

EDITOR'S NOTE

The spring issue of 2015 commences the fortieth volume of *Suomen Antropologi*. Accordingly, the fortieth anniversary of our publication is approaching and on that occasion, starting with the first issue of 2016, the journal will become an Open Access publication, which can be freely read online everywhere in the world. After that the printed copies will no longer be produced. Although some readers may regret losing the journal as an artifact, in general this transition should be beneficial for everybody involved. Certainly, there are advantages for our authors, whose work will now get the widest possible readership, and likewise to our readers who are increasingly more accustomed to consulting scholarly publications in the internet. There are plans to make back issues available online as well. *Suomen Antropologi* is thus taking part in revolutionizing the paradigm for the future dissemination and discussion of the results of anthropological research, a movement that has been spearheaded by such journals as *HAU* and *Cultural Anthropology*. More information about the Open Access transition will be published in the coming issues of the journal and on the Finnish Anthropological Society website.

In the opening article of this issue Tuomas Järvenpää (University of Eastern Finland) presents an ethnographic analysis of the indigenization of Jamaican popular culture among South African Rastafarians. Based on field study in an African township in Cape Town, Järvenpää discusses how dance hall reggae music is used innovatively by the locals in both musical and religious settings. Through his ethnography Järvenpää is able to show how certain articulations of reggae music resonate with the culture of South African townships. The second article is by Kaisa Niemi (University of Oulu), who has conducted fieldwork among the hitherto unresearched Akeu people in Southeast Asia. Niemi is interested in the construction of ethnic identity and focuses on the role the introduction of written Akeu language has had in these processes. The article is based on an MA thesis which won the Master's Award in Asian Studies 2014 granted by the Finnish University Network for Asian Studies. The article section concludes with a paper by Kurt Walter (University of Helsinki) looking at the ecological importance of sacred trees among the Tamil people in southern India. Walter describes how certain trees, groves and forests, which are considered to be the abodes of local deities, have become 'islands of biodiversity' in landscapes that are under the threat of increasing erosion and urbanization. The article is based on fieldwork in Tamil Nadu State.

The forum section of this issue is somewhat exceptional as it is built around a book. Professor Harri Englund's (University of Cambridge) latest book *Human Rights and African Airwaves* (2011) is a study of a popular radio show in Malawi that addresses its listeners' worries about equality and justice as experienced in their daily lives. Englund's objective is to analyze 'equality in the vernacular', that is, to explore ordinary Malawians' views on issues like democracy, moral obligations and the accountability of power holders, which are not only expressed in a different vocabulary but also exhibit different concerns to those of global totalizing liberal discourses. The journal has invited four scholars with similar

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research interests to share their thoughts on Englund's book. Forum editor Eeva Berglund has provided a short introduction to the discussion. This is followed by comments and insights from Vito Laterza (University of Cape Town), Bjørn Enge Bertelsen (University of Bergen), Maxim Bolt (University of Birmingham), and Timo Kaartinen (University of Helsinki). The forum is concluded by Englund's response to the discussants.

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