EDITORIAL

Social Analysis: The International Journal of Cultural and Social Practice

Social Analysis was published for 23 years by the Department of Anthropology, University of Adelaide. From January, 2002 it will now be published in New York by Berghahn Books of New York and Oxford. In recent years, it has encouraged a dialogue within anthropology and especially in that interface between anthropologists and other scholars in the social sciences and humanities. However, the restructuring of the journal and the constitution of a new international editorial committee is intended to situate the journal strongly within debates and issues affecting human populations in all parts of contemporary globalized realities. More than ever the journal is concerned to intervene in the formation of an anthropological critical and empirical gaze relevant to contemporary realities. This intervention is directed to explore the horizons of the possibilities of anthropological analysis and understanding, of what might be described as the anthropological attitude which consistently problematizes every aspect of human social life and existence. The journal in this way seeks to break out of anthropology in a narrow disciplinary sense and to encourage contributions which express an open yet simultaneously rigorous approach to the crises of being human and which are enabled to draw from a great diversity of relevant fields of enquiry.

The journal invites contributions directed towards a critical and theoretical understanding of cultural, political and social processes. There is a special preference for ‘grounded theory’: that is, for analysis based in original empirical research that is suggestive of innovative theoretical ways of challenging hegemonic metropolitan paradigms. For this reason, ethnographic work which addresses larger questions of the philosophical and ontological orientations engaged in human understanding will be encouraged. There is an interest in making the journal available for the publication of information and discussion by active ethnographic researchers into the forces involved in the production of human suffering, poverty, preju-
dice, war and violence, etc. The main thrust of the journal will be toward publishing material which presents a critical and concerned anthropology.

The journal will publish three issues per year, Spring (April), Summer (August) and Fall (November). The Summer issue will be devoted to articles on a single theme, guest edited and published in book form. We invite suggestions, themes, and contributors for future issues which accord with the aims of the journal. The Spring and Fall issues, in addition to articles, reviews and review essays will have a forum devoted to the on-going discussion of current issues of global significance to which Anthropology can make its distinctive contribution. The forum will also be a prominent feature of the journal’s web-site.

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