A Statement from the Incoming Editor

The first version of the *JRAI* (named the *Journal and Transactions of the Ethnological Society of London*) was established in 1848. It was quite a year. Important as it was for ethnology, 1848 has become better known as the ‘Year of Revolution’, a reference to the waves of political unrest that spread from Sicily and France to other parts of Europe and further afield. Since then, anthropology has undergone its own radical transformations, displaying complex relations with wider forms of political economy that it has both exemplified and critiqued. As a discipline, anthropology has moved within and beyond both colonial and post-colonial fields, and in more recent decades has explored ways in which to conflate ‘field’ and ‘home’. Moreover, the connections between the sub-disciplines of socio-cultural anthropology, biological anthropology, and archaeology have shifted over the years, forming and reforming intellectual alliances that have never remained stable.

All of these transformations have been reflected in the pages of this journal, which has itself undergone a few changes of name over the years. But the location of anthropological fieldwork has increasingly been complemented by another spatial shift in the discipline, which also embodies wider political and economic orders. Ethnography is now written by members of a discipline whose practitioners, and not just informants, are spread around the globe, promoting numerous academic sub-cultures but with notable common points of interest and approach. I therefore want to encourage submission of the very best papers from all parts of the expanding world of anthropology, from long-established but also from newly developing institutions of research.

*JRAI* aims to publish the best anthropological work, whatever its provenance, but also work that can appeal across the numerous sub-fields of the discipline. A sense of readership is key here. Ideally, submissions should aim at the specialist in a given region or field of inquiry but also provoke interest from other anthropologists, attracted by the clear exposition of an idea or approach that, in many cases, will bridge old and new sub-fields.

Such dialogue can be created by a journal in a number of ways. My predecessor, Glenn Bowman, was careful to note that alongside the 10,000-word articles that form the staple of this journal, other forms of communication are also encouraged: ‘Shorter Notes’, ‘Correspondence’, and ‘Comment to the Editor’ can all be sent directly to the email address given below. In addition, I would like to continue to encourage the submission of ‘State of the Art’ essays that both review and assess the value of a given
topic or sub-field, in a way that will be of use both to specialists and to interested others. Admittedly, the 'state of the art', like revolutions, is liable to become history very quickly; but both are expressions of culture that have their uses years and even decades after their original production.

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