



Welcome to the second issue of the Ethnographic Encounters Journal!

Dear readers and authors,

Say a warm hello to early summer and to the last issue of this academic year's Ethnographic Encounters Journal! Stepping in as editor after working alongside Francesca Vaghi this year, I want to extend my gratitude for her guidance and enthusiasm and warmly wish her and the rest of this year's team the best in their future undertakings! Starting with this issue, Anne Murray, Hannah McInnes-Dean and Zoe Caramitsou-Tzira will be the new sub-editors. I am certain that the shared admiration of the new Editorial Team for the identity that Ethnographic Encounters has developed so far will show and grow with future issues.

To celebrate the **RAI Undergraduate Conference - Close Encounters: Bringing Anthropology Home**, which was held in St Andrews in April, this issue includes a selection of five papers that were presented by undergraduates from across the UK. Written for different purposes, the variation in tone and form of these papers is refreshing. In a shortened version of her dissertation, Gioia Barnbrook (University of Aberdeen) explores the complementarity of ideas of engagement and detachment within an amateur astronomy group in Birmingham while Bethan Greaves (Goldsmiths University) considers contemporary anthropological ideas of knowledge transfer in relation to different experiences of gardening in a first year module project. In her dissertation excerpt, Pauline Destrée (University College London) researches the relationships between noise and forced togetherness in a London estate community while Heathcote Ruthven (University of Edinburgh) offers an anthropological contextualisation of protest movements in Iceland in a paper written especially for the conference; Francesca Vaghi's (University of St Andrews) fieldwork in the Island of Gozo sheds light on the creative negotiations of traditional gender roles in the lives of three Gozitan women.

Reaching out beyond St Andrews, the inclusion of these essays in our e-journal widens the perspective on the creativity and quality that can be reached at undergraduate level. We are thankful to the authors for their submissions!

The second part of the issue puts forth a timeline of past essay excerpts, chosen and arranged in chronological order by the editors. This anthology was primarily compiled and printed in hard copy in order to be displayed alongside *The Unfamiliar* (University of Edinburgh) at the Journal Exhibition during the conference. Serving as a brief outline of past work, it is made accessible here also as a nested mini issue.

We hope you enjoy this special issue! The Editorial Team will be waiting for you with new contents upon your return from what we hope will be a most inspiring summer for everyone!

Ilinca Vânău
Editor



Close encounters: Bringing Anthropology Home:
<http://rai-close-encounters.org>

The Unfamiliar:
<http://journals.ed.ac.uk/unfamiliar>

In this Issue

Section 1:

Undergraduate Papers presented at the RAI Undergraduate Conference

Gioia Barnbrook, University of Aberdeen

Engaged Observers: connection and entanglement in the practice of amateur astronomy

Bethan Greaves, Goldsmiths University

"How does your garden grow?" Learning to nurture nature

Pauline Destrée, University College London

"Dirty dirt" and sonic relationality: The politics of noise in a London estate community

Heathcote Ruthven, Edinburgh University

Anarchism in Iceland: Is True Friendship Possible Under Capitalism?

Francesca Vaghi, University of St Andrews

"If you can't go through the door, you go through the window": Three Gozitan Women, their Passions, and Creativity

Section 2:

An issue within an issue – brief overview of past work by:

Ania Bartkowiak

Armina Dinescu

Francesca Vaghi

Jens Ole Mølgaard

Annelies Van De Ven

Pia Noel

Une Kaunaite

Hannah McInnes-Dean

ILinca Vânău

Carolyn Wason

Livia Marinescu

Michael Melia

Richard Corlett

Karoline Hardt

Tamsin Kent



Close Encounters: Bringing Anthropology Home

‘The theme of this year’s Conference was inspired from the name of the **Ethnographic Encounters** e-journal and it arose from the basic but compelling notion that anthropology is informed by and reliant upon close encounters. To bring anthropology home is to reverse the stereotype of the discipline as defined by a contact abroad with all that is foreign and exotic. Simultaneously, bringing anthropology home evokes the concept of driving home a point; in honing in and fleshing out relevant, if not immediately obvious aspects, both theoretical and in the field, it impels us to consider those subjects at the centre and those pushed to the margins of anthropological study. ‘Close’ and ‘home’ are words that prompt us to question ideas of distance and proximity, and to imagine in what ways these are permeable, and contextual notions, that are perpetually shifting and evolving. The challenging fluidity of these concepts inspires a move beyond our comfort zones, stimulating an examination at once of that which is both near and far, and prompting us to consider the possibilities unearthed by the closeness of anthropology’s most foreign meeting, and the foreignness even in its closest encounter.’

For details about the events as well as recordings and photographs please follow the link: <http://rai-close-encounters.org>

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Aims and Scope

Ethnographic Encounters is an undergraduate e-journal which provides a platform for the work of the social anthropology students of University of St Andrews. Established in 2011, the e-journal's main aim is that of publishing research projects conducted by students in their second year of study. Additionally the publication promotes visual and other experimental expressions of ethnographic interest. The e-journal is intended to present the work of the University of St Andrews' undergraduate, social anthropology students for two main audiences. In the first instance, Ethnographic Encounters presents a valuable resource for future students to draw on the experience and insights of their predecessors. In the second instance, Ethnographic Encounters offers a means for social anthropology students throughout the world to engage with their peers in St Andrews, establish new connections, share ideas and to begin to engage in an exchange of knowledge that is fundamental to the discipline.