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Editor's Introduction To Issue #20

Victoria M. Phaneuf and Derek D. Honeyman

This issue of the *Arizona Anthropologist* marks a historic moment of 'coming together' for the journal and its entourage, as it is the first to be published under the newly founded School of Anthropology. The School of Anthropology is comprised of faculty from the former Department of Anthropology and the Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology, Mediterranean archaeologists from the Department of Classics, and Arizona State Museum curators of archaeology. Though this has required adjustments and changes from all of us, we here at the *Arizona Anthropologist* are eagerly anticipating the collaborations and liaisons that will result from this melding of talent.

The works in this issue of the *Arizona Anthropologist* treat diverse topics, communities, and peoples across the world. Though unplanned, they all share the theme of joining and separation. Some treat this topic within a neighborhood or a fieldsite, others consider developments across national and ethnic borders, and one author focuses on the importance of understanding links between the past and the present. This issue contains six works: three academic pieces and three less formal pieces on the fieldwork experience. In the first of the academic works, Dr. Brian Adams-Thies investigates "Latino Men-Who-Have-Sex-With Men" as they traverse the US-Mexican border. This crossing allows for a greater flexibility of identity practices. Dr. Adams-Thies is currently Assistant Professor at Drake University and wrote this paper while a graduate student in our Department. Dr. Jessica Piekielek also sets her work in the US-Mexico border region, where she explores changing representations and understandings of the area through participation in a bi-national non-profit organization. Dr. Piekielek also graduated from the department and is currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Environmental Anthropology at Millsaps College. Annika Ericksen takes the reader farther afield and focuses on transformations in the Tuarag conception and use of space in the Sahel from pre-colonial to contemporary times.

The tradition of publishing reflexive pieces on fieldwork experiences continues in this issue. The *Arizona Anthropologist* team has long hoped to expand this discussion beyond the boundaries of Arizona. This issue represents the fulfillment of this hope with the first publication by an

international author, Natalie Boucher. Boucher is a Ph. D. candidate in Urban Studies, at the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, Centre Urbanisation Culture et Société, Montréal. She reflects on how public spaces in Los Angeles neighborhoods seem to bring together or distance their residents in different ways. Karin Friederic adds to the theme of borders and separations with her discussion of the importance of establishing certain personal and professional boundaries between anthropologist and the community in which she works, illustrated with examples from her fieldwork in El Páramo, Ecuador. Anton Daughters reminds his readers of the importance of the connection between past and present to understand the current-day community of Chiloé, Chile. These three authors have all taken inspiration from their personal experiences conducting fieldwork – the part of the research process that too often remains shrouded in mystery – and have allowed readers to benefit from their reflections. This type of piece can be much more difficult for the authors to write, we think this makes these contributions all the more valuable for the readers.

In these times of organizational and financial reorganization, the Arizona Anthropologist relies more than ever on the assistance and advocacy of its supporters. We would like to thank our staff, the School of Anthropology, the authors and the anonymous reviewers for their work, effort, and patience. As always, Dr. John Olsen has been a constant source of support for the editors and we would like to thank him for his assistance. Dr. Barbara Mills, the Director of the School of Anthropology, has been exceedingly helpful as well. There are many people who work “behind the scenes” in the Arizona Anthropologist and we would especially like to recognize the contributions of our staff: Katie MacFarland, Dana Osborne, Megan Sheehan, and Dr. David Raichlen, our faculty advisor.

Preface

Dr. Barbara J. Mills

This issue of *Arizona Anthropologist* marks the first published under the new School of Anthropology. It is a student-focused and student-run journal, representing an excellent cross-section of research conducted by our graduate students. An important impetus for the formation of our new School came about because of our students, especially our graduate students. Their insights and interests in bringing faculty from across campus together into one unit was a major factor in the reorganization. It is a significant year in our history and without the active input of our students it would not have been possible to undergo the changes. I look forward to many more issues of *Arizona Anthropologist* as part of the newly formed School of Anthropology. The journal represents the spirit of collaboration that helped to sustain us through the reorganization process and continues to be a pivotal theme among the members of the School.

Dr. Barbara J. Mills
Professor & Director
School of Anthropology