

EDITOR'S NOTE

This first issue for 2011 covers a great deal of the globe in its scope, with a strong emphasis on fluidity of movement: the Caribbean, Italy, Cathay, South Africa, Istanbul and the Crow nation, finishing with a Forum that looks at gambling and gambling research in Finland. The first article, *Caribbean Insular Mobilities* by Carlo A. Cubero (University of Tallinn) examines the paradoxical interplay of concepts of insularity and mobility in the constitution of Caribbean island identities. Cubero concludes by suggesting that 'neologisms such as "glocal" or notions of hybridity have the curious consequence of attempting to resolve a contradiction' that would be more productive of understanding if left open. This is followed by *Italian Literary Representations of China: Narrating Cultural Identities* by Iside Carbone (Royal Anthropological Institute, Centre for Anthropology at the British Museum), another article which examines movement, in this case medieval Italian contact with China as recorded in three prominent texts by early travellers: *Historia Mongalorum* by Giovanni dal Pian del Carpine (1182–1252), *Il Milione* by Marco Polo (1254–1324) and *Relatio* by Odorico da Pordenone (1265–1331). These texts are analysed and compared with modern literary materials to illustrate the constructive role of narrative in the experience of encounters between different cultures. Carbone also points out that, while guiding and inspiring early Italian imagery of Chinese territories, inhabitants and culture, the texts also reflect and define Italian cultural traits. Not surprisingly, her perceptions resonate with my own findings on the role played by the first reports of the Muscovite empire by English merchants in 1554, which went on to shape English perceptions of, and relations with, Russia for centuries.

Three research reports follow, beginning with a discussion of spatiality in Istanbul by Pekka Tuominen (University of Helsinki), titled *Fragments of Lost Origins: Authenticity, Belonging and Contesting Histories in Contemporary Istanbul*. Tuominen demonstrates how everyday movement between traditional and modern spaces in Istanbul—demarcated by both city planning and local practice—has become integral to the notion of an authentic, reflexive self which defines Turkish modernity. Katja Uusihakala (University of Helsinki) continues the theme of mobility with her essay on *Reminiscence Tours and Pilgrimage Sites: Commemorative Journeys in Ex-Rhodesian Diaspora*. Using as a lens the concept of 'pilgrimage', Uusihakala examines how members of the ex-Rhodesian diaspora community in South Africa 'travel back' to the past through regular heritage journeys to Zimbabwe and by constructing memory sites and commemorative venues outside of Zimbabwe where the journeys take the form of imaginative travel. Finally Marjo Väyrynen (University of Helsinki) in her report 'You're considered a warrior then': *Respect and Individualism in Crow Military Service*, discusses how the Crow, like many other indigenous people, are struggling to construct their lives on their own terms by giving distinctive cultural meaning to majority institutions and transforming them with the application of their own cultural traditions—in this case US military service.

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The Forum in this issue is titled *The Value of Gambling and its Research* and is largely the product of a session at the Finnish Anthropology Conference 2010 on this theme. Compiled, guest-edited and introduced by Pauliina Raento (Finnish Foundation for Gaming Research, University of Helsinki) its contributors are Jukka Jouhki (University of Jyväskylä), Perpetual Crentsil (University of Helsinki), Jani Kinnunen (University of Tampere), Riitta Matilainen (University of Helsinki).

The Finnish Anthropological Society is currently planning the fourth international Finnish Anthropological Conference, to take place on 5th–7th October this year. It begins with a day of ethnographic film culminating in the Westermarck Lecture in the evening, and we are honoured that this year Joel Robbins (University of California, San Diego) has agreed to speak at this anthropological milestone. This will be followed by two days of workshops under the rubric of *Dynamic Anthropology: Tensions between theory and practice*. The call for workshop proposals is currently on the Society's web page and everyone is very welcome to participate and attend an event that offers the opportunity of anthropological discussion and sociality on a broad scale.

Finally, as this is my last issue as Editor-in-Chief of *Suomen Antropologi*, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to making the past five years of journal publication as productive as they have been: authors, reviewers, active members of the editorial board, active members of the Finnish Anthropological Society and its president, and the incredibly hard-working editorial team. Timo Kallinen (University of Helsinki) is taking up the reins and I wish him as much satisfaction as I have received from maintaining a publication venue in Finland that acts as an interface between anthropology at home and anthropology abroad.

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