

COMMONING ETHNOGRAPHY

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Taking Turns Editors' Farewell

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After six issues of collaborating and taking turns steering the journal, we have made the decision to step down from the editorial collective of *Commoning Ethnography*. The time has come to refresh the journal's perspective and open the publication to our colleagues as they push this experiment in thinking, writing, and publishing in new directions.

Commoning Ethnography has been a joy to run. It has generated new thinking about what ethnography can and might look like while helping us make new friends. The journal wasn't just a mechanism to produce facts, but a means of making our intellectual worlds. This is one of the highest promises of academic life, and the journal has more than fulfilled this mission for us.

In other spaces, we have reflected on the difficulties entailed in running a project like this—small, loosely organised, local and global, experimental. In our estimation, those difficulties have been worth it because they have enabled us to work at the limits of scholarly publication. Despite the challenges, we have come to recognise that venues like *Commoning Ethnography*—small, scholar run, open access—feel right as solutions to the increasing enclosure of academic publishing.

Thinking of our current academic publishing system as a form of enclosure is useful because it recognises that the landscape of academic publishing does not just restrict the results of our research from public access, but also shapes how we think, what we write about, and, crucially, who benefits from that work. The enclosure of academic publishing also generates incredible profits from what is essentially publicly oriented free labour. Indeed, if we have learned one thing in the process of publishing *Commoning Ethnography*, it is that thinking, writing, reviewing, editing, proofing, design and layout, and circulating scholarship are all forms of work. They are necessary, important, enriching forms of labour but they are work all the same.

In that spirit, and because it is necessary for others to have a turn, we both find ourselves ready to shift our focus to different forms of work. In our time participating in the editorial collective, the journal has often reflected our own intellectual sensibilities: questions of collaboration, poetics, form, unevenness, labour, experience, and politics have been central to our inquiry into what commoning ethnography might mean. Amir Sayadabdi and Paola Tiné's work leading this issue of the journal suggests that the publication is already heading in exciting new directions. Their new perspective will enrich the journal's vision and practice into the future.

Marking this transition is important to us because it signals a shift in our lives and it says something significant about the heart of collective practice. Taking turns is fundamental to the very nature of the commons, we think.

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