

through various media and engaged in unstructured and semi-structured interviews with victims, veterans, human rights workers, ‘memory activists’ and state officials.”

Jacqui was right, and my advice to those currently in the field or about to go to the field is to keep this statement in mind, and to know that time and distance and the power of the written

word, help clarify most (but not all!) things that seemed unclear in the midst of doing fieldwork, including, but certainly not limited to, one’s method.

Amy is a 7th year sociocultural student, currently writing up her dissertation on memory, human rights and nationalism in post-conflict, post-independent East Timor.

In Memoriam

Dr. Lisa Stefanacci

By Kari L. Hanson, LHCN

It is with great sadness that we must share the news of the passing of a member of our UCSD anthropology community. Dr. Lisa Stefanacci died on September 20, from injuries sustained in a car accident. Lisa had been a project scientist working in the Laboratory for Human Comparative Neuroanatomy since 2011, returning to science to work as part of a multidisciplinary research group studying Williams Syndrome to gain insights into human social brain evolution. Prior to joining our lab, she was the owner of The Book Works, a popular bookstore in Del Mar catering to a diverse clientele of scientists, educators, and members of the local community. When the bookstore closed, we were extremely fortunate and enthusiastic to bring her and her impressive expertise on board.

Lisa was a graduate of the neurosciences program at UCSD, working with Dr. David Amaral to explore the intricacies of emotional regulation and social cognition rooted in the primate limbic system. Her PhD thesis focused on the amygdala’s role in social behavior, and her mentorship provided critical inspiration and guidance for our own recent graduate, Dr. Nicole Barger, and her comparative work on the amygdala in humans and apes. It was a tremendous honor to have Lisa as part of my own committee, and her technical and theoretical expertise were essential in forming and articulating the early components of my own dissertation work. Her insight and enthusiasm have inspired and energized all ongoing research in the lab, and the legacy of her work lives on in the projects that continue in her memory.



Beyond her impressive resumé as a formidable scientist, Lisa was an amazing mother, a fierce advocate for women in science, and the warmest, most loving kind of friend one could hope for. She served as an excellent role model, putting people first while also prioritizing her work, maintaining that delicate balance between the ferocity of her love for others and her passion for science. It’s terribly difficult to imagine we’ll never see her again, as she was always the first person in the lab each morning, and the person we all leaned on for emotional support and guidance in difficult times. In our grief, we’ve grown to rely on each other, and to appreciate the time that we have shared. We were tremendously fortunate to have known Lisa, and to have shared with you all the amazing person that she was.

In loving memory,
Kari L. Hanson, LHCN