lundy, Andrea Rissling, Dawn Rivers, Erik Bähre, Bram Tucker, Don Nelson, Cyndi Isenhour, and the SEA Board  
The American Anthropological Association, Alana Mallory, Nate Wambold  
The staff of the Norris University Center
Session 1
Definitions & Disparities
Lake Room
Moderator: Lisa Cleggett

7:30    Registration & Breakfast
8:00    Opening remarks
8:20    Quality of life and care: Dilemmas of working in public and private healthcare in Brazil
        Erik Bähr (virtual)
        Leiden University
9:00    The CSRD will change our understanding of what a sustainable business is
        Olivia Norma Jørgensen
        Copenhagen Business School / PricewaterhouseCoopers Denmark
9:40    Rendering social: Exploring preferences and power by pluralizing the anthropology of the good
        Ben Eyre (virtual)
        University of East Anglia
10:20   Break
10:40   Imperial policies and well-being in the prehistoric Andes: Poverty vs. social exclusion as mechanisms of political control
        Donna Nash
        UNC Greensboro
11:20   Contested values and sustainable livelihoods of artisanal alcohol in Cabo Verde
        Brandon Lundy
        Kennesaw State University
12:00   Catered lunch in the Northwestern Room
        Business meeting
        Presentation of Kate Browne Creativity in Research Award
        Recipient: Colin Thor West
        University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Background artwork: “Hands” by Mareceio Callau, 1979
Session 2a
Livelihoods
Lake Room
Moderator: Laura Cochrane

1:30 Self-help gurus—Mediating well-being and work in post-liberalization India
Riddhi Bhandari & Siddhi Gyan Pandey
O.P. Jindal Global University

2:10 Good jobs, logistics labor, and the common good in Memphis, Tennessee
Nick Welna
CUNY Graduate Center

2:50 Sustainable hope: Affect and labor in corporate sustainability
Montserrat Pérez-Castro
Dartmouth College

3:30 Break (refreshments)

3:50 "Sometimes it looks fake": Wrestling with authenticity and hijal in Islamic banking and finance
Aaron Pitluck
Illinois State University

4:30 Positive effects of precarious workers in the U.S.
Claudia Strauss
Pitzer College

5:10 Presentation of Harold K. Schneider Graduate Paper Award (Lake Room)
Recipient: China Sajadian
City University of New York

Session 2b Claiming Responsibility
Northwestern Room
Moderator: Amy Stambach

Translocal healthcare provisioning and the common good in smalltown Senegal
Benjamin R. Burgen & Meredith G. Marten
University of West Florida

Unsettling claims: Situating central banks and physical cash as arbiters of the public good
Ursula Dalinghaus
Ripon College

Accounting for the good life in highland Ecuador
Joe Quick
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Gold exchange as collective intelligence: Ornaments and coping during the Covid-19 pandemic in rural South India
Nithya Joseph
Princeton University

"It's our aid": Community led monitoring in Uganda's HIV economy
Austin Bryan
Northwestern University

6:00 Poster session, cocktails, and appetizers (Northwestern Room)
Poster Session  Northwestern Room

Craft production and shifting economies: Socioeconomic complexities in the organization of the Igbo Ukwu (9th-12th Century CE) ceramic industry
Elizabeth Adeyemo  University of Notre Dame

Debt, labor, and social transformation at the Colonial Latifundia: The archaeological investigation of Hacienda del Rincón de Guadalupe, Mexico
Dean M. Blumenfeld & Christopher T. Morehart  Arizona State University

State of the plate 2022: A current assessment of food insecurity In Mecklenburg County with a closer look at causes other than money
Rae Gordon & Nicole Peterson  University of North Carolina - Charlotte

Cutting through the weeds: Student perceptions of farm work and its connections to wellbeing
Jessica Ham & Lydia King  Emory University

Selling security as reasonable care: Towards an economic anthropology of security
Yutong Han  CUNY Graduate Center

The History Business: A Design Firm in Post-socialist China’s Culture Boom
Leksa Lee  Denison University

Culinary Violence: How Oaxacan Chefs Persevere in the Midwest
Andrew Mitchel  The Ohio State University

The impossible mathematics of being collective: Logistified economies of health in Brazil
Jack Mullee  University of Chicago

The transfixion of roti and champagne dreams: Pursuits of the good life through Delhi’s bread and water
Heather O’Leary  University of South Florida

Understanding student well-being through food security action research
Nicole Peterson & Andrea Freidus  University of North Carolina - Charlotte

Good to bank and good to digest: The Monetary and digestive metaphors behind the logic of Duijing (reading classics) education investment in China
Yukun Zeng  University of Chicago
Session 3a: 
Land & Body
Lake Room
Moderator: Nora Haenn

8:00 Building the common good from the ground up: Land reform in Iowa
E. Paul Durrenberger & Suzan Erem
University of Iowa & Sustainable Iowa Land Trust

8:40 Dancing away from precarity and towards hope: Bodily and emotional labor of Latin dancers in Guangzhou, China
Xinyan Peng (virtual)
Sun Yat-sen University

9:20 Wellbeing and the common good in the context of Indigenous heritage management: A perspective from Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico
Christopher Hernandez
Loyola University Chicago

10:00 Break

10:20 The tragedy of the antibiotic commons: Safeguarding the therapeutic value of antibiotic pills in the western highlands of Guatemala
Joyce Lu
Rutgers University

11:00 Human Waste Management and the Common Good: Matters of Care on the Placencia Peninsula, Belize
Alex Webb, E. Christian Wells, R. Zarger, M. Trotz
University of South Florida

11:40 Lunch on your own (13 minute walk to Evanston restaurants). Bring your personal items with you. We will reconvene at Harris Hall (see map) after lunch.

Session 3b: 
Identity & Ideology
Northwestern Room
Moderator: Richard Wallace

The legacy of lockdown: Provisioning practices and wellbeing in urban China after Zero Covid
Erika Kuever
University of Southern Denmark

How to hope without commensurability: White Christians entering the long-term struggle for racial justice
Christine Jeske
Wheaton College

Claiming power: Philanthropy and Asian American activism
Wei Gan
Princeton University

The ethics of transition: Renewable energy, climate justice, and the politics of “Living Joyfully” in Colombia’s progressive turn
Steven Schwartz
Colorado College

Money and Hijab: Politics of inequality within Islamic banking and financialization in Turkey
Seyma Kabaoglu
Northwestern University
Session 4: Redefining the Good
Reconvene in Harris Hall, Room L07
Moderator: Dawn Rivers

1:00 Yuca in Ecuador: Gendered food systems in living well, living forests and 21st-century crops
Cristina Cielo
FLACSO sede Ecuador

1:40 Archaeological perspectives on wealth, wellbeing, and political change in ancient Maya society
Jessica Munson & Jonathan Scholnick
Lycoming College & Bucknell University

2:20 Evaluating well-being after compulsory resettlement: Livelihoods and standards of living in Manantali, Mali
Dolores Koenig
American University

3:00 Break

3:20 Development and the pursuit of the good life
Rachael Goodman
Mercer University

4:00 Beyond the suffering subject: Towards an economic anthropology of pleasure
Richard Wilk
Indiana University

4:40 Wrap up discussion (end 5:30)

6:00 Banquet (pre-paid during registration)
Mt. Everest Restaurant
630 Church Street (8 minute walk from Harris Hall)