Editorial

This is the first special issue of *Anthropology in Action* published with Berghahn Books, and we thank them for their involvement and support of the association and its journal. As you will see, in joining up with Berghahn, we are benefiting from their professional publishing team. Further to this, we should benefit over the long term from their marketing. Despite these publishing changes—and we thank the previous publishers and administrative support for their hard work over the years—the journal is retaining its distinct applied niche developed by previous editors and *Anthropology in Action* members.

We hope to remain at the cutting edge of applied, policy and practice anthropology, and to publish special editions, individual articles, reports, narratives and reviews of recent research and developments in the field. Examples of subjects covered by *Anthropology in Action* include the following:

- Organisations
- HIV/AIDS research
- New reproductive technologies
- The rights of indigenous peoples
- Community care and social policy
- Health, medicine and suffering
- Education and government policy
- Museums, place and space
- Management
- Ethnicity and violence
- Overseas development

Members and readers are particularly encouraged to submit articles for individ-

ual consideration, as well as proposals for special editions. These proposals and submissions will be considered by an expanded Editorial Board composed of existing members and a large number of new consulting editors, as well as Assistant Editors Denise Carter, Julia Holdsworth and Nicola Frost. I am grateful to these people for their assistance and support and look forward to working with them and benefiting from their expertise and input; I am, naturally, also very grateful to the members of the existing/working Editorial Board who have made the position of Editor so enjoyable over the past few years.

To mark the start of a publishing relationship with Berghahn, we have, here, a special issue collaboration borne out of an AAA (American Anthropological Association) panel meeting 'Audit Culture and the Politics of Accountability'. Since that panel meeting in 2003, *Anthropology in Action* has been hosting a number of the papers on our website. We are pleased, now, to be able to take those papers forward as an improved special issue edited by key *Anthropology in Action* members Sue Wright and Cris Shore, and the current President of the American Anthropological Association Don Brenneis. In a focused issue, Wright, Shore and Brenneis consider the changing role, place and space of the university institution. This is a most pertinent and contentious topic with the present rise of the audit culture and the neoliberalisation of academia. 'Coercive accountability' (Shore and Wright 2000) is certainly at the heart of my own

university's present restructuring process and we await news about the new, streamlined managerial structures and more effective and interdisciplinary research clusters with bated breath.

Following an editorial introduction, an opening article by Marilyn Strathern looks at universities, the nature of interdisciplinarity and the framing of society. This is followed by articles on the influence of neoliberalism in France (Abélès), Brazil (Lins Ribeiro), Australia (Jolly) and the U.S. (Huber). Towards the end of this special issue Susan DiGiacomo goes on to compare the academic audit culture in the U.S. and in the Catalan region: the former with a new and growing army of casual labourers subordinate to a new audit culture, the latter with an historical audit system, which is now producing doubly subalterned academics who are marginalised under an English-language global audit culture. Finally, the issue is concluded by Anwar Tlili and Susan Wright, who use empirical research to see how the global knowledge economy is played out in Blair's British universities.

This opening issue does not make for comfortable reading, but we do hope that it informs you of global and local audit culture impact on the university system. To be forewarned is to be forearmed, as they say! We therefore hope that you find this special issue useful and that you will bear with us whilst we work through the practicalities of our own—more democratic and activist-orientated—restructuring.

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References

- Shore, C. and S. Wright 2000 'Coercive Accountability: The New Audit Culture and its Impact on Anthropology', in M. Strathern (ed.) *Audit Cultures: Anthropological Studies in Accountability, Ethics and the Academy*, London: Routledge, 57-89.