

### Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Ishan Ashutosh



**Professor Ishan Ashutosh** is a critical human geographer whose work encompasses the study of migration, the politics of race and ethnicity from an international and comparative perspective, and urban studies. His research examines the multiple and contested representations of South Asia through projects situated in migration and area studies. His first research project focuses on the transnational politics of South Asian diasporas in multiple urban centers in the United States, Canada, and Britain, while his second

research project examines the constructions of South Asia in the social sciences as a site of knowledge production. Ishan has published his work in the journals *Citizenship Studies*, *Urban Geography*, *Geopolitics*, and *Diaspora*. In 2015, he co-organized (with Dr. Majed Akhter, Dr. Olimpia Rosenthal, and Dr. Ricardo Andrés Guzmán) the symposium *Race, Place, and Capital* at Indiana University, with the follow up workshop held at Indiana University's Gateway Center in Gurgaon, India. Prior to joining the department of Geography at Indiana University, Ishan was a lecturer at Northumbria University in Newcastle, UK, and a postdoctoral fellow at The Ohio State University. Ishan holds a PhD in Geography from Syracuse University, an MA in the Social Sciences from the University of Chicago, and a BA in History from the University at Buffalo.

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## AAG Meeting

The 2016 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers was held in San Francisco in March. Several faculty and graduate students attended the meeting. Faculty presenters were Professor Majed Akhter, Professor Ishan Ashutosh, Professor Dan Knudsen, Professor Scott Robeson, and Professor Rebecca Lave. Graduate student presenters were Ijaz Ahmad, Carmen Antreasian, Angela Babb, Megan Betz, Jordan Blekking, Lillian Brown, Dan Johnston, Trevis Matheus, David Massey, Sara Minard, Tyler Schlachter, Nitasha Sharma, Steve Volan, and Landon Yoder



Professor Dan Knudsen



Tyler Schlachter

**Geography:**

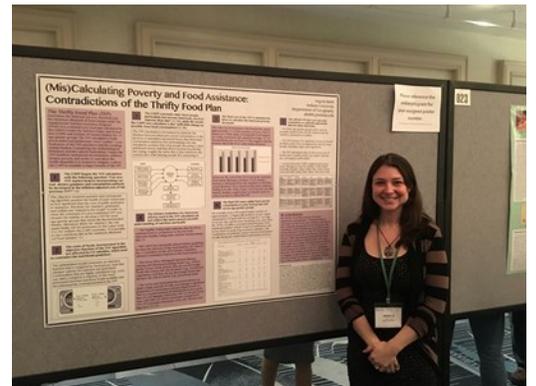
**Know**

**Your**

**World**



Professor Ishan Ashutosh



Angela Babb

## Graduate Student Spotlight: Amy Savener

Amy Savener received her PhD this spring from the Geography Department, with a minor in Leisure Behavior from the School of Public Health's Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism Studies. Her dissertation culminated nearly a decade of research on tourism to the Guna Yala archipelago off the northeast coast of the Panama.

"Tourism destinations are fascinating places because they bring together dramatically distinct cultural groups with profoundly different worldviews and expectations," she said. "I saw Guna Yala as a laboratory to study interactions between tourists from North America/Western Europe and an autochthonous indigenous group."

She credits her advisor and mentor, Department Chair Daniel C. Knudsen, with challenging her with the rigor of introducing philosophy and theory to her perspective. Most of her pre-PhD career was in journalism as a newspaper reporter.

"I was trained to investigate to find answers, but when examining complex social interactions, the answers are never simple," Dr. Savener said. This led her on a journey through 20th century critical social theory and eventually to Martin Heidegger, who questioned the basis of contemporary Western philosophy.

"He indicated that the entire edifice of western philosophy had proceeded without a fundamental understanding of Being," she said. Her dissertation was entitled, "Being in Time: Heideggerian Existential Authenticity and Imperialist Nostalgia in Tourists to Guna Yala, Panama." Her research delved into the ways that exposure to cultural contrast can prompt critical reflection and transformational experiences.

Savener praises her education in the Geography Department as diverse and comprehensive preparation for a career in academic, citing coursework and engagement with diverse faculty to the opportunity to serve as graduate representative to representing the department in community outreach and active participation in AAG conferences. These experiences, in addition to exposure to RPTS and to anthropology faculty and students provided a breadth of preparation for a faculty position, she said. Dr. Savener will join the Department of Rural Tourism at the University of Iceland's Holar University College in June, 2016.

## IU Day on April 12, 2016

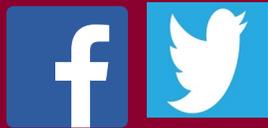
On April 12, 2016, IU will be celebrating it's first ever IU Day. We encourage donations large and small on that day. Here's how it works:

1. Navigate to the IU Day website, [iuday.iu.edu](http://iuday.iu.edu)
2. Make a gift of any amount to the Geography Enrichment Fund or some other Geography fund (William R. Black, John Odland, etc.)
3. Get 5 votes to allocate to your favorite school (The College)
4. The votes are tallied on the IU Day leaderboard ([iuday.iu.edu/give](http://iuday.iu.edu/give))
5. Based on the total votes during IU Day (24-hours) schools and programs will share a percentage of the \$200,000 challenge fund.

Example: Make a gift to the Department of Geography and allocate 5 votes to The College. Throughout the day you can check the IU Day leaderboard and see how programs and schools are ranked.

We also want folks to wake up and put on their IU gear. That's the easiest way to participate on IU Day.

Share, watch, give, and wear are the four main ways to participate in IU Day



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## Chair's Letter

Our March newsletter is running a little late this year because of the American Association of Geographers meetings at the end of March, the time that we would normally be devoting to getting the newsletter out to all of you. The meetings this year occurred in San Francisco, the third time they have occurred there since I joined the department and AAG way back in 1978. The vast majority of our faculty made presentations in San Francisco, as did approximately half of our 25 graduate students. It also was great to see and reconnect with some of our many alumni while there. I always feel so fortunate at times like these to be part of IU Geography. But at these times I also am most reminded of the sacrifices graduate students make to attend these conferences and be involved in our discipline, with many digging deep into their own pockets to finance trips to the meetings, driving long distances, sleeping in derelict hotels and hostels, and living off one or at most two meals a day. And while going to the annual meetings as an impoverished graduate student is a great formative ritual, I often wonder if they, as the next generation of leaders in our field, don't deserve better.

Best wishes,  
Dan

# Social Media

If you are into social media, Dan Johnston, one of our graduate students, has created another way to stay up-to-date with our alumni. He has created a LinkedIn group that will serve as an alumni network within that site that anyone can join and maintain the group. You can follow the link <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8513486> or simply search for the Indiana University Geography group.

