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## **Editorial**

### *KAS Editorial Board*

Following our retrospective and prospective look at the practice of anthropology in our anniversary issue, the Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers' 101st volume draws on our discipline's wide-ranging subfields to constitute a general issue. Current anthropology focuses on a broad spectrum of topics, and this issue reflects this diversity of current research, ranging from the investigation of political rituals to the ways that communities interact with and form the spaces in which they are found. Highly interdisciplinary, current anthropology brings together many different methodological approaches to everyday occurrences and larger political and economic structures.

Ecological and environmental anthropology have long focused on the dynamic relationships between humans and their environments, and the role of different levels of policy and activism in changing that relationship. Two articles within this issue work through an environmentally-focused and activist-minded anthropology: Barbara Johnson's work on the role anthropology can have and has had on environmental policy, and Adonia Lugo's investigation into the practices of urban planning and policy-making at the grass-roots level. Both papers examine the potential for public advocacy to influence environmental policy, with a particular focus on how people are at once subjects and actors within policy-making processes.

How can we think through rituals that are overtly or covertly political? Anthropological investigations of this sphere of human practice can illuminate the creation of representations of "ethical" or "unethical" political actions and develop an understanding of how these representations are taken up and felt by the individuals upon whom they are imposed. Three articles within show the potential of an anthropology of political ritual. Lisa Jenny Krieg's work on an alternative ceremony of Independence Day in Israel explores the possibility of an Israeli counter-memory. Carrie Benjamin examines the role of the Barcelona football team in Spain's 2010 FIFA World Cup victory, and its impact on sustaining a national Catalan identity. Adopting a linguistic approach, Norielyn Romano considers President Bill Clinton's public apology for the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment as an opportunity to analyze the roles of rhetoric and authority in the construction of collective national memory.

Finally, two articles represent current work being done in medical anthropology and theoretical anthropology. In recent years, medical anthropology has turned towards questions of the ethics of interventionism, particularly in relation to biomedical concerns. Taking clinical trials assessing the effectiveness of a pre-exposure prophylaxis to prevent HIV as his ethnographic material, Ryan Whitacre shows how the clinical trial is a point at which "definitions of ethics multiply." Finally, Mondher Kilani ruminates on the possibilities for a new theory of global relationality that bypasses a

traditional model of center and periphery.

This collection of papers captures the theoretical, methodological, and topical diversity of current anthropological research. More importantly, it demonstrates the complex ways in which anthropology remains a powerful and relevant force in examining political processes, the negotiation of the ethical, the construction of identity and collective imagination, and the consequences of these elements on various spheres of lived human experience. Insofar as anthropology continues to recognize and interrogate these diverse interrelationships that constitute human life, its interventions will remain essential to illuminating our worlds, and to changing them.

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