

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

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It is my very great pleasure to present this newest issue of the *Irish Journal of Anthropology*. To my mind, this issue represents some of the greatest aspects of this scholarly publication.

The three peer-reviewed articles span millennia, from ancient history to the present day: from Paul O'Connor's discussion of the Etruscan rite, to Karin Reenie's Elliott's study on peace walls and army observation posts in Belfast during the Troubles, to Mairéad O' Sullivan's examination of contemporary cultivation at the national seed bank in County Clare. The diversity of themes, methods, and theoretical approaches in these articles presents a delightful glimpse into the many different ways we can approach the world anthropologically in our research.

This issue also includes a number of excellent non-peer-reviewed contributions that enhance our understanding of anthropology in Ireland, past and present. There is Anne Fitzgerald's wonderful account of her in-depth interviews with Dr Abdullahi Osman El-Tom, written in his honour upon his retirement from his position as Head of the Anthropology Department at Maynooth University. In addition to his students and supervisors at Maynooth, the *Irish Journal of Anthropology* also owes Abdullahi an enormous debt of gratitude for his vital role as the journal's first and founding editor. This piece, then, is a fitting – if incomplete – celebration of all he has done for Irish anthropology.

Following the interview, the issue also includes Rachel Griffin and Jack Patterson's excellent account of the new Radical Musics course at Queen's University Belfast, and the *Image Positive* festival that students coordinated as part of their coursework. The two authors present fascinating insights into the experience of learning in a new, experimental, interdisciplinary module. Rounding out this section is Magdalena Tendra's insightful review of the new edition of Edwin Ardener's classic work, *The Voice of Prophecy*. In an issue whose contributions cover immense historical ground, it is fitting that this review highlights both new and continuing relevances of the original to contemporary anthropology.

The issue closes with Jamie Saris's moving tribute to his mentor and doctoral supervisor, Ray Fogelson. It is fitting that this selection of diverse non-peer-reviewed works both opens and closes with celebrations of excellent anthropological mentorship – beginning with Anne's interviews with Abdullahi, her own doctoral supervisor; and ending with Jamie's obituary for his.

Preparing this issue for publication has involved an enormous effort from many, many people, not least the wonderful authors whose work appears in these pages. There are many more working behind the scenes, without whom this issue would not exist. I would like to thank, in particular, two figures whose names do not otherwise appear in these pages, but who were vital in bringing two of the contributions to life: Hana Cervinkova, who proposed and arranged for the interviews with Abdullahi; and Ioannis Tsioulakis, who liaised with the student authors

of the Radical Musics piece, and who helped guide the article into being. (Ioannis also helped prepare the videos and images for that article, which was no mean feat.)

Thanks are due as well to the anonymous peer reviewers whose comments have shaped and sharpened the articles in this issue. Peer review is at the heart of what an academic journal does, and the reviewers' unsung time and commitment to rigorous scholarship is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I owe a great debt of gratitude to the wonderful *Irish Journal of Anthropology* editorial and copyediting teams. Their consistency and commitment has been, and continues to be, vital in ensuring that the *IJA* continues to be published. I would especially like to thank two editors who are stepping down after this issue: Federica Banfi and Iris Maher. Federica's and Iris's contributions will be greatly missed, and I wish them both the very best in their next adventures.