



Introductory Note by the Editors-in-Chief

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The Swedish Journal of Anthropology – called *kritisk etnografi*, launched in August 2018 – aims to provide a venue for anthropological voices associated with a Sweden based anthropological landscape and to strengthen the anthropological impact on current debates, hence promoting the public engagement of anthropology. Our first issue dealt with “The Public Presence of Anthropology”. It took as its point of departure the 2016 Vega Symposium organised by the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography (SSAG) to celebrate Professor Didier Fassin receiving the SSAG Medal in Gold for promoting the relevance of Anthropology, in relation to pressing public and political topics.

In this, the second thematic issue, edited by Professor Sten Hagberg, the theme titled “Comparative Municipal Ethnographies” is explored. The theme highlights the important role that Anthropology can play in ethnographic research on political decision-making that often flies either over or below research radars. In an upcoming issue, Professor Paul Stoller will edit a Special Issue on “Anthropology of Wellbeing in Troubled Times”, where the precarious being of humans is explored while at the same time highlighting our propensity for care and planning. A more timely and apt subject is hard to imagine, as this introduction is being finalised when the Corona pandemic is spreading worldwide.

Another issue which is forthcoming and currently being prepared, focuses on Applied Anthropology with Professor Lisa Åkesson and Professor Maris Boyd Gillette as guest editors. The issue ties Anthropology back to its long tradition of working in close cooperation with actors in society to support change and development but also deals with the risks and problems related to an academic discipline going “activist”.

Apart from publishing Special Issues, the journal encourages contributions from individual researchers. In the present issue, we initiate a subheading called “Bricolage”. This section will open up space for unsolicited papers on a range of different subject relevant to the scope of the journal. The first two papers to appear in this section are Professor Gudrun Dahl’s article on political effects related to the debate on the tragedy of the commons, and Associate Professor Torbjörn Friberg’s contribution on the sometimes strained relations between political authorities, higher education, and private development. A report from the 2019 Vega Symposium concludes this issue of *kritisk etnografi*.

The format of the journal is still in its infancy and we aim to include more of discussions, debates, short pieces on “hot topics”, and reports. As a first step in that direction, abstracts from all Anthropological dissertations defended in Sweden from 2016–2018 were included in the first issue and an update on that list will be published in the forthcoming issues. In the coming years we want to establish *kritisk etnografi* as a vital and

influential voice in anthropological conversations, having a special focus on making Swedish anthropology relevant to global audiences and to point out to how global issues are relevant for anthropologists active in a Swedish context. We will do this by including papers from the Annual Meetings of the Swedish Anthropological Association (SANT), and the triennial assignment of the SSAG's Medal in Gold to an Anthropologist. We also encourage all to submit individual papers and to contact us with ideas and topics for special issues.