

INTRODUCING REPRISES: A PERIODIC ESSAY SERIES IN SUOMEN ANTROPOLOGI

This issue of *Suomen Antropologi* introduces a new, periodic essay series titled *Reprises*. The essay invites scholars in anthropology to revisit and highlight debates, arguments, problematics and works that have been obscured by the flow and fashion of academic research.

We all know how this goes: The conversations and debates housed within the discipline of social and cultural anthropology inevitably coalesce around several central, if always shifting, problematics and paradigms. For instance, we might notice, sometimes to our surprise, how everyone is talking about... ontologies, infrastructures, and moralities; precarity, neoliberalism, and debt; or citizenship, secularism and governmentality. Moreover, we might notice, sometimes to our surprise, how we are writing about these very things, that is, adopting shared frames in order to contribute to a broader anthropological conversation.

This gravitational pull of emergent problematics and paradigms is undoubtedly an important force that propels forward anthropological research and argumentation. However, a side effect of this process is that other and older debates are often sidelined or overshadowed. One might experience this phenomenon in several ways. Those readings that most excited us early on in our education might now linger in citational obscurity. Debates that were once at the vital to the discipline—and our own thought—might now appear as interesting fossils, encountered only when reviewing old notes or when reading in

the back archive. Or, citational logics might remember a monograph or article as exemplary of one specific concept or idea but ignore other important threads of argument and analysis contained in the work. Relatedly, works by scholars who were overlooked or marginalized in their day—due to race, gender, sexuality, indigeniety, geography, or status—might now brim with newly recognized vitality.

This essay series encourages contributors to venture into the shadows cast by disciplinary fashion. Specifically, contributors are asked to write an essay that revisits some particular work, thinker, debate, argument, or intervention that helped to shape their own intellectual trajectory but that shifting trends and disciplinary history have served to obscure. In short, in the place of the catwalks and boutiques where scholarly fashions are first displayed, this series seeks to highlight treasures from anthropology's vintage collection.

Our very own Tuomas Tammisto launches the series with his homage to Chris Gregory's classic work, *Gifts and Commodities*. Tammisto notes how Gregory's work is most often remembered for its powerful, ethnographic interrogation of the gift-commodity distinction, which Gregory develops into a larger critique of neoclassical economics. And, indeed, the importance of these arguments explain the book's enduring relevance. However, drawing on his own fieldwork in Papua New Guinea, Tammisto re-reads *Gifts and Commodities* in order to highlight a relatively unsung concept,

that of the labour frontier. As Tammisto argues, not only did Gregory's analysis of the vagaries and violence of wage labor expansion anticipate later work in political ecology, it also productively informed Tammisto's own analysis of oil palm production in contemporary Papua New Guinea.

So please read along as Tuomas Tammisto shines the spotlight anew on *Gifts and*

Commodities. We hope that you will enjoy this and our forthcoming *Reprises*.

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