



**Finally the new issue of Ethnographic Encounters is here!**

This year's editing team is completely new to the job and the intricacies of the bringing an issue to fruition have both delighted and surprised us. Speaking of, meet the new sub-editors:

Nicole Au – Ma Hons in Social Anthropology and Psychology (Senior Honours)

*The creativity, insight and exploration ethnographic methods allows has been eye-opening to say the least. Keen to see how it is carried out by a variety people in a variety of settings, I got involved with Ethnographic Encounters and I have not been disappointed. I hope this tradition of doing fieldwork is preserved and inspires further research as I have seen, there is much to gain both as an author and as a reader.*

Imogen Hawley – Ma Hons in Social Anthropology (Junior Honours)

*While working on ethnographies for Social Anthropology last year I was awestruck by the many directions students chose to go. My own fieldwork was conducted in St Andrews with a group of role-play-gamers but the number of alternative ethnographic studies seemed endless to me. The impressive variety of topics, places and theories my peers explored led me to apply for a position editing the Ethnographic Encounters Journal. It is a joy to see how students utilise this project to enhance their understanding of Anthropology and to learn more, myself, in the process. I hope to continue working with the journal until I graduate in 2016.*

Josephine Urquhart – Ma Hons in Social Anthropology and Psychology (Senior Honours)

*My own experience of being published with Ethnographic Encounters back in second year was incredibly positive. I found, that working towards the goal of a student publication helped to motivate my work ethic, inducing me to go the extra mile. My projects acceptance into the journal also provided me with a huge boost of confidence, spurring my efforts in anthropology further. By becoming an editor I hope to provide the same positive experiences for another generation of students, inspiring them to produce work that they can look back on with pride. Having already edited several articles for the coming edition I am blown-away by the amount of innovation and skill that has gone into last year's projects. I now cannot wait to read new submission as we develop future issues.*

This edition of *Ethnographic Encounters* brings you nine of the projects from the class of 2016. As editors we have the privileged position of being handed over a large number of submissions which we can then pick from and arrange into a single issue. Hopefully we have succeeded in doing this in a way that appeals both to readers and authors.

**Audrey Covert** explores how an individual's sense of identity is affected by having multiple citizenships. Both she and her informants find themselves faced with interesting quandaries when trying to answer a common conversation starter: 'where are you from?'

The possibility of a single person owning multiple identities is the focus of **Imogen Hawley's** ethnography. In contrast to Audrey's informants, who apparently struggle to reconcile their separate national identities into a single one, Imogen's informants quite happily juggle their own and their multiple self-constructed imaginary identities within the role playing world of *Dungeons and Dragons*.

National identity includes a shared characterisation of the country, which may include material representations that come to stand as symbols of certain societal aspects. We are transported to Slovakia and its touristic industry through **Katarina Krajcirovicova's** analysis of how the country is portrayed through its crafts and souvenirs by native Slovaks. **Beatričė Vasiliauskaitė**, on the other hand, returns to her native Lithuania and presents us with Klaipėda's citizens feeling concerning their city's symbol: an old ship called the *Meridianas*.

**Lydia Bowden** provides a vivid portrayal of Pentecostal worship at Springfield in London. Through joining the congregation for mass, she explores how the performative aspect of the services result in a broadened appeal to younger generations of practicing Christians or potential converts and is an important factor in the creation of a feeling of group identity.

Community identity is threatened in **Maya Kadirgamar's** ethnography of the effects of gentrification on a neighbourhood in the Lower East Side of New York City.

**Talia Coroniti's** deals with a different facet of community identity-building: that which comes about through the supporting of sports clubs. Specifically she looks at what characterises supporters of the Glasgow Rangers and Dundee United and more importantly how they build such strong ties to their respective teams through virtual communities.

**Veda Krüger's** ethnography of Spanish immigrants to Dundee explores how individuals relate to being labelled as migrants. In addition she looks at how the concept of a home is affected by such a physical displacement.

**Xander Johnson** approached people walking along West Sands and presents us with a repertoire of reasons for choosing the spot and feelings tied to the location.

In addition to these articles we are pleased to include two from the class of 2015.

**Emma Shaw's** ethnography invites us to join her while she takes her dog, Della, on an afternoon's walk while **Jonathan Bertulis-Fernandes** brings us an emotional account of the "ghost bicycles" that become memorials of fatal traffic incidents in London.

We hope you enjoy the new issue!

Tamara Thorne  
Editor

*Editor*

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