Penn Anthropology Colloquium 2012-2013

All talks in University Museum Room 345 at noon. (Enter through Kress Entrance on east side.) Lunch will be served.

9.17 From History to Biology and Back Again

Nadia Abu El-Haj
Barnard College

10.29 The Quick and the Dead: Genes, Movement and Landscape

Kim Williams
Temple University

9.24 Anthropologies of Language: Saying Goodbye in—and to—Nepal

Laura Ahearn
Rutgers University

11.12 Multi-Modal Signalling in Mandrills (Mandrillus sphinx)

Joanna Setchell
Durham University

10.1 Entanglement: Does Human Evolution Have Directionality?

Ian Hodder
Stanford University

11.19 The Political Machine: Sense, Sensibility, and Sentiment in the Late Bronze Age Caucasus

Adam Smith
Cornell University

10.15 TBD

Betsy Rymes
University of Pennsylvania

11.26 Transforming Ethnographic Knowledge

Kamari Clarke
Yale University

Recent developments have made the internal and external boundaries of anthropology increasingly nebulous. The growing specialization of subfield niches raises questions about what holds together anthropology’s “sacred bundle”, while interdisciplinary collaboration poses questions about what constitutes the essence of the discipline. To investigate these issues—at once classic and novel—this year’s colloquium series turns to scholars who negotiate intersections in their work. Some speakers study topics that bridge the discipline’s four subfields, carrying on the legacy of previous generations in fresh ways and exploring the unique opportunities that new developments have opened up. Other speakers study topics that lie at the crossroads of anthropology with other disciplines including biology, psychology, and law. In every case, the speakers present new answers—and new questions—regarding the paths that our discipline may take at this pivotal moment.