

2. Project Description: Editorial Assistant for the American Ethnologist journal

Area: Social/cultural anthropology

Project Supervisors: Dr Jesse Hession Grayman and Associate Professor Susanna Trnka

Project Description

American Ethnologist (AE), a world-leading journal in social and cultural anthropology, is published by the American Ethnological Society (AES), the oldest professional anthropological association in the United States (founded in 1842). Its operations are overseen by the American Anthropology Association (AAA), the world's largest scholarly and professional organisation of anthropologists. Beginning in 2022 and for the first time in its 50-year history, AE will be led by an editorial team based in the Southern Hemisphere: Associate Professor Dr Susanna Trnka (University of Auckland), Editor in Chief; Dr Jesse Hession Grayman (University of Auckland), Associate Editor; and Associate Professor Dr Lisa Wynn (Macquarie University), Associate

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Editor.

editorial team as they take stock of the journal's history and future in anticipation of AE's 50th anniversary year in 2023. This is a desk-based research project that can be conducted either remotely or in Auckland, depending on next year's health and travel regulations. The researcher, ideally a masters or advanced undergraduate student in social/cultural anthropology, with familiarity of the *American Ethnologist* journal, has an opportunity to contribute to the editing of journal manuscripts that review aspects of AE's contributions to the discipline. The editors based at the University of Auckland will be the researcher's main supervisors.

In mid-2022, the researcher will provide timely support to this newly appointed

Researcher's Work

- Identify *American Ethnologist's* highest impact and most cited articles since its inception, by year and by decade.
- Reach out to the AE authors of these highest impact articles who are still actively publishing (the researcher may interview them or invite them to revisit their work in the journal as part of the 50th anniversary coverage).
- Track recent trends in AE's publication record to identify emerging topics, gaps, and possible future directions in the journal's outputs during this new editorship.

- Follow key word topics and trends in the journal since its inception, elaborating upon the examples set by the following articles:

- Ahearn, Laura M. 2013. "Commentary: Keywords as a Literacy Practice in the History of Anthropological Theory." *American Ethnologist* 40, no. 1 (February): 6–12.

- Ahearn, Laura M. 2014. "Detecting Research Patterns and Paratextual Features in *AE* Word Clouds, Keywords, and Titles." *American Ethnologist* 41, no. 1 (February): 17–30.

¹<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/news/2021/06/21/university-anthropologist-to-lead-top-international-journal.html>

- Sastramidjaja, Yatun 2019 "Keywords and key words in *AE*: The logic of recognition and the limits of algorithmic relevance" *American Ethnologist* 46, no. 4 (November): 387-403

☐ Apart from tasks associated with *AE*'s 50th anniversary, other tasks of interest may include:

- Assist the editors with preparation of special forum topics that address current social issues of interest (some past examples here: <https://americanethnologist.org/read/forums> . Possible topics include the role of ethnography in critically examining issues like racialised state violence, state responses to Covid-19, how to conduct research in the midst of a pandemic, anthropological approaches to climate change, the place of conspiracy theories in contemporary political movements, ongoing efforts to decolonise academia, and the impact of the #MeToo Movement.

- The day-to-day management of incoming and outgoing manuscripts for peer review.

This internship presents an opportunity to explore Anthropology's 20th and 21st century history through one of the discipline's leading journals, while also gaining hands-on experience in the *AE*'s day-to-day management. Professor Trnka and Dr Grayman look forward to receiving expressions of interest from interested Anthropology students.

This project is suitable for two students.