
From the Editors: Keeping Scholarship Accessible

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As Martijn Koster and Alan Smart point out in their introduction to this volume's theme section, "Moving beyond the Formal/Informal Dichotomy," anthropological research often crosses apparent divides, such as those between Global North and Global South, formalised bureaucracies and patronage systems, and gift and cash economies. In this issue, authors engage urban planners and activists in Latin America and Spain (Aguilera, Koster, Müller), small business owners in the Philippines (Milgram), religious communities and ritual practitioners (Macdonald, Toffin), the privileged recipients of international education (Bolay), and makers and viewers of Hollywood movies (Dominguez and Balakian).

Although we engage multiple communities and locations, anthropological research, once written up, does not always reach beyond the boundaries of Western academia. Some of our research is locked behind paywalls that keep out those not affiliated with well-founded libraries. It is also locked into disciplinary languages and national scholarly traditions that set vital standards, but sometimes exclude our own colleagues and collaborators.

Part of the issue of accessible scholarship is financial. Libraries have long rung alarm bells about exponentially rising costs of journal subscriptions, and small university presses are under pressure from big commercial publishers that, according to 2013 data, account for 70% of all social science articles published (Larivière, Haustein, and Mongeon 2015). Publishing with a non-profit university press that charges moderate subscription fees (a library subscription to the online version of *Anthropologica* costs \$100 per year) is one way in which CASCA has tried to counter this trend.

After last year's annual meeting, CASCA embarked on a renewed exploration of open access publishing models. In part, this is a pragmatic reaction to changes in the SSHRC funding from which *Anthropologica* has benefited for the past 40 years. To qualify for the current funding cycle, we had to present a plan for going open access by the end of 2020. A survey of CASCA members in the summer of 2018 showed overwhelming support for open access in principle, but awareness of financial questions that need to be resolved: professional copy editing and typesetting cost money and should not be devolved onto the volunteer labour of editors and graduate students; taking payments from authors instead of readers in the form of article processing charges (APCs) raises concerns about the credibility of peer review. Such fees also make publishing harder for those early in their career

or precariously employed, when a track-record of peer reviewed articles is most crucial. Alternative models to APCs exist, such as non-commercial platforms that work with libraries to offer subscriptions to their content while keeping journals "free to submit to and free to read."¹ CASCA's Open Access Working Group is in dialogue with Coalition Publi.ca/Erudit and Libraria, two emerging platforms that are focused on social science publishing, and with our current publisher, University of Toronto Press, about ways to make open access financially viable.

At the same time, open access is about more than just finances. Ready access to scholarly publications from anywhere in the world means that the production of social knowledge becomes an ongoing conversation rather than a one-way street. Teaching in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, I have seen students struggle to gain access to books and articles published in the Anglophone world. I have also seen them angry and alienated by scholarship that either repeated what they already took for granted or brought research findings into a narrow set of conversations with little attention to the insights of local scholars and knowledge keepers. Those who have worked and co-published with colleagues in the Global South, at First Nations colleges and institutions, or with NGO workers and other activists may have faced similar reactions. Once research publications become accessible to anyone with an interest in peer-reviewed social science, what will scholarly conversations look like to these expanded audiences? In the words of Martin Holbraad's keynote address in this volume, what "contingent conceptualisations" will emerge from collapsed distances?

As CASCA members and the executive committee make decisions over the future publishing model of *Anthropologica*, the editorial team keeps financial sustainability and wider questions of open scholarship in mind. Small steps toward both ends include dialoguing with other Canadian journals and those affiliated with the American Anthropological Association through joint symposia in Vancouver in April 2019 and at the AAA/CASCA joint meeting in November. This year is also the first time for *Anthropologica* to participate in *Déjà lu*, a multilingual compilation of articles hosted by the World Council of Anthropological Associations. Our first submission is the article "Body, Nature, Language: Artisans to Artists in the Commodification of Authenticity," by Monica Heller, Sari Pietikäinen and Emanuel da Silva. This co-authored piece exemplifies the pleasures of international collaboration, but also warns of the danger of valuing "cosmopolitanism in and of itself" (Heller, Pietikäinen, and da Silva 2017, 114) in the context of increased commodification of symbolic resources.

As we work toward fuller accessibility, we are grateful to the editorial board members, to the CASCA executive, and

to the Open Access Working Group and its co-chairs, Thomas McIlwraith and Caura Wood. Most of all, we thank our authors, reviewers and readers, whose contributions are what truly sustains academic publishing.

Note

- 1 This phrase comes from the open access policy of the journal *Imaginations*. See “What Is Open Access?” http://imagination.glendon.yorku.ca/?page_id=7053 (accessed 24 November 2018).

References

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