

re:think

a journal of creative ethnography

issue one: summer 2018

Editorial

re:think is an open-access, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal established in Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh. re:think aims to showcase articles which explore the potential of ethnography as a form of creative research practice and expression. The journal features academic essays, short informal or reflective pieces, short films and photoessays created and curated by undergraduate students at the University of Edinburgh.

Our journey began a year ago with a grant from the Principal's Teaching Award Scheme and lots of enthusiasm from anthropology students and staff. We sought to create a platform for varied, adventurous and imaginative work from undergraduate students across the University to better understand the everyday life of ourselves and others through ethnographic research. In creating the journal, our intention was to promote research undertaken by undergraduate students and to provide an encouraging experience of scholarly and personal development through the publication of this work.

This issue features articles developed from undergraduate coursework and articles inspired by dissertation fieldwork, as well as personal reflections on the practice of ethnography. We offer work from across Social Anthropology, focusing on themes including power and society, material culture and spiritual beliefs, and space and place. The materiality of the past and the traces of ghost stories feature in our first three academic articles, followed by questions around the object of and in ethnographic research. Turning to the themes of power and society, the issue then examines power in Edinburgh's Sheriff Court, labour and exchange in a Tibetan Buddhist monastery. Our final articles focus on autoethnography in the study of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and an ethnographic account of song sharing and folk music in a local Edinburgh pub. This issue closes with a selection of photographs taken by three Social Anthropology students during their dissertation fieldwork in 2017. These photographs were submitted to the Social Anthropology Dissertation Photo Competition and display the diversity of ethnographic research done by Undergraduate Social Anthropology students at the University of Edinburgh. The photographs are accompanied by short descriptions and reflections of the photographs and what they represent.

We are so thankful for all the support we have had from Social Anthropology and the University. We could not have reached this stage without the endless support of Roza Dimitrellou and Angela Laurins. Thank you to Digital Bricks for the graphic design and to Kirsty Brown and Shian Holt in the Student Development Office. Finally, we are incredibly grateful for the work and support of our team of peer reviewers in Social Anthropology.