

EDITORIAL NOTE

Happy 2025, readers!

It gives me great pleasure to present this year's Winter Issue of *Suomen antropologi: Journal of the Finnish Anthropological Society*. This issue contains three peer-reviewed articles, three book review essays, and four research reports.

The first peer-reviewed article in this issue is written by Susanne Kuehling, 'Women and *kula*: The Invisible Force Behind Hospitality in Gift Exchange'. Kuehling's ethnography considers the popular anthropological discussion on *kula* exchange through the neglected role of women in *kula* transactions. By positioning women as central to her ethnography, Kuehling sheds light on the fundamental importance cooperation and hospitality play in *kula*.

Next, Kalev Aasmäe's article, 'No Easy Way In: Navigating the Fragile Communitarity Amongst Squatters in London', delves into a single life history to study the lived experiences and survival strategies of a squatter in Southeast London based on fieldwork conducted in 2019. Core principles in squatter ideology are becoming increasingly fragmented, particularly since the criminalisation of residential squatting in the United Kingdom in 2012. Egalitarianism amongst squatters is also becoming rarer but, as Aasmäe's rich ethnography shows, the desire for solidarity and trust persists.

The final peer-reviewed article in this issue is a piece by Mari Keski-Korsu. 'Sending the Polycrisis: An Artistic Approach to Walking as Ritualisation' incorporates artistic research with the concept of transcorporeality, referring to the notion that bodies exist in relation to the world around them and are in a constant state of becoming with it. Drawing on research in North Sápmi, the northernmost part of Sweden, Keski-Korsu explores how transcorporeality can be applied through walking ritualisation.

Alongside the three peer-reviewed articles, this issue also contains four research reports in the written form of *lectio præcursoria*. For readers unfamiliar with public doctoral defences in the Finnish academy, *lectio præcursoria* are short 20-minute lectures intended for the general public delivered by doctoral candidates at the beginning of their defence. *Suomen antropologi* publishes these public lectures from the fields of anthropology and related disciplines to celebrate the work of doctoral researchers who have recently successfully defended their dissertations.

The first three *lectio præcursoria* feature anthropology graduates, all of whom defended their theses at the University of Helsinki's Faculty of Social Sciences this fall. The first *lectio* is by Maija-Eliina Sequeira, who

defended her PhD dissertation, 'Becoming an Adequate Child: Learning to Relate to Others in Cultural Context', in October 2024. In her *lectio*, Sequeira introduces her mixed-method, interdisciplinary approach to studying the differences in being an 'adequate' child in two very different field sites: Helsinki, Finland, and Santa Marta, Colombia. Her *lectio* also draws attention to the ethical implications of doing research in academia today, where taking concrete steps against contemporary settler colonialism is continuously met with backlash.

Following Sequeira's piece, we move on to Emmi Holm's *lectio præcursoria*. Holm defended her anthropology PhD dissertation, 'Digital Threads, Interwoven Scenes: An Ethnography of Sustainable Fashion Production in Ghana and Finland', in August 2024. Holm's *lectio* discusses how the fluidity between digital and physical worlds manifests within the global fashion marketplace between Ghana and Finland, where she conducted research.

Aino Korvensyrjä's *lectio* summarises her thesis, 'Conflicts over *Duldung* and Deportation: West African Perspectives on German Immigration Enforcement and European Borders', which she defended in September 2024. In her *lectio*, Korvensyrjä discusses the central themes in her thesis, including the struggles and critiques around deportation as a function of state violence within the German asylum system since 2015.

The fourth *lectio præcursoria* featured in this Winter Issue is by Pirjo Rautiainen, an anthropology graduate who defended her thesis, 'Applying Anthropological Knowledge to the Business Field: Three Ethnographic Studies in a Commercial Context', in the University of Jyväskylä in late November 2023. Her thesis, which she summarises in her *lectio*, draws on her commercial anthropological approach to ethnography.

To conclude this issue of *Suomen antropologi*, we have also included three book reviews of the following titles: *Ways of Belonging. Undocumented Youth in the Shadow of Illegality* by Meloni Francesca, reviewed by Riikka Era; *An Indigenous Ocean: Pacific Essays* by Damon Salesa, reviewed by Matti Eräsaari; and *Comparing the Worth of the While in Fiji and Finland* by Matti Eräsaari, and reviewed by Matt Tomlinson.

Once again, I want to thank all of the remarkable individuals who have made this issue possible: the writers, the reviewers, and of course our copyeditors and the editorial team. This journal is produced by the investment of time and generosity of an amazing collective of people: many thanks to each of you!

As always, this issue of *Suomen Antropologi* is published as a fully open access journal with no APCs or embargoes.

Finally, I want to take a moment here to inform our readers that, given the political climate of the world today, we at *Suomen Antropologi* have chosen to remove ourselves from X (formerly known as Twitter). In recent months, news of the American election has provoked billowing clouds of disinformation and chauvinism, and what feels like clear indications of a nation sliding deeper into autocracy. How we continue to use and contribute to social media are pivotal to its development. In response to the authoritarian, right-wing influence infiltrating X (formerly, Twitter), *Suomen Antropologi* has removed our account and presence from the platform. We will, however, continue to use our Facebook, Mastodon, and BlueSky accounts for our readers and communities, providing updated information and news about our journal.

I hope you all have a pleasant start to the new year.

Suvi Rautio
Editor-in-Chief