Editorial

Maryon McDonald

There has been a certain dizziness wrought by ‘turns’ in Social Anthropology of late – one of these being the ‘ontological turn’. In the first article of this issue, Eduardo Viveiros de Castro – perhaps the *enfant terrible* of the ontological turn – sets out what he sees as being at stake in this turn and tries to meet some of the critics head-on. In an article provocatively entitled ‘Who is Afraid of the Ontological Wolf?’, he outlines some of the complexities whilst suggesting to readers that anthropology ‘is always about sticking one’s neck out through the looking glass of ontological difference’. The article originated as the 2014 Annual Marilyn Strathern Lecture and the author acknowledges a debt to Strathern – one of ‘more fat pigs than I could ever hope to assemble.’

The Special Section of this issue, guest edited by Laura Bear and Nayanika Mathur, is devoted to a call for a new anthropology of bureaucracy focussed on ‘the public good’, a concept ‘recaptured’ here from economics. The articles in this collection look at the *practice* of ideals such as transparency, fiscal discipline and decentralisation. They examine processes of marketization and the inequalities these generate in welfare bureaucracy; they pose questions about transparency and suggest the limits of justice in processes of information disclosure; and they draw new attention to decentralization and an associated emergence of precarious citizenship. The articles include material from India, Pakistan, Scotland, South Africa, Peru, Italy – and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

In the Book Review section this time, we have adopted a format of two reviews of one work, followed by the author’s reply. Katherine Verdery, whose recent work is reviewed here, uses the opportunity to expand her thoughts on what her own encounter with an East European secret police helps us to understand about Euro-American security states more generally.

Readers will note that this new volume of the journal – volume 33 – is being published under the full title of *The Cambridge Journal of Anthropology*, a title we will use henceforth. This is simply an acknowledgement of our growth. We wish to stress that we welcome articles from anthropologists everywhere – and from any discipline wishing to engage, critically or otherwise, with anthropological material.