

EDITOR'S NOTE

In May of this year the annual Finnish Anthropology Conference was held at the University of Helsinki. *Ideas of Value: Inquiries in Anthropology* was hosted by the Finnish Anthropological Society with sponsorship from Social and Cultural Anthropology (University of Helsinki). Discussion in the twelve workshops ranged from the central theme—the concept of ‘value’ as it is theorized in anthropology and related disciplines—to more general ‘inquiries of value in anthropology’ being pursued by anthropologists at home and abroad. Coupled with a large number of non-Finnish participants—from Belgium, England, Estonia, France, Greece, India, Japan, Korea, Norway and Russia—the diversity was stimulating and generated animated discussion. Some of the material has already been submitted to *Suomen Antropologi* for possible publication with more to come.

The keynote speakers were Professor Keith Hart (Emeritus, Goldsmiths, University of London); Professor Jukka Siikala (University of Helsinki) and Dr. Martin Holbraad (University College London); *Suomen Antropologi* is proud to be able to publish the papers presented by Professors Siikala and Hart in this and the following issue. Thus, we begin this summer number with an article based on Professor Siikala’s lecture, titled ‘Hierarchy and Stratification in Polynesia’. In this, he discusses the shifting roles of traditional hierarchy and its relationship to modern state structure in Fiji, Western Samoa and the Kingdom of Tonga. By providing an overview of recent political developments set against a backdrop of traditional socio-political formation, Siikala demonstrates the impact which different levels of social integration have had on actual social practice. All three cases represent major shifts in hierarchical systems coupled with increasing stratification. The article notes variations in response to this situation based on the ways in which hierarchical values are operationalized in each society—thereby casting light on the complex structural linkages between authority and hierarchy and their modes of operation in the present day.

This is followed by a transcribed conversation held between Marilyn Strathern, Minna Ruckenstein (President of the Finnish Anthropological Society) and Matti Erasaari (Editorial Secretary, *Suomen Antropologi*) on the occasion of Professor Strathern’s visit to Helsinki in December 2009 to deliver the Westermarck Lecture (published in the previous issue). With additional comments added by Professor Strathern after the event, the discussion covers a range of topics from the value of academic disciplines through ‘audit culture’ to her use of irony in ‘taking a stand’. As in all Strathern’s work, her voice is a distinctive one and her perspective thought-provoking.

As well as warmly welcoming the writing of experienced scholars, the editorial policy of *Suomen Antropologi* is one of facilitating publication by relatively new anthropologists, often in the form of a research report; this is a medium which puts ongoing research up for comment and critique without the length, the theoretical certainty or quite the review/revision rigour required of research articles. In a format which will be repeated

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in future issues with material from some of the workshops at the Finnish Anthropology Conference 2010, this issue presents a collection of five reports under the broad title of *The Politics of Memory and the State in East and Southeast Asia*, with an epilogue by Christina Schwenkel (University of California Riverside). These papers were developed from presentations delivered at the Society for East Asian Anthropology Conference, held in July 2009 on the Academia Sinica campus in Taipei. The collection was coordinated by Margaret Bodemer (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa) and I will leave it to Dr. Bodemer to introduce the thematic background and the papers themselves (see p. 26).

The regular Forum with which we conclude each issue comprises four different, and highly controversial, perspectives on what we have labeled *Post-Conflict Culture*. It begins with a piece by Sari Wastell (Goldsmiths) in which (in an echo of topics raised in the conversation with Marilyn Strathern) she notes and discusses the 'worrying common denominators' in the practices of international post-conflict interventions and 'audit cultures' in the Euro-Western world. The following three pieces are all written by scholars affiliated with the Finnish Academy-funded Centre of Excellence in Global Governance Research (University of Helsinki): Jarna Petman (International Law), Kirsten J. Fisher (Political Science) and Timo Kallinen (Anthropology). Petman's paper takes up the discussion of war-crimes trials by noting that they are meant to offer, not only justice and retribution, but 'a final and authoritative account of the truth of events'. In doing so, a trial must navigate through different versions of history—aided by a good deal of 'forgetting'. Fisher offers a different perspective on the 'fresh adventure' of International Criminal Law, discussing the various challenges the concept faces and suggesting alternatives; while Kallinen, discussing truth commissions, reprises some of the points raised by Wastell (both are anthropologists) concerning the Eurocentrism of such mechanisms and the concomitant problems of exporting them to non-European destinations.

I conclude by handing over to Miia Halme-Tuominen, Book Review Editor for *Suomen Antropologi*, who outlines revised book-review policy.

MARIE-LOUISE KARTTUNEN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This issue features the first 'Interesting New Publications' list, compiled by the book review editing team. The list follows the pulse of current anthropological scholarship, and will, in future, reflect the general themes in each issue of *Suomen Antropologi*. Further information may be found on the journal's homepage where book titles are accompanied by abstracts. In addition to English-language publications, the list introduces exciting works produced by, among others, Nordic and French publishing houses.

If you are interested in reviewing a book mentioned on the list, or another volume published 2009–2010, please contact Miia Halme-Tuomisaari at miia.halme@helsinki.fi

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