

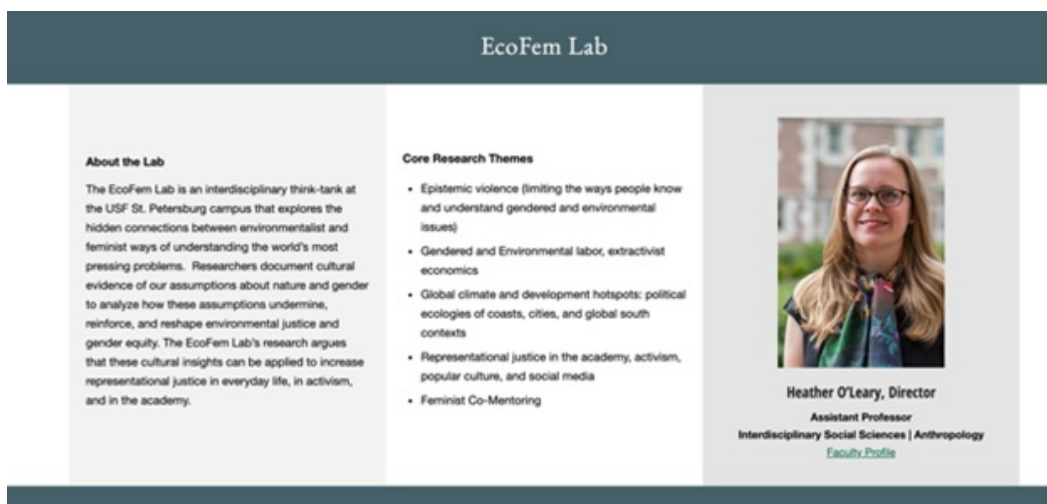
AnthroScope

Department of Anthropology Newsletter

Spring 2023

Faculty Spotlight

O'Leary speaks at UN Water Conference



The graphic is titled "EcoFem Lab" and is divided into three columns. The first column, "About the Lab", describes the lab as an interdisciplinary think-tank at the USF St. Petersburg campus. The second column, "Core Research Themes", lists five areas: Epistemic violence, Gendered and Environmental labor, Global climate and development hotspots, Representational justice, and Feminist Co-Mentoring. The third column features a portrait of Heather O'Leary, Director, with her title and a link to her faculty profile.

EcoFem Lab

About the Lab

The EcoFem Lab is an interdisciplinary think-tank at the USF St. Petersburg campus that explores the hidden connections between environmentalist and feminist ways of understanding the world's most pressing problems. Researchers document cultural evidence of our assumptions about nature and gender to analyze how these assumptions undermine, reinforce, and reshape environmental justice and gender equity. The EcoFem Lab's research argues that these cultural insights can be applied to increase representational justice in everyday life, in activism, and in the academy.

Core Research Themes

- Epistemic violence (limiting the ways people know and understand gendered and environmental issues)
- Gendered and Environmental labor, extractivist economics
- Global climate and development hotspots: political ecologies of coasts, cities, and global south contexts
- Representational justice in the academy, activism, popular culture, and social media
- Feminist Co-Mentoring

Heather O'Leary, Director
Assistant Professor
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences | Anthropology
[Faculty Profile](#)

Dr. Heather O'Leary is an assistant professor of cultural anthropology at the St. Pete campus. Dr. O'Leary directs the EcoFem Lab. Dr. O'Leary is also featured in newspapers and on the morning news for her work including local advocacy and international leadership in the IUAES and WAU. In March 2023, Dr. O'Leary was selected as 1 of 40 delegates to speak at the United Nations 2023 Water Conference as an expert on global inequities in water politics.

Anthropologists in the News

Clearwater African American Cemeteries Memorial Committee works with Dr. Antoinette Jackson



Program participants and organizers.

An event focused on confronting Black Cemetery erasure was held April 11th at the North Greenwood Library in Clearwater. In partnership with the Black Cemetery Network and the Clearwater African American Cemeteries Memorial Committee, USF faculty, staff, students, and alum along with local artists and community leaders shined the light on two African American cemeteries in Clearwater helping reconnect these histories to the present.

Additionally, this semester, Dr. Anna Dixon, Associate Professor of Instruction, is continuing her work with the African-American Burial Grounds & Remembering Project headed by Dr. Antoinette Jackson, researching the pivotal role that churches played in both Tampa and St. Pete in the early- to mid-20th century.

Students and Amazing Alumni!

Dr. Dixon works with students

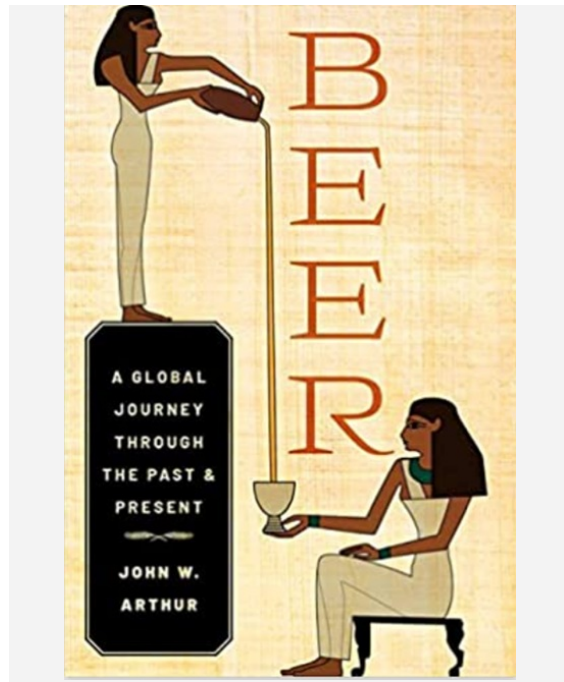
With her students, Dr. Anna Dixon is developing the Lost Crops & Heirloom Seeds Research Lab, focusing on the rich heritage of plant knowledge in Southeastern North America. Part of this research lab's mission is to ensure that students present their research at local, national and international conferences. One student research lab member will be presenting his work at the Society for Ethnobiology meetings at Emory University in June 2023. Dr. Dixon will also be presenting her work on grasslands conservation with an international team at the same meeting. Dr. Dixon has also mentored student interns in the area of criminal justice over the past 15 years, giving them hands-on experience in capital case defense investigations.





Pictured: student using taxonomic key to identify plants at Weedon Island; ethnobotany student at Bunker Hill Vineyard in Parrish, FL, an organic vineyard that cultivates native grapes.

St. Pete Campus Update



Dr. Arthur and the cover of his new book with Oxford University Press (2022).

Dr. John Arthur is the current St. Petersburg Anthropology Club Faculty sponsor. Dr. Arthur published his book, *Beer A Global Journey Through the Past and Present* in 2022 with Oxford University Press. In addition to publishing his new book, Dr. Arthur co-authored a ground-breaking article in the journal *Nature* (2022, 603), that documents the interactions of foragers in Africa over the last 60,000 years. This article is partly based on the Arthurs' discovery of Bayira, the first ancient African skeleton to be sequenced for ancient DNA (Science 2015). Dr. Arthur also published an article in the journal

Archaeology of Food and Foodways (2022) based on his research from southern Ethiopia focusing on feasting in the archaeological record focusing on his ceramic analysis from the original settlement of the Gamo Boreda dating back to 800 years ago.

Dr. Arthur was invited to Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas to give a lecture sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America. He also spent two months in southern Ethiopia sponsored by Dr. Kathy Arthur's NSF grant on Frontier Landscape and Community Responses researching sacred forests and their relationship to history and religion.

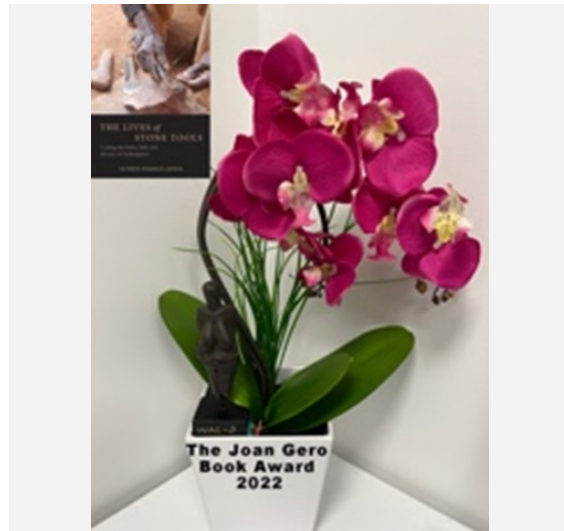


Photo Left: Dr. Kathy Weedman Arthur with General Administrator of Gamo Zone Birhanu Zewde in Zefine, Ethiopia. Photo Right: Joan Gero Book Award.

Dr. Kathy Weedman Arthur is the current program coordinator at the St. Petersburg campus and serves as the faculty mentor for the Lambda Alpha Honor Society. Dr. Arthur continues her service as co-editor of *Archaeologies*, Journal of the World Archaeological Congress. She has recently published an article in *Nature* (2022, 603) titled Ancient DNA and deep population structure in sub-Saharan Africa foragers, that draws on the Arthurs' recovery of Bayira an individual buried in Mota Cave 4,500 years ago and who provided the first ancient complete African DNA sequence (Science 2015).

Dr. Arthur is continuing her NSF funded research in 2023 Frontier Landscapes and Community Responses focused on Boreda sacred forests as monuments associated with Indigenous ritual, conflict, and conservation practices in southern Ethiopia. In 2022, she presented a co-authored booklet to Boreda officials and elders titled: *Ancestral Land: Boreda Heritage History Book*. On May 26, 2022, Ethiopian Zonal (State) and Woreda (district) officials recognized her efforts in a nationally televised ceremony and provided her with a handwoven shawl (a product for which they are national renowned) followed by a feast. On June 9, 2022, Boreda district's Head of Education, Boreda's parliament, as well as Boreda elders from every village held a ceremony with honorary speeches and presented with her with a certificate and a second handwoven shawl.

At WAC 9 Prague, the World Archaeological Congress awarded Dr. Kathy Arthur the Joan Gero Book Award for her book *The Lives of Stone Tools* (2018 UAP). She was the first recipient of the award that recognizes "WAC values of the democratization of knowledge, engagement with the gendered and political present, respect and collaboration with Indigenous communities, concern for human rights, peer collaboration with local scholars, educational opportunities for studies, and done in the context of meticulously recorded data collection and replicable science."

Alumni News

Undergraduate alumna Rhianna "Annie" Sullivan ('20) (cc-ed here) graduated with her M.Sc. in Human Osteology and Funerary Archaeology from the University



of Sheffield. Her dissertation (in the UK, it's a Ph.D. thesis and M.A./M.Sc. dissertation) title was "Bending, Never Breaking: An Osteobiographical Exploration of Scoliosis, Disability, and Care in Medieval Transylvania." She built upon her field research undertaken with Dr. Jonathan Bethard while she was an undergraduate at USF.

Annie Sullivan moves on at University of Sheffield

Faulty Awards and Honors

New Faculty Grants

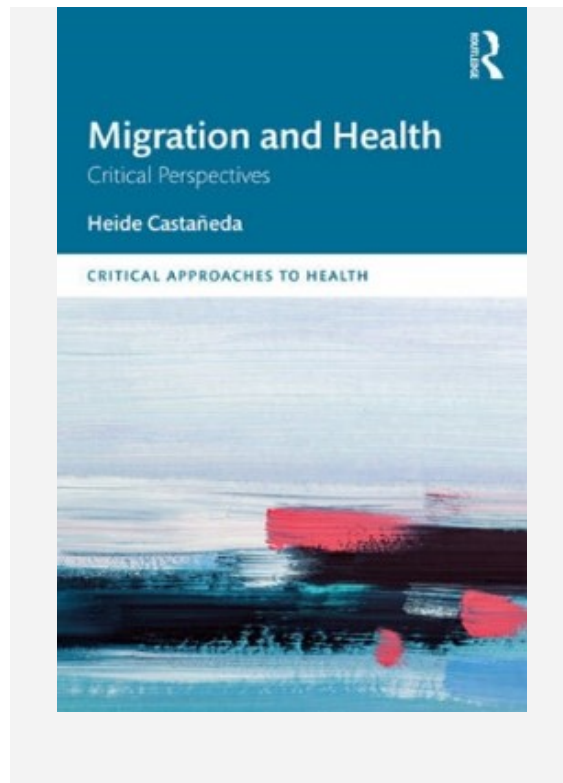
Professor Christian Wells Receives Two Environmental Justice Grants

Dr. Wells and his colleagues at the CDC of Tampa received a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. EPA to expand their environmental workforce and job training program in East Tampa. The program will train up to 200 residents in brownfields remediation certifications and work with local employers to provide them with exciting new careers! Dr. Wells and his colleagues in environmental engineering at USF also received a \$1.5 million grant from the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Division to work with the University Area CDC to help the University Area Community redevelop neglected stormwater ponds, turning them into community assets that clean polluted stormwater runoff and provide recreational opportunities for area residents.



Dr. Wells and students from his Environmental Justice seminar at Harvest Hope Park in

O'Leary wins Creative Scholarship Grant



Dr. Heather O'Leary was awarded a USF R&I Creative Scholarship Grant, as PI, which will include a team of interdisciplinary USF researchers, who will sonify and visualize data from Dr. O'Leary's MOTE Marine Labs/Protect our Reefs grant. The project will democratize our findings by allowing everyday people to understand complex data through music that will be scored and performed by the USF symphony, filmed as a music video, presented in the Augmented Reality lab, and turned into a traveling exhibit with data-driven art across campuses and partners (e.g. NOAA, Coast Guard). Dr. O'Leary also recently published important applied research on Covid in *Infodemiology*.

The Latest Reads

Professor Heide Castañeda Publishes New Book

Dr. Castañeda has published a new book, "Migration and Health: Critical Perspectives," with Routledge (2023). It calls for a radical rethinking of the field by unsettling ideas about migration, mobility, and borders to explore the ways in which they produce health inequalities. In the book, she argues that a critical approach is attentive to structural conditions of inequality and larger historical and political processes; recognizes that many exclusionary bordering practices occur away from physical points of entry; conceptualizes migration processes as complex, tangled, and multidirectional; understands that migrant vulnerability shapes the lives of people in wider communities; and acknowledges diverse and intersectional standpoints, as well as shifting spatial and temporal influences.

The book provides insights from a critical perspective, proposed areas of intervention, and future research needs to tackle the health inequities that affect migrants globally.

[Visit our website!](#)

[Donate Here](#)

USF Anthropology

ANT-Newsletter@usf.edu
4202 E. Fowler Ave., SOC 107
Tampa, FL 33620

(813) 974-2138

To submit information to be featured in this newsletter, please click "Send Your Story" or email ant-newsletter@usf.edu. Be sure to include a brief statement and a photo.

[Send Your Story](#)

[Contact Us](#)

To change your email preferences, please see "Update Profile" below.

