

Winter 2024

NEWS

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**#1 in the UK
for Sociology and Social Policy.”**



Professor Anne Pollock
Head of Department

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It is an incredible honour to see the BA in Global Health and Social Science and the BSc in Global Health and Social Medicine – together with the BA in Social Science offered by Education, Communication, and Society – recognised in this way. GHSM's innovative interdisciplinary undergraduate degrees, with our distinctive approach to sociology and social policy that centres health and justice, speak directly to increasing interest among young people and the broader society in the intersections of health inequities and social justice.

The structures of these degree programmes are still recognisably in line with those set up by the founding members of our department a dozen years ago, even as they have been nimbly developed by many dedicated colleagues in the years since to ensure that they are robust and up-to-date. The high quality of the student experience is a notably prominent element of these particular rankings, and so this success is a credit to all those involved in supporting the flourishing of our UG students as programme directors, module convenors, personal tutors, and simply as members of our vibrant intellectual community of research-led teaching. Kudos!

Of course, Education is just one of our Department's strengths. In our Department Away Day in September, we took the chance to focus primarily on reflecting on research. We are working hard to ensure that we have robust support for academic staff and researchers, across their entire careers, and that is paying off with strong research income and highly impactful internationally excellent outputs.

Going forward, we are working across scales to both prioritise individualised support for early career researchers and to develop larger new initiatives – watch this space.

Note that this space will be changing. The GHSM Newsletter itself is in transition, in the midst of being handed over from Michelle Pentecost as Academic Editor who has stewarded it so well over the past several years, to the new hands of Cris Montenegro – gratitude to both. The Newsletter is also shifting to a new production model that directly involves students, a concrete iteration of the collaboration among students and staff that fosters community.

More broadly, this is my last newsletter as Head of Department for GHSM. It's been an honour to serve the department in this role, and I look forward to seeing what is to come.

Professor Anne Pollock
Head of Department



Walberswick Workshops with the Grid Oncology Project

Over the past two years, the [Grid Oncology project team](#), Carlo Caduff, Shaguftha Bhangu, Nick Surawy Stepney and formerly Fabien Provost, have organised an annual workshop in the village of Walberswick, Suffolk.

These bring together members of the project with invited scholars to share papers, write as well as engage in discussion stimulated by a beautiful natural environment very different to a university seminar space. Invitees to these workshops have included Sarah Hodges, Maria José De Abreu (Columbia University), Lawrence Cohen (UC Berkeley), and Aditya Bharadwaj (Graduate Institute Geneva).

The aim of these workshops is to create a mutually enriching space that helps us develop pre-circulated papers into articles that can be submitted for publication. For this year's workshop, held from 3-6 September, the overall theme was "epidemiology", considered



as a science and practice of making disease legible in culturally and historically specific ways. Accordingly, we had the pleasure of being joined by historian of Science at the University of Edinburgh Lukas Engelmann, whose research examines the shift in focus within epidemiological reasoning from doctors' expertise and the practices of counting, to the primacy of models and data. In all, six draft papers were shared by workshop participants, which formed the centre of our formal discussions as well as more informal conversation during walks.

The shared papers were at different stages of completion, and covered topics such as the regional histories of cancer epidemiology, modelling and the science of epidemics in the 20th century, as well as notions of community held within clinical spaces of Northeast India, and the representations of opioid access within global health. The workshop setting allowed the pooling of insight and expertise that will help strengthen these pieces, but more broadly through the sharing of walks between the sweeping September showers and meals in the local pub, the fostering of collegiality and connections that can be carried into future work.



Lambeth Council's Health Determinant Research Collaboration

This summer, six GHSM final year undergraduate students conducted paid evaluation of public health programmes through a partnership with Lambeth Council's Health Determinant Research Collaboration (HDRC). Lambeth Council, the local authority for the London Borough of Lambeth in Greater London, has been awarded funding over the next five years for [Lambeth HEART](#) – a name chosen to spell out Health Determinants Research and Evaluation Network. The funding has been awarded by the [National Institute for Health and Care Research](#) to set up pioneering Health Determinants Research Collaborations (HDRCs).

Lambeth is one of 30 new HDRCs nationally set up to enable local authorities to become more research-active, embedding a culture of evidence-based decision making. In Lambeth, the HDRC supports the Council to address the wider determinants of health and health inequalities.

Following a highly competitive application process, Gaia Naccach, Gillian Gregory, Julia Therese De Ocampo, Mia Campbell, Minaal Qadeer and Emilio Patterson spent the summer evaluating three projects run by Lambeth.

This included qualitative and quantitative data collection to assess the success and reach of services provided to Lambeth residents, particularly those from BAME communities, contributing to the evaluation of a staff survey and evaluating the services provided by a church-run community drop-in hub.

To conduct their evaluations and put together a final report and presentation, students had fantastic support from both the team at Lambeth and two GHSM PhD students, Carmel Cardona and Katie Atmore.

Student comments:

“ My experience with the Lambeth HEART team and the London inspire program during the summer of 2024 was truly exceptional, providing me with the opportunity to engage in public health initiatives at the local authority level. Throughout my internship, I was able to enhance skills in collaboration with local stakeholders, apply qualitative and quantitative research methodologies in a practical context, and produce a comprehensive evaluation report for the Black Communities Health and Wellbeing Day in Lambeth.

The event was highly successful, attracting a large turnout and receiving reports of substantial satisfaction among attendees. It was extremely gratifying to apply the knowledge I gained from my studies in Global Health and Social Medicine in a real-life setting that also aligned with my career interests. Moreover, presenting our final evaluation report to the entire team was both exhilarating and well-received. The support and friendliness of the Lambeth HEART team were remarkable, creating an environment in which I felt genuinely encouraged and valued. ”



- Gillian Gregory

“ During our placement with Lambeth Council, we had the opportunity to engage with the Health and Wellbeing Hubs, particularly focusing on the Christ Church Hub and Emmanuel Food Hub. This experience allowed us to delve into the operational aspects of community-centred health services and how they address the diverse needs of Lambeth's residents. Emilio and I conducted all data collection and analysis for a research project evaluating the demographic diversity of hub attendees and the impact of services on physical and mental wellbeing. We gained valuable insights into

how these hubs foster community engagement and support personal fulfillment.. One service user told us: ‘Christ Church was like the starting point of my life,’ which underscored the vital role these hubs play in the community. The skills I've gained in research design, data collection, and community engagement will be invaluable in my future endeavours. ”

- Mia Campbell

Host organisation comments:

“ The students' contributions have been invaluable to our ongoing projects, and their dedication, enthusiasm, and professionalism have stood out throughout their placement. We greatly appreciate their positive attitude and work ethic. They embraced the opportunity to work alongside our team and engage with the community, showing a genuine interest in Lambeth's diverse population and the challenges we face in reducing health disparities. We would like to give a particular mention for their reports and presentations which were superb.

Overall, the placements have been a success, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with King's College London. We are confident that these students will go on to make meaningful contributions to the field of public health, and we commend the university for equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in professional environments. ”

- Emily Aidoo, Head of Service Lambeth Health Determinants Research and Evaluation Network (HEART)



Spatialities and Networks of Cancer Research Cluster



Led by Carlo Caduff and David Reubi and established in mid 2023 with the aim of opening up new research agendas that explore how cancer is spatialized and what it spatializes, this exciting new cluster brings together anthropologists, historians and sociologists. One such practice is medical mapping, which makes cancer visible, tells stories about its origins, traces its movements, and predicts its future courses thanks to complex socio-technical infrastructures. But cancer can also be a medium of spatialisation itself, as when a government marks its presence in particular territories by inaugurating a flagship hospital or when a private hospital group crosses borders in search of new markets.

Specific projects include: Cartographies of Cancer: Epidemiologists and Malignancies in Sub-Saharan Africa, led by David Reubi, Thandeka Cochrane and Jenn Fraser; Grid Oncology: Remaking Cancer Care in India, led by Carlo Caduff, Nick Surawy Stepney and Shagufta Bhangu; International Classification, Cancer and Care: Accounting for the Diagnostic Potential of Sub-Saharan Africa led by Henry Llewellyn, No Morphine in India, led by Nick Surawy Stepney; and Surveillance, Scale and the Mapping of Public Health in Colonial India, led by Philip Jagessar.

The cluster has been active since inception, with members contributing publications on topics including the political stakes of cancer epistemics, epidemiological ideas about progress and pathology, disease modelling, accountability and global health, and how medical anthropology can contribute to cancer research.

The cluster's workshops have drawn together scholars from the social sciences and humanities with clinicians on the frontlines of cancer care to meet and discuss the social and political implications of cancer technologies, the relations between city planning and public health, and the meaning and effects of concepts encountered in medical fields. In June of this year, David, Jenn, Thandeka, Carlo and Nick convened a workshop at the Brocher Foundation, Switzerland, to explore the social and political lives of new medical technologies in the Global South.

The cluster also runs reading seminars, writing retreats, and supports the transnational Political Stakes of Cancer Network.

Check out the cluster's many activities online [here](#).



Carlo Caduff in conversation with medical oncologist Manju Sengar about innovation in cancer care in India.



David Reubi opens The Social and Political Lives of New Cancer Technologies in the Global South workshop at the Brocher Foundation.



Medical anthropologist Benson Mulemi and oncologist Bhawna Sirohi, with Thandeka Cochrane and historian Luiz Alves ahead, during a "walk and talk" session at the Brocher Foundation workshop.



Dr Cristian Montenegro participates in WHO's Mental Health Forum 2024

Dr Cristian Montenegro participated in the WHO Mental Health Forum “Global Mental Health in Motion: Looking Back, Looking Forward”, held on the 9th & 10th of October at WHO Headquarters in Geneva. The event brought together global mental health experts, policy makers, and stakeholders to exchange ideas and strategies for advancing mental health policy reform worldwide, providing an opportunity to showcase the work of WHO across regions, and different challenges in policy implementation.

Reflecting on the experience, Dr Montenegro highlighted the importance of bringing sociological and qualitative perspectives to complex policy discussions in mental health. Drawing from his experiences in Chile and South America, he emphasised the need to challenge the implicit dichotomy in global mental health where the Global North is often seen as the site of knowledge production, and the Global South as the site of implementation.



Dr Montenegro also reflected on how the Forum’s location shapes what can be discussed and imagined. While pragmatic and administrative reasons dictate that such international meetings are held at WHO Headquarters, this arrangement reinforces inequalities.

“Meetings like these should engage diverse participants across layers of the global mental health ecosystem—from service users and frontline workers to administrators and policymakers,” he said.

He further pointed out how these dynamics expressed in the forum, where regional representatives from regions like Africa, South East Asia and the Americas, often strive to showcase achievements tied to their geographical areas of action and responsibility, while European representatives frame their contributions as universally applicable, setting the normative agenda for global mental health. This disparity, he suggests, limits collective learning and undermines the potential for a truly global, global mental health. ■

Franz Boas Lecture by Professor Carlo Caduff

In March, Professor Carlo Caduff delivered the Franz Boas Lecture in the flagship seminar series of the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University in New York. In his talk, Professor Caduff examined the concept of stigma, as it is constructed by scientific discourse. He argued that stigma has become a foundational term in contemporary health research and policy where it increasingly operates as a discursive black box.

Not simply an object of research, stigma operates as a standard: it determines the

rules for knowledge production, reduces the risk of discursive dissonance, and enables collaboration across communities of practice.

While the term’s interoperability has many advantages, it obscures the political stakes of social disruption, frames the challenge of stigmatization as a problem of information and thus contributes to the silencing of the social.

Drawing on fieldwork in India during the coronavirus pandemic, Professor Caduff examined in his lecture scenes of social



tension, irritation, and harassment to reveal what is being erased by stigma as it is currently used in public health research and policy. Situated in pandemic Mumbai, the lecture followed healthcare workers moving in and out of the hospital in an unprecedented time of death, disease, and an almost total disruption of everyday life.



BELONGINGS: Exhibition





Challenging anti-immigration narratives and creating pathways for belonging with people seeking asylum and refugees.

What does it mean to leave your home forever?

What might we learn from history about migration, sanctuary seeking, and belonging?

What does it mean to belong in the current moment, for people seeking sanctuary in the UK?



BELONGINGS was an exhibition and events programme that reflected on these questions and sought to challenge anti-asylum narratives and create pathways to belonging with people seeking sanctuary in the UK. It centred on an exhibition by renowned artist Susan Aldworth featuring the imagined contents of the suitcase her grandmother brought with her when she was migrating from Northern Italy to London in 1924. Thirty-five individual antique clothes, including a nightgown that was in the original suitcase, were hand-embroidered with family photographs, stories and recipes. Suspended in mid-air, they highlight the transitory and emotional nature of an uprooted life.

The exhibition opening at the Arcade in Bush House was a major success with almost 200 guests from different backgrounds, community organisations and activists, people with lived experience of sanctuary seeking, artists, researchers, students, politicians, and journalists. Through its six-week instalment, the exhibition became one of the most interacted with at King's. Visitors were asked to engage with the exhibition actively by writing reflections on: What could be done to create a welcoming environment for people seeking sanctuary in our society? How has the exhibition changed your views on 'belonging'? They were also invited to write a pledge on a label committing to an action, big or small, through which they would foster community and support those seeking sanctuary. Over a hundred pledges hung beautifully from hooks in the exhibition.

Accompanying the exhibition were creative and thought-provoking activities:

- **Hassan Akkad's Film Matar:** The screening included a discussion with the film director about the harsh realities of the UK's broken asylum system and what it takes to rebuild one's life against all odds.
- **Embroidery workshops:** Bringing refugees, students, and community together to work with students from the Royal School of Needlework to embroider an image, symbol or a word relating to their feelings about Belonging onto square cotton handkerchiefs, which became part of the installation.
- **Artist talks and tours:** Susan Aldworth spoke about the work, an individual family story of migration from 100 years ago, to provoke empathetic connections with contemporary narratives of migration, change and belonging.
- **The regional launch of the Commission on the Integration of Refugees report "From Arrival to Integration: Building communities for refugees and for Britain"** – a landmark study on the integration of refugees in the UK.
- **Public engagement workshop:** brought together people with lived experience, community organisations, local councils, policy makers, and researchers to creatively deliberate the question: How can public services and community action challenge anti-immigration narratives, create pathways for belonging, and improve quality of life and mental health with refugees and people seeking asylum?

The resulting creative output, insights, and data from the BELONGINGS installation and activities programme will result in a Book of BELONGINGS, policy recommendations, blog posts, presentations, and an academic paper to influence how we welcome sanctuary seekers and create environments in which people feel they can belong and become a part of our society.

The programme was organised by Professor Hanna Kienzler, from King's Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, in collaboration with artist Susan Aldworth, Professor Cornelius Katona (Helen Bamber Foundation), Dr Leonie Ansems de Vries (Sanctuary Programme at King's), Dr Guntars Ermansons (Department of Global Health and Social Medicine), and A&M Consultancy. It formed part of a new season from King's Culture, Lost and Found: Stories of sanctuary and belonging.

The programme was built on work by members of the Refugee Mental Health and Place Network at King's and it was supported by the ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health.





Sutton Council Public Health Summer Placement

This summer, six of our GHSM 2nd-Year Undergraduate students were able to join the Public Health Team at Sutton Council for another round of the GHSM – Sutton Council Public Health Summer Placement. Aliya Hussain, Ayaka Terashima, Jenna Masoomzadeh, Hoi Yan Kwok, Anya Kapoor and Sefora Kalieb secured the placement following a competitive application process and participated in informative sessions, networking opportunities and data collection using [Fingertips](#) – the key public health data collation tool used by local authorities. They also had the opportunity to do hands-on public health planning on the barriers to healthy lifestyles, including surveying and interviewing Council staff to propose an initiative for a healthier work environment.



Student comments:

“ Firstly, I would love to express my deep gratitude to the public health team from Sutton Council and Dr. Jensen for offering this amazing learning experience. This one week has allowed me to have a quick grasp of the civil working environment and learn from the experts in the public health field. Furthermore, I gained hands-on experience in analyzing public health data. It was surprising to see how an extremely deprived neighborhood sat right next to the neighborhood of millionaires in Sutton, and many children suffered from the instability of living in temporary housing that was far away from their original community as their parents could no longer afford rent in Sutton.”

- Hoi Yan Kwok

“ Working under the Public Health Team in Sutton council was an incredibly rewarding experience for me. The staff were informative, proactive, and inspirational. We were given tasks to complete throughout the week, including data collection, through surveying and interviewing members of Sutton

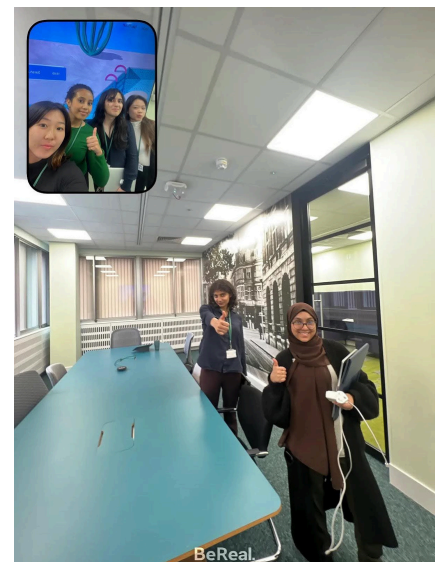
council. All our work amalgamated into a presentation at the end of the internship to promote healthier living in the workplace. We came up with a plethora of suggestions for the team on how they could encourage healthier living in their own workplace using the data we had collected earlier on in the week and how they could be implemented both short-term and long-term. We also were lucky to be able to talk to professionals that have a lot of experience in their field and were able to give us invaluable advice for our studies and future careers. This experience was overall a huge help in developing my understanding of my future career prospects and has given me vital experience that I will carry with me in my GHSM journey.”

- Jenna Masoomzadeh

“ One of the highlights of the internship for me was the opportunity to collect primary data in preparation for our presentation on health initiatives at the end of the week. This included both quantitative surveys which we translated into visual graphs as well as qualitative interviews that were transcribed and coded. This meant I not only applied

research techniques but also spoke with council members to understand their experiences of health, mirroring the work the public health team does every day. This helped to provide evidence and reasoning for the initiatives we created while also developing transferable skills we could use in other work, like our dissertations.”

- Aliya Hussain





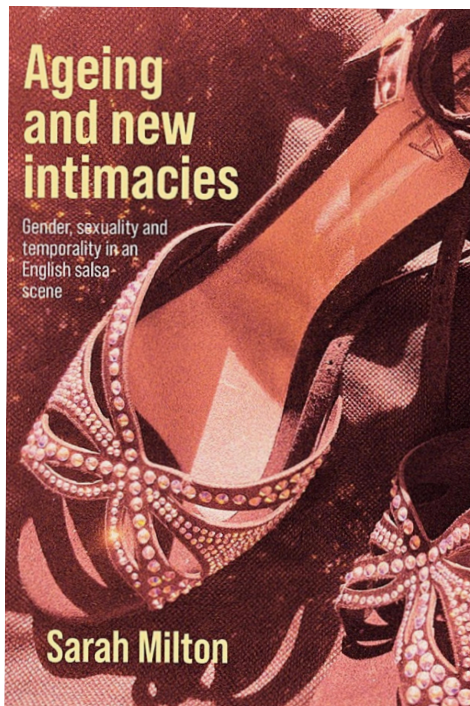
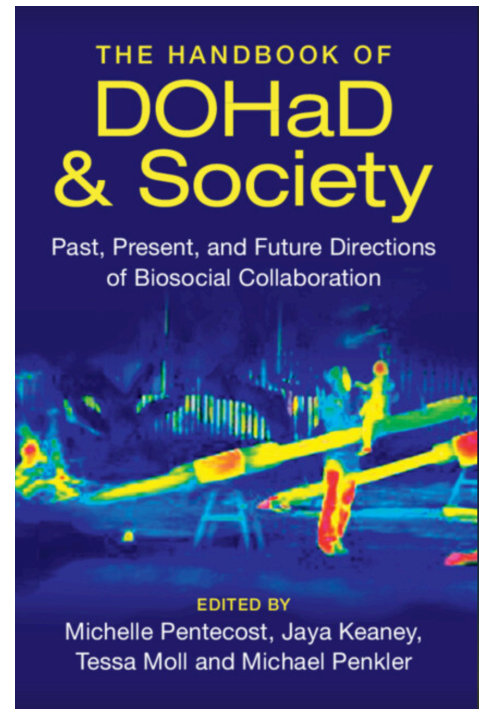
The Handbook of DOHaD and Society: Past, present and future directions of biosocial collaboration

Co-edited by Michelle Pentecost, Jaya Keaney, Tessa Moll and Michael Penkler, this open access volume is published by Cambridge University Press.

Research in the field of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease has had a fundamental impact on our understanding of how environmental experiences and contexts influence the development of health and disease over the entire lifecourse. Covering a wide range of geographic regions, this volume includes an overview of the field,

key concepts, and cutting-edge examples of interdisciplinary collaboration. The first reference text covering the interdisciplinary work of DOHaD, a broad list of contents maps the history of DOHaD, showcases examples of biosocial collaboration in action, offers a conceptual toolkit for interdisciplinary research, and maps future directions for the field.

Read this open access book [here](#)



Ageing and new intimacies: Gender, sexuality and temporality in an English salsa scene

By Sarah Milton, published by Manchester University Press.

The 'baby boom' generation, born between the 1940s and the 1960s, is often credited with pioneering new and creative ways of relating, doing intimacy and making families. With this cohort now entering mid and later life in Britain, they are also said to be revolutionising the experience of ageing.

Are the romantic practices of this 'revolutionary cohort' breaking with tradition and allowing new ways of understanding and doing ageing and relating to emerge? Based on an innovative combination of sensory ethnography in salsa classes and life history interviews, this book documents the meanings of desire and romance, and 'new' - or renewed - intimacies, among women in mid and later life.

Beginning with women at a transition point, when newly single or newly dating in midlife, the chapters look back over life histories to examine prior relationship experiences at different life stages, and look forward to hopes for future intimacies. In the navigation of romance and new relationships we see the sensory, sensual and affective nature of heteronormativity, and gendered practices that are informed by memories of the past, the imagination of previous generations and class-based desires.

Challenging conventional notions of the baby boomers, this book illuminates the intersections of age, class, and white normativity, making important contributions to our understanding of ageing and generation, intimacy and gender.



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Dr Cristian Montenegro

Senior Lecturer



What's your academic background?

I am a health sociologist with a background in both academia and public health policy, particularly focused on mental health in Latin America. I completed my degree in sociology in Chile, where I initially worked as a professional in the disability sector and in public health services. I pursued an MSc in Health, Community, and Development at the LSE's former Social Psychology Department and a PhD at LSE's Methodology Department, focused on service-user activism and community engagement in mental health systems in the Global South. After that, I split my time between an Assistant Professor role at the Nursing School of Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and as an advisor to the Department of Mental Health of the Ministry of Health. Before my current role at King's College London, I was a Senior Research Fellow at the Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health.

What are you working on at the moment?

My work focuses on how social movements and activist ideas intersect with mental health policy —how they shape, and are shaped by, each other. I've researched various aspects of mental health, including human rights, psychiatric deinstitutionalisation, service-user engagement, and co-production in mental health policy.

I recently secured the Wellcome Trust's Career Development Award for my project "Transitions: The Ethics and Politics of Psychiatric Deinstitutionalization in South America". The project approaches psychiatric reform -and deinstitutionalization in particular, as a politically and ethically complex -and situated- process. It draws on history, sociology, and international policy studies to unpack how controversies about freedom, autonomy, and coercion have, and continue to be experienced and addressed in the global south. The team will include two Post-Doctoral Research Associates based respectively at the Instituto de Medicina Social -UERJ Brazil and at the Escuela de Salud Pública, Universidad de Chile, plus a PhD student based at GHSM. Recently I've been also working on a piece that uses social systems theory -particularly the concept of 'second-order observation'- to suggest the need to reflect on the distinction between lived experience-based research and qualitative social science about lived experience.

At the same time, I am writing up the results of a project on informal medical responses to recent episodes of state/police repression in Chile, based on interviews with clinicians, nurses, and medical students involved in providing care to wounded protest participants.

What are you most looking forward to in your new role?

There's so many amazing scholars in the department, people whose work has inspired me and guided me through the years, and I'm looking forward to developing innovative social science scholarships in global health with them. Working with students from diverse backgrounds, especially those from the Global South like myself, has been incredibly inspiring.

When you're not working, what do you like to do with your time?

Outside of work, I enjoy cooking, especially experimenting with flavors from different regions. At the moment, I'm working on an Indian-inspired Chilean "cazuela" (a hearty meat stew). The early results are very promising, according to my teenage children, at least.



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