

# EDITOR'S NOTE

Here is a new issue of *Suomen Antropologi: Journal of the Finnish Anthropological Society*. This one has been a long time in the making: a time during which we have gone from 'flattening the curve' to 'social distancing', quarantine, even full lockdown, depending on one's location. I therefore want to open my Editor's note by sharing an editor's view of the current crisis. I offer you no great revelation, but rather intend this as a consoling point of comparison. Namely, that there are no super-humans out there.

You would think that if there is one field where the pandemic would not have a negative impact, it would be academic publishing. After all, we have repeatedly been told, often by our peers, that we academics ought to treat 2020 as a time for catching up on our reading and writing, pursuing our own agendas. I am, in particular, talking about the 'Isaac Newton changed the world while quarantined' parable.

And almost as if to prove any potential disbelievers wrong, *Suomen Antropologi* has had a record number of article manuscripts in peer review this year. (Though bear in mind that 'record number' means ten article manuscripts under review at the same time – just to give you a sense of proportion.) What is more, unlike the widely reported decline in the number of female-authored submissions to academic journals during the pandemic,<sup>1</sup> *Suomen Antropologi* has received article submissions from men and women in exactly equal numbers all through the year. Which is not a boast (how could it be?) as much as a huge sigh of relief: the journal will not be feeding off ill-gotten gains for the remainder of the year.

But as the pandemic has dragged on, we have had increasing numbers of authors, peer reviewers, and book reviewers reporting their inability to complete or review manuscripts as planned while at the same time juggling family obligations, day jobs, or health issues. People have requested time outs and extensions, and some have simply stopped corresponding altogether.

The point being, that while a journal continues publishing on what may look like a business-as-usual basis, it should be quite clear that the 'business' is far from usual. I am immensely happy that there are authors, reviewers, and editors who have been able write and review and edit under these special circumstances, but would also like to call attention to the authors and reviewers who have been unable to continue being efficient in the absence of work-sustaining routines, the authors who have not been able to subject their family lives to the rigours of academic writing, those who have had to find other sources of livelihood, and those who just miss

their social lives too much. It really gives me great joy to present yet another issue of *Suomen Antropologi: Journal of the Finnish Anthropological Society*, but what you read here are the tip of an iceberg.

## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This issue opens with “God Is My Bosom Buddy”: Experiencing Faith and the Role of Ethnicity in Roma and *Kaale* Missionizing among Roma in Estonia and Latvia’ by Eeva-Liisa Roht-Yilmaz (University of Tartu, Estonia). Roht-Yilmaz analyses the role of ethnicity at the Finnish Roma/*Kaale* mission in Estonia and Latvia: more precisely the way that Pentecostalism and ethnicity combine in a local culture-specific Pentecostal mission. Roht-Yilmaz argues that the culture-specific approach, or the incorporation of familiar ethnic elements, offers appropriate sensational forms that serve to create a shared ‘affective energy’ that strengthens the Pentecostal religious experience, at the same time allowing local elements into religious practice.

The second article, ‘Phantom Rebellion: Performing the State in a Montenegrin Village and Beyond’ by Klāvs Sedlenieks (Riga Stradins University, Latvia), discusses the different varieties of ‘phantoms’ through which the Montenegrin state is conceived and engaged with. This is not an article about the ‘ontological’ status of the political phantoms Sedlenieks discusses, though, but rather about the ontological status of the state itself: how does one perform and enact an abstraction such as ‘the state’?

Ilana Gershon’s (Indiana University, US) essay in the ‘Reprises’ series (see Andy Graan’s introduction to the series in issue 3–4/2019) discusses two Mikhail Bakhtin’s early-stage, unedited manuscripts published posthumously as *Art and Answerability* (1990) and *Towards a Philosophy of the Act* (1993). ‘What if’, Gershon asks, the authors of *Writing Culture* (1986) had started out with Bakhtin’s concerns for the epistemological difference between representing life and living it? Would they posed a different set of questions alongside the ones we are more familiar with?

The issue concludes with Jose Cañada’s (University of Helsinki) review of Christos Lynteris’ *Human Extinction and the Pandemic Imaginary* (2019)—a book about imagining what a pandemic entails, written prior to the outbreak of the current pandemic, and published pretty much as it broke out.

Finally, I would like to thank Elina Hartikainen, who leaves the *Suomen Antropologi* editorial team after two years of dedicated editorship,

and to welcome Heikki Wilenius, who recently joined our team. And I would like to sincerely thank the authors, editors, and reviewers whose work makes it possible for us to publish this journal.

Thank you.

MATTI ERÄSAARI  
Editor-in-Chief

## NOTES

- 1 See e.g. Anna Fazackerley: 'Women's research plummets during lockdown – but articles from men increase', *The Guardian* 12.5.2020 <<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/may/12/womens-research-plummets-during-lockdown-but-articles-from-men-increase>>; Brooke Peterson Gabster, Kim van Daalen, Roopa Dhatt, and Michele Barry: 'Challenges for the female academic during the COVID-19 pandemic', *The Lancet* Vol 395 (June 27 2020): 1968–1969 <[https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31412-4.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(20)31412-4.pdf)>; Colleen Flaherty: 'Something's Got to Give', *Inside Higher Ed* 20.8.2020 <<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/08/20/womens-journal-submission-rates-continue-fall>>. All accessed 4.9.2020, with help from Melissa Demian.