

Editor's Introduction to Issue #16

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The past election year was a time of reflection not only for the entire nation but also for the staff of *Arizona Anthropologist*. Thanks to former editor John T. Murphy, we have been able to look back on the genesis and development of the journal, which, in turn, has sparked discussion about possible future directions. Amid the proliferation of academic journals, *Arizona Anthropologist* provides a unique forum for graduate students to gain experience in peer-reviewed publishing. Our content over the years has been varied, reflecting the diverse interests of anthropology in general and our contributors in particular. Yet, looking back, we realized that we have become largely indistinguishable from many other existing peer-reviewed anthropology journals that primarily publish research articles. While these past contributions have provided valuable insight into an array of topics, they tend to gloss over the reflexive struggles that all graduate students must face when conducting their own research for the first time.

As the staff pondered the journal's history and our own experiences as first-time researchers, we decided that *Arizona Anthropologist* should, in part, provide a forum for graduate students to discuss the struggles that inevitably arise throughout the research process. We believe that focusing more on the concerns of neophyte anthropologists would not only lend the journal a unique and valuable perspective but could also help us all become better researchers as we proceed in our careers. In this spirit, we plan to dedicate an upcoming issue to the fieldwork experience, specifically to the obstacles and insights that make fieldwork concurrently challenging and rewarding. All graduate students enrolled in anthropology

programs in Arizona universities are encouraged to submit papers about their own fieldwork experience. In addition, we welcome suggestions from anyone on topics for future issues.

Amid contemplation of the history and future of the journal, the staff was also privileged to work with authors and reviewers to produce the current issue. Former editor John T. Murphy combed the archives of both the anthropology department and Arizona State Museum to trace the history of *Arizona Anthropologist*, from its inception as a departmental newsletter by Emil W. Haury to its current incarnation as a student-run journal with international distribution. Based on ethnographic fieldwork in Tucson, Arizona, Perin et al. examine attitudes, knowledge, and practices related to computer recycling and offer recommendations to expand such recycling at the local level. Bachand and Bachand explore transformations in Preclassic Maya community ritual as evidenced in public architecture and ritual internment practices, suggesting that these changes reflect broader social and political processes. Finally, Pavri discusses the myriad impacts of the widespread adoption of snowmobiles in the Canadian Arctic, using the historical case study to demonstrate that such episodes of technology transfer can sometimes reinforce rather than simply undermine indigenous customs. In combination, these articles display the topical and methodological diversity that characterizes anthropology.

As always, this issue reflects the hard work and dedication of numerous people, including the *Arizona Anthropologist* staff, its contributing authors, and the anonymous reviewers who provided valuable feedback on submissions. The current editors, Martha Trenna Valado and Matt Iles-Shih, give thanks to the other staff—Nicole Arendt, Amy Margaris, Kay McElveen—and to our faculty advisor—Dr. Trudy Griffin-Pierce—for making this issue possible. And, of course, there could be no journal without the authors and reviewers—many thanks for their commitment to and patience with the process.

Finally, we would like to thank the Department of Anthropology, and specifically Department Head John T. Olsen, for their continued support. Thanks to all for a great year! We look forward to seeing what the coming year brings for *Arizona Anthropologist* as we explore ways to expand our horizons while continuing to provide the opportunity for graduate students to publish in the best student-written, student-run anthropology journal in the country.

Please visit our website (<http://clubs.asua.arizona.edu/~azanthro/>) or email the editors (valado@email.arizona.edu; iles@email.arizona.edu) for more information on the submission process or to provide suggestions on future issues.