

# Editorial

This issue includes articles that provide examples of anthropological research applied to, or with resonance for policy and practice issues. In the first, “Love Goes through the Stomach”: A Japanese–Korean Recipe for Post-conflict Reconciliation’, Stephanie Hobbs Ketterer takes the well-established anthropological topic of commensality and looks at the role it may play in conflict resolution. In the second, Mark Powell and co-authors from a range of disciplines describe a small case study that used ethnographic methodology in the short term to explore the working experiences of accident and emergency staff in a U.K. hospital. This work formed part of a larger multi-disciplinary study, which included anthropologists, to explore the relationship between healthcare and design of the healthcare environment. We then feature two methodology articles, both of which are offered as relatively novel and potentially very valuable approaches for anthropologists to consider. In ‘Qualitative Research Synthesis: How the Whole can be Greater than the Sum of its Parts’, Hanne Riese and her co-authors introduce the systematic review method widely known as meta-synthesis, which is now becoming very established within health and policy research as a systematic approach to synthesising the findings from different qualitative studies. Meta-synthesis enables greater generalisation across cases, while respecting the principles of qualitative research, such as thematic analysis and sensitivity to context and complexity. Bearing in mind that anthropology historically set out to be a comparative discipline, seeking greater cross-cultural understanding of humanity, I feel this approach has real merit and potential to further this largely unrealised ambition. Following this, Rachael-Gooberman-Hill provides an account of how to go about adopting a more participatory approach to research, involving research participants, or users of the health services in her case, more actively. Finally, we have reports from two key conferences. In ‘Anthropological Engagement at a Global Women’s Health Conference’,

Margaret MacDonald and her colleagues reflect on the Women Deliver Conference, which focuses on maternal health and the pursuit of the millennium development goals, while Rachael-Gooberman-Hill reports on the most recent Apply Network meeting, which took place during the ASA’s Decennial Conference in Edinburgh this June.

This issue also includes, as usual, book reviews, including a review essay discussing issues in feminism and development, and a list of books for review, but we would like to encourage you to propose and submit a wider range of reviews in future, including reviews of events, webpages, blogs and films. In addition, we are keen to encourage more articles of the type featured here on methodology, as well as topical issues and debate articles and personal accounts of career paths and the diverse ways in which you have used anthropological theory and methodology outside of academic anthropology.

In the last issue we announced a call for articles for a 2015 special issue on the topic of impact in anthropology. This special issue has been planned in response to the recent REF exercise in the U.K., which introduced formal attempts to measure the impact of research and to award university departments accordingly. Although this is a U.K. exercise, it reflects a growing international trend towards attempting directly to audit and account for the ways in which research in all fields make an impact on the public, on policy, on wellbeing or some aspect of society and culture. It remains to be seen what the conclusions and indeed the impact of this exercise and this wider trend will be, and this will be the focus of the special issue. Details of how to submit articles for this issue can be found on our new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Anthropology-in-Action/1429954747245407?ref=hl>

Christine McCourt  
Christine.mccourt.1@city.ac.uk

