
Thematic Section

Anthropology in the Era of New Information and Communication Technologies: New Explorations

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Recent dynamics of cultural globalization as well as the emergence of Internet networks have given rise to a plethora of anthropological works in the 1990s on issues regarding new information and communication technologies (NICTs). Many of the studies published to date focus on the construction of cyberspaces, their uses, and their impact on local sociocultural dynamics and on the sociopolitical forces of globalization. The five articles by Boudreault-Fournier, Traoré, Guïoux and Lasserre, Meintel, and de Bruijn and van Dijk, included in this theme section aim to revisit the question of NICTs with an emphasis on the epistemological, methodological and ethical significance of these technologies for the practice of contemporary anthropology. To do so, the articles examine how communication technologies reconfigure representations and practices of individuals and groups. They also assess to what extent these new resources may reconfigure the anthropologists' practices, taking into account how the use of virtual tools in the transmission of local knowledge. Finally, the five articles explore the various styles of texts in anthropology that have emerged in relation to media aesthetics and existing tools of information and communication. The five articles came out of papers presented at a symposium funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada that was part of the CASCA 2010 annual conference in Montreal.