From the Director…

Belated 2015 Greetings!

Let me be the first to admit that this annual newsletter and report is overdue. But the reasons for its tardiness couldn’t be better. The DDHR program and the dedicated students and faculty that give it shape and vitality have been more than a little busy! Whether traveling for fieldwork, training, and advocacy, or sticking closer to home to write grant proposals and plan the next DDHR conference, we have balanced our individual and collective goals to contribute to something larger than ourselves. And we’re proud to call that something the DDHR Program at UTK!

This newsletter features exciting updates on our program and the people who make it happen. From the 2015 DDHR Conference coming up in September and the launch of a new Working Papers Series to the welcoming of Dr. Raja Swamy to the Anthropology/DDHR faculty, the year ahead promises to be the most productive and vital yet.

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Despite a tight job market and competitive funding challenges, we are thrilled to report that several of our current and recent PhDs have landed positions and research or training grants! Dr. Jaymelee Kim has finished her first year as Assistant Professor of Anthropology at University of Findlay; Dr. Erin Eldridge has accepted a tenure-line position at Fayetteville State University; and Dr. Tony Vanwinkle landed a research postdoc at the University of Oklahoma. Meanwhile, doctoral candidate Amanda Reinke won two dissertation fellowships – the Yates and the Thomas - for her work on alternative dispute resolution in the San Francisco Bay Area. PhD student Krista Billingsley received a summer Foreign Language Area Studies fellowship to study intensive Nepali at Cornell University, and Hugh Tuller is in Uganda doing preliminary dissertation work with the support of a WK McClure Scholarship. PhD student Tiffany Saul received advanced training in stable isotope analysis at the University of Utah, and doctoral candidate Julia Hanebrink’s large NIH grant for the Minority Health Research and Training Initiative was renewed for another year, as was her faculty position at Rhodes College in Memphis. We are also very proud of Jake Smith, who has also completed his MA degree and is now a full time research associate at the Forensic Anthropology Center.

In a sampling of faculty news, our postdoctoral teaching associate, Vivian Choi, won a research fellowship from the American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies and is currently in the field. Bertin Louis, Jr. saw the publication of his book, *My Soul is in Haiti* (NYU Press), and will take up the post of Vice Chair of Africana Studies this fall. Rebecca Klenk received a Fulbright award that allowed her to return to India for research; Graciela Cabana is currently in Argentina carrying out her NSF-funded project on DNA and identity; and Amy Mundorf’s funding and publication successes are so prolific I wouldn’t know where to begin! I was delighted to see the publication of my new co-edited book *African Asylum at a Crossroads* (Ohio U Press), and even more excited to land a Wenner-Gren fieldwork grant in collaboration with Dawnie Steadman, Julia Hanebrink, and Jaymelee Kim for a joint project on unhappy spirits and improper burials in northern Uganda. Our approach was enriched by the excellent Master’s thesis of Adrianne Kembel, DDHR class of 2015, “When the Dead are Not Silent: The Investigation of Cultural Perspectives Concerning Improper Burials in Northern Uganda.”

While program administration and institutionalization may not be as exciting as DDHR-related research, an evolving collaboration with the UTK College of Law is certainly cause for enthusiasm. In late 2014 I teamed up with DDHR-affiliated faculty Karla McKanders and Rob Blitt to explore a DDHR concentration in the law school that we hope will allow greater cross-fertilization among disciplines. In the meantime we are enormously grateful for the support of the College of Law and especially former Dean Doug Blaze. We are also excited to pursue more inter-disciplinary integration with the departments of Sociology and Geography, enabled by the addition of Jon Shefner, Michelle Brown, Derek Alderman and Josh Inwood to the DDHR-affiliated faculty.

Finally, an extra special thanks to graduate students Eliza Guyol-Meinrath and Tyler Howe, who have acted as both my left and right hands this past year. Their patience, discipline, professionalism, sense of humor, and generous spirits have made them stellar DDHR conference organizers and program assistants in so many ways.

Indeed, all knowledge production and all professional success are inherently collaborative efforts. We know little and achieve less without the labor and support of others. Each individual success is a success for the DDHR program, for the Anthropology Department, and for UTK as a whole. Reflecting on both the substance of DDHR work, our engagement with the communities with whom we live and learn, and with one another as colleagues, the words of the great labor leader and civil rights activist Cesar Chavez resonate: “We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community . . . Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own.” I am proud to say the spirit of solidarity lives here!

“We know little and achieve less without the labor and support of others.”
DDHR Community News

From fieldwork to editorial work, new students to new faculty, here is what’s new with the DDHR Program!

Faculty Spotlight: Meet Dr. Raja Swamy, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Q: In a nutshell, how do you describe the content of your research and characterize your orientation?

My research broadly focuses on the impacts of neoliberal economic priorities on disaster reconstruction. While post-disaster reconstruction is premised on the idea of reducing vulnerability, I argue that this premise sometimes tends to mask ongoing conflicts over land and resources. More specifically I am interested in examining the ways in which discourses and practices of reconstruction bring together states, the humanitarian aid sector, and multilateral financial institutions in order to advance large-scale projects that may under normal circumstances be vigorously opposed by local populations. On the ground level I study the resulting ambiguities characterizing humanitarian work and the diverse responses of local populations to the disaster and reconstruction.

Q: How did you come to anthropology as a vocation and particularly to the study of disasters, displacement, and human rights?

I became interested in anthropology largely because of my interest in globalization and its inherent messiness. Anthropology seemed better equipped than other disciplines to deal with this messiness, so I was easily drawn to it. As a graduate student I intended to focus my attention on the effects of post 1990s neoliberal macro-economic policies on the marginalized populations in India, the concurrent rise of the violent Hindu right and the twin threat posed by both to the democratic aspirations and social wellbeing of large sections of the Indian population. With the Gujarat earthquake of 2001 and the related rise of the Hindu right in the state shortly thereafter, I began to pay closer attention to the ways in which disasters could become mobilized by powerful forces for the quick and radical transformation of social relations. For example the reconstruction process following the Gujarat earthquake witnessed a major expansion of the activities of the Hindu supremacist movement led by the RSS and its various “civil society” fronts aiding political consolidation but also bringing about patterns of religious and caste segregation in new housing. Any concern with disaster reconstruction I learned could not be separated from a close attention to human rights.

Q: Your work with artisanal fishing communities in South India draws together the dynamics of DDHR in a really clear and powerful way. What have you found most compelling about the convergence of these dynamics in your field site and elsewhere?

The relationship between disasters and human rights is not very difficult for us to grasp, despite the sometimes overarching emphasis of humanitarian discourses on viewing disaster survivors as mute subjects of humanitarianism lacking history and politics. However the question of displacement is a much more complex affair, especially in the context of disasters since there is after all the real issue of vulnerable spaces and structures. This ambiguity becomes a powerful basis for advancing displacement via humanitarian strategies founded

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on the uncritical use of terms such as vulnerability. Thus in my research I learned that the issues facing disaster survivors were more about land claims and resource access, than they were about vulnerability to future disasters. I learned also that the official use of terms such as risk and opportunity diverged sharply from local understandings, indicating that the perspectives and desires of local recipients were more often than not ignored or undermined by the force of state authority and NGO financial power. As humanitarian subjects they were being rendered silent wards of aid, and ignored as economic players who knew what was at stake when they were told to leave their homes in the name of safety, or later as it turned out, in the name of progress. This disjuncture indicated to me that humanitarianism itself could be mobilized effectively by the state to advance processes that many aid workers themselves were opposed to in principle. And in this context I was lucky to be able to learn about the exemplary work of SNEHA, an NGO which interfaced with local communities in ways that enabled them to stave off mass displacement. The strategy deployed was far more subtle than I expected, having arrived as a graduate student with naïve expectations of mass resistance and so on.

Which brings me to the critical issue of agency and resistance in the context of disasters, both in the short term as I was able to document, but also in the long-term, as economic development counter-strategies that can help local populations defend land claims and resource access. This necessitates a deepened understanding of ongoing struggles of local populations to defend the commons against enclosure and alienation, and broader efforts to contest discourses and practices of development.

Q: Can you talk a bit about your critical work on Hindu nationalism and some of your experience in the activist and policy realms?

From 2002 as part of a collective of academics in the US I assisted in the publication of investigative reports and links campaigns detailing and publicizing the financial and political links between US registered Indian American charities and the Hindu supremacist movement. This proved especially relevant in the context of Gujarat state where barely a year after the devastating 2001 earthquake one of the worst genocides in modern Indian history took place under the state government led by Narendra Modi, the current prime minister of India. There was a close link between the post-earthquake political consolidation of the RSS in the state and the violence it and its various affiliates were able to carry out a year later. What these efforts showed was that fund-raising by US based “charities” in response to the Gujarat earthquake enabled the Hindu right to funnel money to affiliates in India that were directly engaged in violence against minority communities - a striking example of right wing manipulation of humanitarianism.

One angle that continues to intrigue me is the relationship between immigrant citizenship and support for right wing politics in India among Indian American votaries of Hindu nationalism. What makes this relationship obscure to many Americans is the relative ease with which Hindu right wing organizations in the US have been able to couch their objectives in the language of immigrant citizenship invoking in form even while rejecting in substance the great civil rights struggles in the US. American Hindu right groups for instance attempted to force the California board of Education to require that publishers include Hindutva propaganda in sixth grade social studies textbooks in 2005. The organizations demanding these changes invoked civil rights criticisms of anti-minority bias while advancing a politics that was inimical to minority rights in India. Despite these well organized and financed efforts, secular groups I had the privilege of working with succeeded in countering what would have been a powerful victory for the Hindu right. Several similar efforts were directed towards educating American publics about the expansion of RSS affiliated organizations on college campuses (as registered student organizations) helping undermine in a small way the expansion of Hindutva into the social worlds of Indian American college students, and bringing some much needed attention to the dangers posed by this transnational supremacist movement. I have also been involved for several years in various efforts to challenge Hindu right lobbying organizations’ attempts to influence US politicians to adopt a

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favorable dispensation towards Narendra Modi despite his horrid human rights record.

**Q: Where do you see your work going in the next five to ten years?**

One big challenge for my work is to shift gears from a focus on impacts and responses to long-term strategies, both in terms of reducing vulnerabilities to natural disasters and in terms of addressing the vulnerabilities accruing from policies devoted to mass displacement and the intensified enclosure of the natural and social commons. How do coastal artisanal fisher communities fashion autonomous strategies of economic development that enable them to have a say in the management of the coastal and marine natural resource base? How do these efforts presume and involve engagements with the state that reassert the right to collectively demand social goods not as gifts but as entitlements, while enabling a pushback against the long-term withdrawal and reorientation of the state towards capitalist globalization? In order to address these questions I will be investigating a range of strategies including ecological conservation in light of the alarming depletion of coastal lands due to rising seas, producer cooperatives whereby local small scale producers may pool and share resources to sustain themselves economically via the assistance of allied NGOs, and technological resilience via strategies of adoption and adaptation of new technologies in order to buttress the viability of small scale fishing.

**Q: What excites you the most about joining the DDHR faculty at UTK?**

It is a great honor to be part of such an array of great researchers. I am particularly excited about the sheer range of areas of investigation, and methodologies that DDHR's researchers bring to their work. I look forward to many productive and illuminating conversations and hope to learn a lot from the splendid work undertaken by my colleagues. I already see great scope for collaboration with several colleagues on cross cultural comparative studies of displacement, comparative work on humanitarian responses to armed conflict refugees and disaster survivors, and the expanded utilization of spatial technologies for building community-level knowledge resources as they pertain to the forms and patterns of land and resource use - how to map and use maps of the spatio-temporally defined commons for example.

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**New faces: The 2015-2016 academic year will see two incoming DDHR graduate students**

**Susan Smith**

Susan is from Lowgap, North Carolina. She majored in Dramatic Art at UNC Chapel Hill before majoring in Anthropology at UNC Wilmington. She was president of the UNCW chapter of Amnesty International and won the Lisa Jones Scholarship for community service. Susan will be joining the Cultural Anthropology program.

**Wilfred Luke Komakech**

Wilfred was born and raised in Gulu district, Northern Uganda, a region conflicted for nearly 21 years by the insurgency of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). Wilfred attended Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda where he received his BA in 2010, majoring in Sociology and minoring in Public Administration. After graduation, he interned as a student mentor with Invisible Children Uganda and worked for three years with the Diocese of Northern Uganda, a Faith Based Organization in partnership with the Trust Fund for Victims rendering assistance to victims of the conflict in northern Uganda. Wilfred will be joining the Cultural Anthropology program and will be working under the supervision of Dr. Hepner.
Working Paper Paper Series

Student Editor Amanda Reinke is joined by Co-Editors Hugh Tuller and Tiffany Saul as well as Faculty Editor Amy Mundorff in launching the DDHR Working Paper Series

Q: What is the DDHR Working Paper Series (WPS), and how will it contribute to the DDHR Program as a whole?

A: The Disasters, Displacement, and Human Rights Working Papers Series is a platform for publishing works-in-progress papers that authors aim to publish in a high impact peer-reviewed journal. The WPS provides copy editing and in-house peer review for papers that contribute to the theme and spirit of the DDHR program. We are particularly interested in papers that highlight interdisciplinary and inter sub-disciplinary research and practice on topics and contexts related to disasters, displacement, and human rights. The WPS complements the DDHR Program’s dedication to strengthening partnerships and collaborations across campus in addition to supporting the Program’s ongoing activities, such as the 2015 conference.

Q: When do you plan to launch the WPS?

A: The WPS will be launched in conjunction with the 2nd Disasters, Displacement, and Human Rights Conference to be held this fall, September 25-27, 2015. There will be a biannual deadline for paper submissions.

Q: Who is eligible to have their papers included in the WPS? How will the process work for those wanting to contribute papers?

A: Anyone is eligible to have their papers considered for inclusion in the series. This includes undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and practitioners. We especially welcome submissions that embody the interdisciplinary and collaborative spirit of the DDHR Program. The process of submitting and reviewing papers will be entirely virtual, with authors directly uploading their submissions for consideration. More information about submission guidelines is forthcoming.

Q: How do you (as an editorial team) envision the future development and/or expansion of the WPS?

A: Although it may be a few years down the road, the editorial team envisions the WPS expanding to become a fully fledged peer-reviewed journal with external peer reviewers. Before this can happen, we want to fully develop the WPS, gain external support, and launch the series into broader audiences.

Q: Will there be collaboration between the WPS and the upcoming 2015 DDHR Conference this September?

Yes! The WPS and the DDHR Conference are both important contributions to the overall DDHR Program and we are working hard to collaborate and keep our efforts synergetic. The WPS will be launched during the Conference, where it will be unveiled and promoted. The editorial team encourages conference participants to prepare their papers for publication in the WPS and to consider publishing papers generated from the conference. We look forward to seeing many submissions generated from conference activities.

Q: Anything else we should know about the WPS?

A: WPS is copy-edited and peer-reviewed by scholars from several anthropological sub-disciplines and across disciplinary bounds. We match reviewers best suited to review particular papers based on their methodological and theoretical frameworks. As such, anyone who is interested in submitting a paper can feel confident that the reviewers will be highly competent in their field, able to provide thorough and relevant feedback. We, the editorial team, are excited to launch WPS this fall and to work with all our prospective authors.
The 2015 DDHR Conference will be the second conference put on by the Department of Anthropology’s DDHR Program. Scheduled for September 25-27 and bearing the theme “Bridging the Collaborative Gap,” a preliminary conference program is now available online.

This year the organizers received over 100 abstracts from academics and professionals in DDHR-related disciplines all over the world.

Notable events at the two and a half day conference will include two collaboration-themed roundtable discussions as well as keynotes by Eric Stover, Director of the Human Rights Center at UC Berkeley College of Law and Stephen Oola, Director of the Refugee Law Project’s Conflict, Transitional Justice, and Governance Programme at the Makerere University School of Law in Uganda. The conference will also include Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit for practicing attorneys, bringing further diversity and collaborative energy to the conference.

Student Chair Eliza Guyl-Meinrath explains, “the theme of collaboration was really important to us because the development of DDHR is about more than building a strong academic program here at UTK, it’s also about building a community of scholars, professionals, and advocates that can share ideas and experiences, and DDHR conferences are really crucial to this goal.” Student Co-chair Tyler Howe adds, “holism has been integral to DDHR since its inception. At its very core, DDHR represents cross-disciplinary work. The conference this year, with inclusion of the CLE panels, invites even more stakeholders to an expanding multi-disciplinary, multi-theoretical discussion of vulnerable communities through out the world.”

Conference registration will be open at the beginning of August, and is free for UTK students. For more information, visit the conference website.

Faculty Updates: Across disciplines, DDHR core and affiliated faculty and programs are raising the bar for scholarship

Rosalind I. J. Hackett
Professor, Religious Studies
Dr. Hackett (Co-Director of Gulu Study and Service Abroad Program [GSSAP]) continues to work with Retired Bishop Macleord Baker Ochola II (General Secretary of the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative) on his Lwo Folktales Project. The project aims to make traditional folktales available, especially to the youth, using modern means (website, YouTube videos, audio archives, and publications) in the war-affected region of northern Uganda. The project team involves local partners, several UTK grads who have served or continue to serve in northern Uganda, and incoming graduate student Wilfred Luke Komakech.

Jon Shefner
Department Head, Sociology
Dr. Shefner is currently working on two projects. One, a book on comparative experiences of austerity policies, addresses how those policies diminish states' abilities to address their citizens' economic and human rights. The second is a project on nurturing the Green Economy in East Tennessee.

DeAnn Pendry
Senior Lecturer, Anthropology
De Ann Pendry has been working with the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition since 2005. Recent developments have included campaigns to prevent the implementation of 287(g) in Knox County, to obtain in-state tuition for undocumented students in Tennessee, and to call for national immigration reform. In Fall 2014 Dr. Pendry gave presentations at the American Anthropological Association meetings and the Conference on Immigration to the U.S. South. She is writing a chapter for a book on how groups in the South have mobilized to challenge anti-immigrant proposals and laws. Next year she will be collecting life histories of local immigrant leaders for a book project. Dr. Pendry also has been collaborating with Humanities Tennessee, which is circulating an exhibit around the state called “Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program 1942-1964.”
Barbara Heath  
**Associate Professor, Anthropology**  
Archeology students working with Dr. Heath in Northumberland County, Virginia uncovered a portion of the 17th- and early 18th-century mansion and landscape of John Mottrom and his descendants at Coan Hall. Research at the site is focusing on documenting early evidence of slavery in the Potomac River valley, inter-colonial and intra-colonial violence related to Ingle's Rebellion in Maryland and Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia, and the impact of colonialism on the local environment. This ongoing work is supported by the Department of Anthropology and The National Geographic Society.

Derek Alderman  
**Department Head, Geography**  
Dr. Alderman is the founder and co-coordinator of RESET (Race, Ethnicity, and Social Equality in Tourism). In fall 2014 the interdisciplinary research initiative started a three-year, NSF funded project to study plantation tourism in Virginia, South Carolina, and Louisiana. Dr. Alderman, working with faculty and students from five other universities, including HBCUs, will conduct research aimed at identifying strategies to improve plantation tourism narratives regarding slavery and African American history.

University of Tennessee  
**School of Law**  
The UTK Immigration Clinic recently received a grant to hire an Equal Justice Works Americorps fellow, Valeria Gomez, to work on Unaccompanied Minor Children cases of immigrant children in East Tennessee. Gomez will be working with the clinic to train lawyers in Continuing Legal Education programs to a group of children who often do not have access to attorneys. In addition, in May 2015, based upon the UTK Immigration Clinic student’s work on the Syrian case, the students obtained an asylum grant for the client and were featured on WBIR, a local news station for their victory.

Associate Professor of Law Karla McKanders’ article “America’s Disposable Youth: Undocumented Delinquent Juveniles” (Howard University Law Journal) will be published in fall 2015, while she also had the opportunity to meet with the US Ambassador to Morocco, Dwight Bush, to discuss current academic activities in Morocco.

Amy Z. Mundorff  
**Assistant Professor, Anthropology**  
Dr. Mundorff is currently working on a NIJ funded project in collaboration with scientists from the International Commission on Missing Persons, to develop an easily deployable, efficient and economic method for collecting postmortem DNA samples following a mass fatality incident. She is also a co-author on two recently published articles reflecting key management decisions and a new DNA strategy implemented during the DVI response in Thailand to the 2005 tsunami.

Rebecca Klenk  
**Lecturer, Women’s Studies, Global Studies, & Asian Studies**  
Dr. Klenk has been busy with new research focused on the right to education and with fieldwork in India. Her latest publication, which provides a feminist analysis of the life and times of a little known Gandhian activist and educator, appears in the scholarly journal Himalaya and in a new edited volume on gender in the Himalayas.

David G. Anderson  
**Associate Professor, Anthropology**  
Dr. Anderson is working with colleagues at a number of institutions to link archaeological and paleoenvironmental data at large geographic scales to examine the impact of climate change on human populations in the past, to help determine the impact of modern climate change on human society. Details can be found at the DINAA (Digital Index of North American Archaeology) website: [http://ux.opencontext.org/blog/archaeology-site-data/](http://ux.opencontext.org/blog/archaeology-site-data/). A specific research emphasis is determining how past human populations responded to sea level fluctuations in the southeast, and how projected sea level rise will play out in the years to come.

Michelle Brown  
**Associate Professor, Sociology**  
Dr. Brown is currently co-editing the Sage journal *Crime Media Culture* and assembling the *The Routledge International Handbook of Visual Criminology*. She was pleased this year to receive the best article prize for the journal *Theoretical Criminology* for her piece “Visual Criminology and Carceral Studies,” which examines emergent forms of global carceral configurations and the counter-visual efforts of anti-prison community organizers in the US. Dr. Brown plans to continue her work and research on the carceral state with a focus on national and regional abolition, decarceration, and anti-racism organizations and coalitions.
Notes from the Field: This summer, student research and scholarship takes a multitude of forms

Amanda J. Reinke  
PhD Candidate, Anthropology  
Amanda’s dissertation project investigates how alternative justice practitioners and their clients imagine and seek to actualize social justice through their work in the San Francisco Bay Area. This research is timely given increasing implementation of alternative justice models as part of the formal legal system and concurrent social movements critiquing the deleterious effects of the justice system. Situated at the intersection of anthropology, sociology, and legal studies, this project contributes to scholarly debates and practice by investigating the ability of informal justice models to be a tool for societal change. Amanda can be contacted at areinke@vols.utk.edu or follow her @LegalAnthro.

Tiffany Saul  
PhD Student, Anthropology  
This June Tiffany visited the University of Utah to attend an intensive course in stable isotope analysis. This course is internationally attended through a competitive application process. The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Walter Leitner Award supported Tiffany’s trip. This specialized training will enable her to conduct her dissertation research, which is designed to use stable isotopes from human remains to aid in the identification of unknown individuals. This research has direct applications for identifying commingled remains during mass grave investigations.

Krista Billingsley  
PhD Candidate, Anthropology  
With the aid of both a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship and a Cornell Summer Intensive Nepali Language Award, Krista just completed an intensive six-week Nepali language program at Cornell University. Designed to enhance student research, the program provides language instruction taught by Shambhu Oja and Banu Oja along with content area lectures taught by Anthropology Professor Kathryn March. In addition, all students and faculty gathered every other weekend to enjoy each other’s company, share food, and network with fellow researchers. The opportunity to both actively engage with Cornell-based scholars working in Nepal and access extensive resources through the Cornell library system have augmented Krista’s dissertation research, which examines perceptions of transitional justice in Nepal. Most importantly, her knowledge of the Nepali language will allow her to directly communicate with interviewees and, in turn, will enhance the quality of her upcoming fieldwork.

DDHR in Practice

Tyler Howe Anthropology Doctoral Student and Tribal Historic Preservation Specialist for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, knows first-hand the importance of collaborating with affected communities.

For several years Howe has consulted on federal projects with direct correlations to DDHR. Most recently, the United States Forest Service (USFS) has acquired a tract of land containing the archaeological remains of a 19th century military installation. United States federal agencies are required to consult with federally recognized Native American Nations, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and Alaska Native Tribes as per the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Under the NHPA, this consultation is mandated to determine whether a federal undertaking will have an adverse effect upon cultural resources eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In addition, section 110 of the NHPA mandates that federal land managers, in this case the USFS, must make assessments of cultural, historical, and archaeological sites on their lands for consideration under the NRHP.
While all parties to the military installation consultation agree about the archaeological significance, Howe says “the current parties are divided when it comes to protocol of the consultations.” Many of the tribes argue the federal government has not done its due diligence in terms of consultation directed by the National Historic Preservation Act. Recent meetings have discussed ways of interpreting the site for the public. Yet, asks Howe, “What if the tribes don’t really wish this site to be open to the public as an historical attraction?”

This project gets to the heart of many of the issues faced by those working in DDHR-related fields. The installation played a pivotal role in the forced removal of the Cherokees, as well as several hundred Muscogee Creeks in the 1830s. “I think this is one point of contention that makes this consultation difficult,” Howe states, “the federal government and the archaeologists involved cannot move past the amazing level of archaeological preservation at the site. For them, this site represents an early 19th century military installation that also played a roll in Cherokee and Creek Removal. For those Cherokee who know about this place, however, it has become the physical embodiment of forced displacement.” He adds, “how do you properly present a story to the public, or, for that matter, should you even present a story to the public, as an historical attraction, that involves massive human rights violations, ethnocide, and forced displacement and removal?”

This project, according to Howe, has been made more difficult this summer as the National Park Service has begun holding public meetings regarding potential ways to interpret the military installation. “It has become increasingly unfortunate,” says Howe, “the way the consultations have progressed. They want to discuss interpretation, and the tribes’ have said ‘you haven’t even really officially started consultation with us.’ The federal government and the archaeologists are so excited about the archaeological component, they have failed to realize how, for Native Americans, that same site holds the physical remains of ethnic cleansing.”

As an academic and a professional, Howe finds that memory work is a critically important part of working with an affected community. Collaboration between the myriad stakeholders in this case, ideally, will allow for a richer re-telling of the past, however, collaboration is often difficult in practice. “The questions raised by this site are difficult, and there are no easy answers,” explains Howe. “However, these military installation negotiations are a perfect example of why the inclusion of marginalized voices is so important in the establishment of historical narratives.”

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**Call for Photos!**

DDHR faculty and students: We want to see what you do! If you have photos of your fieldwork or other DDHR-related events that you would like to share with us, please email them to eguyolme@vols.utk.edu. Please specify in your email whether you would like your photos to appear only in relationship to you and your research, or if we may use them as stock photos for DDHR materials.

Left: Mechanized boats harbored in Nagapattinam, India. Photo courtesy of Raja Swamy.