JOURNAL HISTORY

Ethnographic Encounters was founded in **2011** by Zoe Miller, Emily Sheppard and Dr. Craig Lind to provide a platform for undergraduate students in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of St Andrews to share their outstanding ethnographic research.

Inspired by the **Ethnographic Encounters** project that 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 journal highlights the diversity of anthropological inquiry undertaken by students.

After a hiatus, the Ethnographic Encounters Journal returned in June 2025 with the support of Dr Tony Crook, marking a recommitment to our dedication to showcasing original ethnographic work that reflects the diverse research and perspectives from students within the department.

We remain a student-run journal, and our articles include essays based on fieldwork undertaken during a second-year project to experimental autoethnographic writing. 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**.*

EDITOR'S NOTE

We are delighted to present the latest edition of **Ethnographic Encounters Journal.** This Issue highlights specifically projects emerging from the Ethnographic Encounters module, where second-year students undertake their first independent fieldwork. These articles capture the curiosity, reflexivity, and methodological experimentation that often accompany the first experiences of doing anthropological research.

The contributions in this issue demonstrate the breadth of topics that ethnographic inquiry can illuminate. Several articles explore the social worlds shaped through performance and embodied practice. **Chase Hornstein** examines the theatricality and emotional labour of professional wrestling in Scotland, while **Hannah Ryan** investigates how university ballroom dancers cultivate persona both on and off the competition floor. Ethnographic attention is also paid to perception itself in **Tymofii Donets**' article examining tourism photography where even seemingly ordinary acts of image-making can reveal complex social meanings. Moreover, ritual and collective experience also feature prominently: **Grace Pasqualucci Sammartini**'s ethnography analyses the Kate Kennedy Procession as a site where memory, legend, and identity converge, while

Jennifer Matthews explores wild swimming as a ritualised practice structured by immersion, liminality, and community.

Other contributions turn to the cultural meanings embedded in work and everyday practice. **Angel Hu**'s article reflects on the ambiguous meanings of gongzuo (work) and the pressure to zhao gongzuo (seeking job) among Chinese undergraduates, revealing how language mediates anxieties about life trajectories and employment. Contemporary experiences of work are further explored by **Nelly Levytska**, whose piece describes the varied culturally embedded moral economies of employees in the hospitality business. Moreover, **Tara Phillips**' fieldwork conducted at an oyster farm demonstrates how labour can be a relational practice rooted in connected to others people, place and the natural environment.

Finally, we are especially pleased to include, for the first time, a guest contribution from a student at another university. The piece from **Yixuan Liu** (London School of Economics),

based on participant observation in a London Maid Café, reflects on the affective and relational labour involved in performing and producing intimacy within a transnational subcultural setting. We are excited to include this piece as a step toward expanding the journal's network of student scholarship beyond St Andrews.

Together, these articles demonstrate the vitality of undergraduate ethnography: attentive to everyday life, open to experimentation, and grounded in close engagement with people, places, and practices. We hope this issue continues to inspire curiosity about the many forms ethnographic encounters can take.

Sophie Cooper

Editor-in-Chief

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Finally, we are deeply grateful to our authors for sharing their thoughtful and inspiring work – **this journal would not exist without you**.

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