PREFACE

As with the preceding companion issue (*Social Analysis* 56, no. 1), this special issue is concerned with the ways in which fortune, luck, and chance are conceived in a range of different societies and how these concepts are employed to negotiate the contingencies and uncertainties of everyday life. Taken together, the articles gathered in this second collection deal with human attempts to project their desire for mastering uncertainties about the future while solving the moral predicaments of fortune's proportions and their management in everyday life. Ranging from Melanesian and Greek gamblers to online gamers and Siberian hunters, from lay Chinese mathematicians of fate to young Mongolians, the ethnographies in this special issue reveal the creative potentials of practical matrixes for calculating luck and mobilizing diverse 'technologies of anticipation' of the future. A few of the articles present rites to invoke fortune, gambling, or games as practices to master contingency and as generative fields of agentive creativity and subjectivity.

This special issue attempts to answer questions such as the following: What is the role of idioms of luck and fortune in the formation of accounts of events? What is the role of fortune and luck in everyday moralities, ethical decisions, and the constitution of personhood? How does fortune relate to concepts of value, desire, fame, and prestige? How do cosmologies of luck and fortune manifest in contingent singularities and temporal views? How are different hierarchies of luck and fortune related to specific domains of temporal action? What is the relation between fortune, moral agency, and destiny? How is a fortunate future anticipated and produced with hopeful and creative acts of engagement with misfortunate events or fatalistic worldviews? The essays gathered in these pages will hopefully add a vigorous and attuned anthropological voice to the recent chorus of interdisciplinary interest in the themes of contingency and gambling and in the category of the future.

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— Giovanni da Col and Caroline Humphrey