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NEWSLETTER 2022/2 JULY

IN FOCUS

2020-2022: Two years of activities of the Anthropology of Economy Network

Dear members of the Anthropology of Economy Network,

On July 20, 2020, the four of us began our duty as convenors of the network, which counts about 300 subscribers on the mailing list and about 500 active members of the Facebook page today.

Our work has aimed at reinforcing the interaction among the members, despite the complex circumstances of the pandemic, and supporting the debate in economic anthropology. We pursued these objectives through the initiatives we organized during these two intense years.

To foster the mutual exchange of knowledge we published the Network Newsletter (and you can find all the issues here: <https://www.easaonline.org/networks/economy/newsletter>). The newsletter has been a place for sharing information, research, and information concerning new opportunities in terms of studies and work. We thank all the members that contributed to the issues.

Moreover, in November 2020, we organized the Pecha Kucha informal virtual meeting that broke with the standard panel format by exploring the research of several members of the network and provided an example of possible new events for our members.

Last year in June, we hosted the Global Meeting on Economic Anthropology: a two-day virtual global meet-up of economic anthropology that aimed at apprehending the breadth and depth of contemporary economic anthropology beyond regional, thematic or paradigmatic divisions. The sessions explored a range of strands of economic anthropological research on Europe and the US, Africa and China, South America, and South Asia engaging a large public of anthropologists. The program and recordings of the meet-up are available on the events page on the EASA website: <https://www.easaonline.org/networks/economy/events>.

This year, in Belfast, abiding by the guidelines indicated by the organizing committee, the network sponsored one panel, "Paper dreams: traces of unrealized projects as archeology of collective futures" held by Jon Schubert and Luisa Arango. We warmly invite our network members to attend the session.

We are waiting for the confirmation of the date of the official network meeting in Belfast. We will get back to you with an ad-hoc email with the details.

As communicated in the previous issues of the newsletter, Charlotte Bruckermann has been network convenor for four years and she will step down at the next AoE Network Meeting in Belfast. The rest of us will continue to serve as convenors together with Ognjen Kojanić, who will complete the board and co-convene the Network in the period from July 2022 to July 2024.

See you all in Belfast and enjoy the newsletter.
Charlotte Bruckermann, Michele F. Fontefrancesco, Juliane Müller, Andreas Streinzer

Thank you, Charlotte!

After four years as one of the convenors of the network, Charlotte Bruckermann will step down from the role this year. We want to thank Charlotte for her enthusiasm and engagement throughout the years she served as convenor and helped bring together the economic anthropology community!

Andreas, Juliane, Michele, and the Anthropology of Economy network

PERSPECTIVES, NOTES AND QUERIES

The Political Economy of Indigenous Universities in Latin America

During the last twenty years, indigenous social movements throughout Latin America have helped establish universities that pursue alternatives to conventional higher education, embody their own principles of academic community and integrate indigenous cosmologies and epistemologies into teaching, curricula and research. Various Latin American governments have founded or endorsed such universities as part of efforts to redress the internal colonialism that has defined their societies, in which states and social institutions reflect the interests and worldviews of culturally European elites. They therefore are an important element of projects to decolonise societies through creating institutions that represent the needs and perspectives of the indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples that often are the majority in Latin American nations.

The largest and most ambitious of these is the Universidad Indígena Boliviana (UNIBOL) network of 'communitarian productive indigenous' universities in Bolivia, founded in three purpose-built campuses for the native Quechua, Aymara and Guaraní peoples. UNIBOL concentrates on providing technical education in rural areas to support economic growth in line with the needs and ways of life of indigenous and peasant communities, and they offer courses in things like textile and petroleum engineering, forestry, agronomy and veterinary medicine. Paradoxically, such training facilitates local oil, gas, ranching and industrialised fishing enterprises, which have harmed the environment and ways of life of indigenous communities. The challenge for such institutions is, therefore, to provide education that promotes economic development alongside an understanding of indigenous peoples' relationship to nature that mitigates its negative environmental and social effects.

UNIBOL exemplifies the tensions inherent in the progressive state-building projects of Latin American governments that have sought to empower indigenous communities and respect their ways of life and environmental needs, while strengthening extractive economies to support the transformation of state institutions. Yet it also illustrates the challenges involved in decolonising universities more generally, which requires that institutions not only include marginalised groups and recognise their cultures, but also that they restructure pedagogy and knowledge to address material needs. For UNIBOL and other indigenous universities in Latin America this requires integrating local understandings of nature, knowledge and 'living well' into technical education and the management of economic development.

In North America, interest in 'decolonising the university' has increased, not only within academic anthropology but as part of wider efforts to transform the colonial character of institutions of higher learning. Yet these initiatives have not substantively engaged with parallel discussions in the Global South. As a result, conversations about decolonisation are themselves exclusionary and colonial, for they are carried out almost entirely within the insular cloisters of elite Western academia. Attending to the ongoing experiments carried out by indigenous intellectuals in Latin America and elsewhere may provide lessons of wider significance, not least about the complex economic realities involved in decolonising education systems.

Matthew Doyle
University College London
matthew.doyle@ucl.ac.uk

If you want to reply to this column, or if you want to write a column or have an idea for one, please communicate with James G. Carrier: jgc_carrier@gmail.com

CALLS FOR PAPERS

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR SPECIAL ISSUE OF SOCIETIES

Topic: "Socioeconomic Innovation in the Context of Globalization"
Editors: Michele F. Fontefrancesco, Sakib Amin, Lorenzo Kihlgren Grandi
https://www.mdpi.com/journal/societies/special_issues/socioeconomic

The end of the Cold War and the profound technological transformations that spread throughout the world in the 1990s opened a new historical phase: the age of globalization. It is characterized by the fast sociocultural and economic integration as well as by the increased mobility of people, ideas, commodities, services, and capital on a local and global scale. All these transformations are clustered in the concept of globalization.

The age of globalization is marked by a new understanding of the economy, society, and the environment, as well as emerging emergencies connected to, among many issues, cultural radicalization, financial crisis, war, biocultural depletion, migration management, rural abandonment, unregulated urbanization, climate change, demographic crises, and pandemics. These new challenges have triggered forms of socioeconomic innovation that involve the most diverse sectors and actors and foster new policies and new forms of politics at local and global, as well as urban and rural levels.

Within the framework of the UN 2030 Agenda, this Special Issue invites contributions that:

- Identify models of socioeconomic innovation that marks the era of globalization;
- Analyze specific phenomena of socioeconomic innovation and their contribution to achieving the SDGs;
- Analyze socioeconomic innovation resulting from multilateral cooperation addressing shared challenges, by focusing on all tiers of government (national, regional, and/or local), as well as the private and/or not-for-profit sectors;
- Examine cultural, social, political, and economic factors that can foster socioeconomic innovation.

Contributions should follow one of the three categories of papers (article, conceptual paper, or review) of the journal and address the topic of the Special Issue.

Manuscripts should be submitted online at www.mdpi.com by registering and logging in to this [website](#).

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR SPECIAL ISSUE OF FRONTIERS IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Topic: "Traditional Knowledge in Food Activism and Governance"
Editors: Andrea Pieroni, Michele F. Fontefrancesco, Ina Vandebroek
<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/39039/traditional-knowledge-in-food-activism-and-governance>

The current debate on Traditional Knowledge (TK) and food heritage has had momentum in recent years, mainly thanks to the remarkable interest of some local and national institutions, small-scale producers, and emerging chefs. However, in the scientific arena, the process of documenting traditional knowledge and the heritage of local foods is often addressed by itself, and is not well connected to deeper reflections of the actual participatory processes involved in local development or to the manners through which TK informs public discourse regarding local foods and how this may further influence activists, institutions, and governance.

Traditional Knowledge has been the focus of several studies conducted in the past few decades, mainly devoted to describing the perception around, uses, and management of diverse environmental and biological food resources, local ways of food processing, and their associated socio-cultural values. These works have often envisioned, in a vague way, the potential of TK for local rural development programs in gastronomic arenas. Very few studies have analyzed how TK articulates clusters of individuals, communities, social movements, and economic and political institutions, as well as networks of practices encompassing entrepreneurship, production, consumption, and governance, which in turn could be crucial for implementing food sustainability and sovereignty.

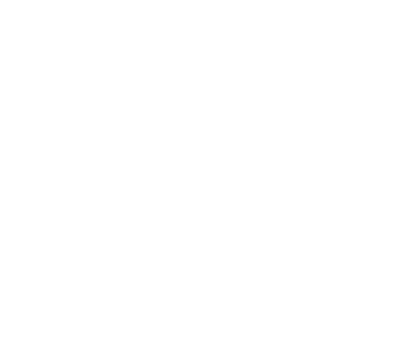
The current Research Topic looks specifically at case studies illustrating how TK holders can collaborate with food activists, economic and political institutions, policymakers, and communities. We welcome original research-based manuscripts focusing on the role of TK in shaping and/or transforming activism, institutions, and governance through projections at the socio-economic, cultural, and political level, especially within the following domains:

- Local and (re)discovered local food heritage deriving from foraging, farming, fishing, and pastoralism/herding, and forestry and their effects on activism and economic and political institutions
- Climate change, TK, and its governance
- The political dimension of TK-centered gastronomy and social justice
- TK, gender inequalities and minority issues
- TK-centered food landscape, terroir, and cultural heritage studies
- TK, food sovereignty and global food policies
- IPRs, ethics, and TK

Abstracts and Manuscripts should be submitted online at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/39039/traditional-knowledge-in-food-activism-and-governance>.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

EDITED VOLUMES AND SPECIAL ISSUES



Carrier, J.G. (ed.) (2022). A Handbook of Economic Anthropology: Third Edition. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Offering a new and comprehensive overview of important topics and orientations in the anthropological study of economic life, this invigorating third edition of *A Handbook of Economic Anthropology* addresses key changes in the decade since the previous edition in people's economic lives and environments, as well as in intellectual interest among scholars.

ISBN: 978 1 83910 891 4
<https://www.e-elgar.com/shon/gbn/a-handbook-of-economic-anthropology-9781839108914.html>



Spyridakis, M. (ed.) (2022). Special Issue on Greek Crisis and Inequalities: Anthropological Views. Urbanities, Vol. 12, Supplement 5.

This special issue, which focuses on Greek ethnographies, is the second of a series of publications produced from the conference on Urban Inequalities. The experience of uncertainty during the economic crisis which continues under the cloak of Covid-19 is the subject of this Special Issue.

<https://www.anthrojournal-urbanities.com/vol-12-suppl-5-january-2022/>



Pardo, I., Prato, G.B. (eds.) (2022). Healthcare and Public Health: Questions of Legitimacy. Urbanities, Vol. 12, Supplement 6.

This Special Issue is a key part of an overall project in which legitimacy is the central organizing concept. Cross-cultural ethnographic knowledge contributes to taking the extant scholarship around legitimacy into the study of healthcare and public health. Addressed ethnographically through the lens of legitimacy, the focus on this highly significant area of studies, and of life, advances our understanding of complex dynamics and their impact on 'ordinary' people.

<https://www.anthrojournal-urbanities.com/vol-12-suppl-6-april-2022/>



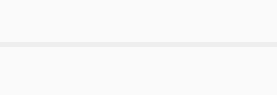
Müller, Juliane; Cecillie Vindal Odegaard (eds.) (2021). Special Dossier: Cross-border spaces of the Andes: Regimes of regulation, accumulation and distribution between the state and Aymara and Quechua groups (in Spanish). Diálogo Andino. Revista de Historia, Geografía y Cultura Andina 66 (3): 249-363.

This dossier seeks to throw light on the relationship between aymara and quechua groups, the state and (neo)liberalism in the Andes from the mid-19th to the present through the lens of commodity flows, cross-border mobility and transborder spaces. It aims to facilitate a space for exchange and dialogue that can transcend national academic debates and Anglo-American and Latin-American based research environments — as well as to colonialize the ways of thinking about economic life and borders.

https://www.scielo.cl/scielo.php?script=sci_abstract&tid=S0719-26812021000300249&lng=es&nrm=so&tting=en

The Anthropology of Economy network was launched at the 2012 conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists. The Network unity EASA members who share an interest in the anthropology of economy.
Further information on the AoE Network: <https://www.easaonline.org/networks/economy/>
Contact for Newsletter inquiries and subscriptions:
Michele Filippo Fontefrancesco: m.fontefrancesco@uinsg.it

AoE Network Newsletter 2022/2 was set by Ognjen Kojanić.



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