

EDITOR'S NOTE

*We are proud to present the newest volume of
Ethnographic Encounters!*

First, we would like to introduce you to the new editors who joined our team in September and who, as per tradition since 2018, have each been given an additional role. Our team members are: Kirsten Scott (Social Media Manager), Rebecca Kennedy (Associate Social Media Manager), Katy Kibort (Director of Printing), Sarah Latimer (Associate Director of Printing), Elinor Layne & Emily Lomax (Events Managers), Ella Jackson & Verity McKeown (Creative Managers).

After we sent out a call for submissions in October, we received a diverse range of submissions. The selection process proved to be a difficult task. After a thorough evaluation, we are proud to present to you the following nine essays, which we believe are the strongest of the submissions we received.

The opening article is written by Ellie Orrell and explores how witches of today use social media to create covens and construct new ways of performing rituals.

Staying within the virtual realm, learn how dating apps can both reflect cultural norms as well as break down social barriers by reading Evelyn Benson's following article.

In his article about LGBTQIA+ Christians in St Andrews, Andrew Barwick writes about the tension between these two identities and the importance of community-forming.

Ruby Bell then uses her own positionality to unpack how people construct and negotiate their identity in different groups and spaces by problematising the idea of "liminality."

The following two articles are about hitchhiking. Sarah Latimer colourfully describes the vulnerable positions of relationality that hitchhiking produces and how it allows for the defiance as well as appropriation of sexist narratives. Meanwhile, Jonė Juchnevičiūtė argues against the notion of the road as a "non-place" and compares hitchhiking to the circle of reciprocal exchange put forth by Marcel Mauss.

In an emotional piece, Molly Paechter breaks the illusion of inclusivity at schools where the needs of autistic children are not understood, which leads to lack of social validation and discrimination.

We also visit the The Jersey War Tunnels with Alexandra Rive where we learn how visitors are encouraged to navigate and relate to the past in alternative and personal ways.

The last article is written by Elinor Layne and concerns the experience of elementary school teachers whose personal and professional ideas of self are blurred due to an intrinsic network of obligations.

We hope you enjoy reading these ethnographic projects!

Lastly, we want to congratulate our contributing authors and thank our editors who produced this volume with us. Creating each volume is very much a team effort and highlights the importance of collaboration and dialogue when producing anthropological knowledge and writing.

Lucy Sprague & Christina Chalache
Editors-in-Chief