

# COMMONING ETHNOGRAPHY

Vol 1 | No 1 | 2018

## Call for Papers

*Commoning Ethnography* is an off-centre, annual, international, peer-engaged, open access, online journal dedicated to examining, criticizing, and redrawing the boundaries of ethnographic research, teaching, knowledge, and praxis.

### Open Call for Papers

We are pleased to open submissions for Issue 2, to be published December 2019. We welcome submissions that explore the boundaries of ethnographic knowledge, experiment with forms of ethnographic writing, disturb the authority of single authorship, consider how property norms shape ethnographic research, and rethink communities of ethnographic research in a variety of yet unanticipated ways. We also welcome ethnographic and theoretical accounts of the commoning projects that exist within contemporary life, be they within academia, social movements, political spaces, emergent economies, environmental debates, creative practices or in intimate and quotidian arenas of social life.

We accept standard research articles (6,000-8,000 words), as well as a range of other collaborative, creative and exploratory works (see our website for details: <https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/ce/about>). We are interested in reflective, engaged, and impassioned writing. We are also interested in work that challenges norms of ethnographic writing by expanding the rules of authorship and finding novel ways to enhance collaborations with research partners, incorporating their voices, thoughts, and discontents into our own practices of research. We are particularly interested in work that reflects an off-kilter, handmade approach to knowledge production and dissemination; this includes, but is not limited to, new graphic forms like cartoons or photo essays. We also encourage work that extends the limits of established academic networks, breaches boundaries between the



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ISSN 2537-9879 | DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26686/ce.v1i1.5201>

Published online 15 December 2018

centres and peripheries of academia, and considers critically who and what can be included in our conversations.

**Deadline for Open Submissions is April 1, 2019\***

To submit please use the OJS submission system. If you have questions or brief pitches for potential articles or special sections, please contact our editorial team at [editorsCE@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:editorsCE@vuw.ac.nz).

\*Work submitted after this date will still be considered, but for the 2020 issue.

**Call for Papers, Special Section: The Labours of Collaboration**

Issue 2 (2019) *Commoning Ethnography*

An explicitly collaborative ethnography has gained significant purchase within the field over the past few decades (i.e. Lassiter 2005). For different sorts of scholars this project has taken different forms and has had different kinds of politics. It foregrounds relationships in the field and also new kinds of ethnographic production in the form of films, artworks, exhibitions, and, often, traditional written texts. Although, ethnography has long been a collaborative research method (e.g. Rappaport 2008: 2), the kinds of inherent collaborations within ethnographic work were not always acknowledged as such nor were they given the kinds of central billing that new collaborative projects often emphasize. In this way, such projects often aim to undo (or at least unpack) the kinds of uneven knowledge hierarchies that have been foundational to ethnographic research since its outset. They also appear to offer new grounds for activist research (Hale 2008).

At the same time, a second form of collaboration has emerged in relation to the demands placed on researchers to manage large, multi-researcher grants. Sometimes these teams are necessitated as part of the process of anthropologists working in collaboration with scholars in the hard sciences. In other instances, these are teams of local and non-local scholars working together. Essentially, in this other form of ethnographic collaboration, two or more ethnographers work in the same space, co-creating (on multiple levels) ethnographic data and ethnographies.

Although different in character, ethics, and political aims, these forms of ethnographic collaboration raise important question about processes of knowledge production. For this Special Section of Issue 2 of *Commoning Ethnography*, we seek papers that engage with the changing nature of ethnographic collaboration on multiple levels. We ask for scholarship that critically unpacks what contemporary ethnographic collaborations look like and how they alter the inherent power dynamics of ethnographic research. We seek papers that reflect on innovative collaborations, both as research teams and with communities. In particular, we wish to engage with the relationship between collaboration and commoning as processes that shape the future of ethnographic labour – both within and beyond the academy.

Potential papers might address the questions raised by collaborative projects, including (but not limited to): questions of gender, racial, or class hierarchies within ethnographic research; divisions of epistemological labour; polemics for or against ethnographic collaboration/collaborative ethnography; collaborative poetics; the uneven distributions of risk and reward in ethnographic collaboration; the politics of collaboration; or methodological approaches to collaboration.

Please submit abstracts (no more than 200 words) along with a short author bio to [nayantara.s.appleton@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:nayantara.s.appleton@vuw.ac.nz) and [lorena.gibson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:lorena.gibson@vuw.ac.nz) by March 1, 2019. Once selected, full papers (6000 words) will be requested for review by July 1, 2019.

## References Cited

Hale, Charles R.

2008 *Engaging Contradictions: Theory, Politics, and Methods of Activist Scholarship*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Lassiter, Luke Eric

2005 *The Chicago Guide to Collaborative Ethnography*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Rappaport, Joanne

2008 Beyond Participant Observation: Collaborative Ethnography as Theoretical Innovation. *Collaborative Anthropologies* 1(1): 1-31.