

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF:  
Katy Lee & Sarah Latimer

ASSISTANT EDITORS:  
Alex Rive  
Alexandra Vail  
Alice Palfreyman  
Ava Rawson  
Anna Louise Todsen  
Annie Harratt  
Niamh Molloy  
Rebecca Kennedy  
Teresa Sarametta  
Arumardi

DESIGNER:  
Ava Rawson

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of St Andrews for their continued support of this journal. In particular, we would like to thank Dr Huon Wardle who functions as academic link to the journal. For the re-designing of our logo we thank Katy Kibort, and for the help with setting up our type-set we thank Neil Hampshire. Last but not least we would also like to thank all our authors whose work brings this journal to life.

ISSN: 2516-287xv

Ethnographic Encounters was founded in 2011 to publish outstanding work by undergraduate students of Social Anthropology.

It was inspired by the Ethnographic Encounters project that second-year students in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of St Andrews do every spring where they conduct their own fieldwork project.

The works that emerged from this were so interesting and diverse that students Zoe Miller and Emily Sheppard decided to start this journal with the support and guidance from Dr. Craig Lind.

In addition to this issue, we produce a yearly special issue where submissions are opened up to other projects from anthropology students.

We remain a student-run journal and every year since our foundation we have published a volume with the best of the Ethnographic Encounters projects submitted to the journal.

Our online archives can be found at: <https://ojs.st-andrews.ac.uk/index.php/SAEE/issue/archive>

*With special thanks to the University of St Andrews' Department of Social Anthropology.*

# EDITORS NOTE

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

Despite a challenging year, here we are again with our latest publication. Due to COVID-19, the second year Ethnographic Encounters module final assignment was changed to a book review as students were unable to conduct fieldwork research. Adapting to this, we decided to allow for a broader array of submissions for this journal. Not only have we diversified our journal submissions, but we have also diversified our editing team including editors from all years, rather than just honours.

The opening article, written by Molly Paechter, explores neurodiversity, highlighting similarities between the ways people with autism see the world and the ways anthropologists seek to understand the societies they study. Molly's second piece explores letters from a 17th-century asylum through a micro-historic lens, analysing these letters to find the 'exceptional normal'.

Addressing social connotations in the French erotic text *Les Travaux d'Hercule ou la Rocambole de la Fouterie*, Raphael Killick highlights the text's ability to unveil cultural taboos and ideals of masculinity during the French Revolution. Continuing to explore historical ethnography, Xena White analyses Thomas Hood's poem 'The Bridge of Sighs' as a revelation of Victorian patriarchal attitudes to gender through female suicide and social consciousness. Meanwhile, Natalie Wong Jiayi examines feminist anthropology to better understand intersectional feminism.

We have two book reviews in this publication on Gayatri Reddy's book 'With Respect to

Sex: Negotiating Hijra Identity in South India'. These two lenses give different perspectives on an extremely influential gender studies ethnography. Opposing the idea of Hijras as an example of the third sex, Xena White details crucial aspects of Hijra identity and critically approaches Reddy's positionality and anthropological success. Romany Howarth provides a thorough exploration of Reddy's key themes including the role of asexuality, blurred religious and gender boundaries, and performativity.

Natalie Wong Jiayi contributes a book review which addresses the complexities and moral implications that come with goldmining in a community in Uyanga, Mongolia. Elizabeth Volaris examines the importance of reflexivity and positionality in terms of native and semi-native anthropology. Kristen Castro then uses her own positionality to understand the use of Facebook Messenger "reacts" among St Andrews students, exploring cultural implications and the formation of a 'quasi-language' through their use. Finally, Xiantian Ma analyzes the sociality of a 19th-century engraved drawing of St Andrews' own St Salvator's Chapel.

Lastly, we wish to congratulate our contributing authors and thank our editing team who produced this volume with us. We hope you enjoy reading our wide variety of submissions!

Rebecca Kennedy & Katy Lee

Editors-in-Chief