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# Book Reviews / Comptes rendus

## Doing, Writing and Drawing Ethnography: Pushing the Dimensions of Anthropology

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The books reviewed in this issue all share the idea of pushing the current limits of cultural anthropology and related disciplines. They experiment with genres, stretch the boundaries of form and content (if the two can even be separated) and encourage students – all of us, really – to engage with challenging questions, collaborative work and creative journeys to understanding.

Three of the books are notable in advocating for the visual in the process and presentation of social scientific work. Andrew Causey's *Drawn to See* encourages each of us to pick up a pen or pencil and engage visually with the world to see/understand more fully. Nick Sousanis believes that his is the first graphic dissertation, a work that earned him a PhD from Columbia University's Teachers College and is now published as *Unflattening*. He argues that lines on a page – ones that move beyond their common academic appearance as words – can take meaning literally to new dimensions. And *Lissa*, part of a new series of graphic ethnographies, grew out of Sherine Hamdy's and Coleman Nye's separate anthropological research in Egypt. It joins together the work of the two anthropologist-writers with that of Sarula Bao and Caroline Brewer (illustrators), Marc Parenteau (lettering), and several Egyptian artists whose works are incorporated at strategic historical moments in the text.

Other books follow the collaborative theme of *Lissa*. (This is not meant to overlook the basic truth that all scholarship is collaborative in some way but rather to point to the long history of single author works.) Dána-Ain Davis and Christa Craven's *Feminist Ethnography* joins the voices of the two authors with those of people they interviewed or whose under-represented words they highlight in excerpts. Denielle Elliott and Dara Culhane are the editors of *A Different Kind of Ethnography* and also co-founders of the Centre for Imaginative Ethnography (CIE). All the book's contributors have a history of working together through CIE and in this volume come together as advocates for creative practices during fieldwork and writing up.

Enabling others to see (perceive and understand), act and teach in new ways is another strand common to the five books reviewed in this issue. This goal might shape the entire book: for example, *Feminist Ethnography* is a course textbook. Other volumes provide student exercises and teaching guides (*A Different Kind of Ethnography* and *Lissa*). Andrew Causey's book is filled with what he calls "Etudes," drawing exercises linked to theoretical discussions and fieldwork observations. And *Unflattening* and *Lissa* stand as pioneering volumes: exemplars of new graphic academic forms and inspirations for others.

Anthropology and related fields are benefitting enormously from a treasure trove of new volumes, ones that are pushing disciplinary boundaries and expected practices, producing lively conversations and exhorting their readers to think and act in innovative ways. The five reviews that follow give much more detail and an up-close critical eye. The hope is that they might also lead you to locate copies and engage with the books themselves.