

EDITORS' NOTE: IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO FEND OFF PREDATORS

We are once again delighted to bring you a new issue of *Suomen antropologi: The Journal of the Finnish Anthropological Society*. This issue marks our final contribution as your editors-in-chief. Two years ago when we took over the journal, our primary aim was to maintain and develop the independent, community-organised, nonprofit open access publishing ethos started by our predecessors. In addition, we aimed to develop the editorial processes of the journal, making it as easy as possible for new members joining the editorial team.

Over the course of the six issues we have published as editors-in-chief, we think we have succeeded satisfactorily. The editorial team now consists of both old and new members, all of whom actively participate in the editorial work and development of the journal. We have succeeded in creating shared workspaces and documentation, allowing new individuals joining the team to quickly learn the various tasks, and, during our term, we have engaged in various open access initiatives. It is our pleasure to welcome and congratulate Suvi Rautio (University of Helsinki) on her appointment as the new editor-in-chief of *Suomen antropologi*, as she takes charge following this issue. Since joining the editorial team last year, Suvi has been a dedicated contributor to the journal's endeavours. Whilst we hand over the journal to her capable hands, we will also remain onboard as regular members of the editorial team, and look forward to supporting Suvi and ensuring a smooth transition. Needless to say, as editor-in-chief Suvi is free to lead the journal as she sees fit.

Relieved of our duties as editors-in-chief, we plan to complete some of the ideas we had for the journal, but lacked the time necessary to fully implement. One of these ambitions includes broadening the publication format of the journal to include HTML, allowing for better multimodal publishing, embedding into the text both sound and video.

We also take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to Matti Eräsaari and Laura Huttunen for their contributions to our editorial team. Matti Eräsaari was the editor-in-chief for the four years preceding our tenure and remained on the editorial team as an editor ensuring a smooth transition for us. After going above and beyond for the journal, Matti has decided to focus on his newly funded European Research Council project 'Properties of Units and Standards'. Congratulations, Matti, on the project! Similarly, Laura has worked as an editor of our journal for several years, alongside serving as a professor and head of her department. Given other

work responsibilities demanding her full attention, Laura has decided to resign from her position as journal editor. Thank you, Matti and Laura, for your time, efforts, and the expertise both of you have shared with us!

ON PUBLISHING AND PREYING

We want to remind our readers again that *Suomen antropologi* is a community-owned and managed nonprofit open access journal, which is funded and overseen by the Finnish Anthropological Society. The board of the society appoints the editors-in-chief, who then assemble the editorial team and who ultimately answer to the board and members of the society. The journal also receives a small public grant, paid by the Ministry of Education and administered by TSV, the Confederation of Finnish Learned Societies. TSV also administers the server space and the Open Journal Systems publication software used by *Suomen antropologi* and other Finnish community-managed journals. The editors-in-chief of *Suomen antropologi*, therefore, also report to TSV. The journal is run by the editorial team, but answers to both the society and TSV. The editors-in-chief and editors work on a voluntary basis, whilst the technical staff receive nominal payments for their work, payments made possible from the society's membership dues, a public grant, and occasional small grants. We secured one such small grant recently from the Finnish Association for Scholarly Publishing, for which we are grateful.

As editors, we devote our time to the journal because we firmly believe that community-controlled nonprofit open access publishing—by scholars for scholars—is the most ethical method of scientific publishing. Ours is a communal effort, and this journal is made possible by the labour our editors, editorial secretaries, language editor, and reviewers voluntarily provide. Similarly, the Finnish Anthropological Society is a volunteer-based community. We, therefore, ask and encourage our fellow scholars to engage in such efforts: that is, volunteer work which forms the backbone of a scientific public.

In order for community-owned and nonprofit open access publishing to thrive, scholars need to publish in them. As precarious and relatively early-career scholars, we understand that many early career researchers feel they need to publish in prestigious commercial journals, because our work and value is measured according to publications in high-ranking journals. Whilst we are committed to nonprofit open access publishing, we do not expect precarious junior scholars to bear the burden of the transition. Therefore, we appeal to our more established, tenured colleagues to actively participate in dismantling the exploitative frameworks currently underpinning the political economy of academic publishing. We encourage

a pivot towards contributing scholarly work to independent, community-administered, and not-for-profit open access journals.

It is nothing short of scandalous that, in 2024, we continue to see public funds funnelled into the coffers of commercial publishers. For the most part, these entities lay claim to the fruits of publicly financed research and levy substantial rents for publications, despite adding little or no value to them. This reality is particularly egregious given that today the means to publish openly and accessibly are more cost-effective and straightforward than they have ever been. The major commercial publishers are acutely aware of this reality, and, yet, persist in levying exorbitant article processing charges (APCs) and subscription fees from individual scholars and academic institutions alike—a clear manifestation of a strategy aimed at grabbing as much money as possible from the process and then running away with those profits safely in their coffers.

Our spam folders are bursting with advertisements from small predatory publishers and scam journals, all of which charge a couple of hundred dollars for a publication. But, these journals, predatory as they are, are small fish compared to the big commercial publishers, such as Routledge, which charges up to €10 000 for an open access edited volume they might not even properly peer review. Surely, these are the apex predators of academic publishing.

As volunteers of an independent, nonprofit open access journal, our mission is to offer a sustainable and ethically sound option to the current publishing paradigm. But, we cannot do it alone. We recognise that senior and well-established scholars may have limited time to dedicate to volunteer-driven projects, but they can exercise discretion in their publishing choices. We also rely on these scholars to help shift the metrics according to which we are rated. Evaluations, when necessary, should be based on the calibre of our research, rather than the mere prestige of a for-profit journal, a measure which should have no relationship to quality.

THIS ISSUE

This issue consists of three research articles—by William Wheeler (independent scholar), Phill Wilcox (Bielefeld University), and Ellen Lapper (Independent scholar), respectively—two research reports in the form of public lectures (*lectio præcursoria*) delivered by doctoral candidates during their public defences—by Tero Frestadius (University of Helsinki) and Saana Hansen (University of Helsinki)—and two book reviews—by Eeva Berlung (Aalto University) and Hector Sanchez (University of Helsinki). We also include in this issue an anthropological reading challenge put forth by Henni Alava (Tampere University) and Tuomas Tammisto (Tampere University).

In his article, William Wheeler examines bordering, border violence, and the notion of the abusive state, focusing on the case of an asylum seeker from Bangladesh to the United Kingdom. In his thick and harrowing description, Wheeler examines how Sanwar sought to gain asylum in the UK—a process that both brought back old trauma to the surface and created new ones, leading Sanwar to attempt suicide. Wheeler's article relies on ethnographic research, specifically his discussions with Sanwar and the documentation of his asylum-seeking process. Here, Wheeler offers a model of a closely observed and collaboratively created case study, complementing rather nicely two recent articles on border violence published in *Suomen antropologi* (Anderson 2023; Laakkonen 2023).

Phill Wilcox examines in her article an understudied mode of transportation—namely, cycling—in urban Laos. Wilcox's entry point to this topic is a European Union campaign designed to promote commuting to work via cycling in Laos. The well-meaning, albeit top-down, campaign was detached from the everyday lives of the inhabitants and, hence, unsuccessful. Based on her own research and experience cycling in Vientiane, Wilcox discusses who cycles and who does not in contemporary urban Laos. She shows there is an emerging and growing number of cycling enthusiasts for whom cycling is primarily a hobby, whereas commuting by cycling is done largely out of necessity by those without access to motorbikes and cars, vehicles for which Vientiane's infrastructure is primarily designed.

Ellen Lapper's article delves into the evolving field of digital death and the significance of online legacies in social media spaces, particularly in the context of mourning and memory. Here, Lapper highlights the challenges and nuances of posthumous personhood and the ethical implications of managing digital remains. Employing a reflexive, collaborative approach, Lapper's research emphasises the need for adaptable methodologies which respect cultural differences and the emotional complexities surrounding digital afterlives. Her study advocates for a closer partnership between researchers, participants, and software developers to navigate the preservation and ethical treatment of digital legacies.

In his *lectio*, Tero Frestadius presents his PhD thesis on public art, gentrification, and race in a segregated urban setting—namely, Los Angeles, California. In *A Bed Behind the Portrait: An Ethnography Around Images in Segregated Los Angeles*, Frestadius (2022) examines gentrification and urban transformation in Los Angeles through the lens of segregation, and how racialised hierarchies are built into the city over a long history. The thesis specifically focuses on one young mural artist who moves across various divisions and categories. As Frestadius himself notes, his analysis shows both how the divisions and categories are at one moment problematised and corroded by people and reasserted with great weight in the next.

Frestadius' thesis relies on highly nuanced, careful, and sensitive long-term ethnographic research, offering a fine example of how to present difficult themes in a thoughtful manner.

Saana Hansen in her *lectio* presents her PhD thesis on the economies of care of *injivas* (returning migrants) from South Africa to Zimbabwe. In *Economies of Care and the Politics of Return: Sustaining Life among Injivas and Their Families in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe*, Hansen (2023) examines the crises of and displacement within Zimbabwe by focusing on those who return. By examining how people who move over the border try to make do and 'mix things in order to survive', Hansen examines questions of how kinship and bureaucracies are built and build each other. Hansen employs the concept of 'economies of care' to examine the various, creative, and determined ways in which people make their lives liveable and how belonging—be it in terms of kinship or citizenship—is asserted in everyday life. Hansen's thesis is an important addition to the contemporary study of kinship, care, and the state as well as the study of migration.

Eeva Berglund reviews Bettina Stoetzer's (2022) book *Ruderal City: Ecologies of Migration, Race, and Urban Nature in Berlin*, and Hector Sanchez the volume co-edited by Synnøve K. N. Bendixsen and Edvard Hviding (2021) entitled *Anthropology in Norway: Directions, Locations, Relations*. Henni Alava and Tuomas Tammisto introduce a reading challenge that is meant to inspire to read research and create communities of mutual support for reading.

TUOMAS TAMMISTO AND HEIKKI WILENIUS
Editors-in-chief

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