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From the Desk of the Co-Editors: Dr. Amy Michael and Dr. Sara Withers

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From the Desk of the Co-Editors: Dr. Amy Michael and Dr. Sara Withers

This year's edition of Spectrum showcases the wide range of both courses and final products that our students are a part of in Anthropology. The 2021-2022 academic year was a return to a new version of what it meant to be a residential college student in a pandemic world. Most classes were in-person, teaching was face-to-face, and experiential, hands-on projects again became possible. This issue of Spectrum reflects a shift back to pre-pandemic course work, and importantly, the hard work and dedication of students who were ready to take on the challenge of returning to some form of academic normalcy. This issue demonstrates that our students have learned to balance academic focus with relevant methodology to bring varied topics, such as archaeological excavation on campus, policy analysis, dreams across cultures, craftworks, and more, into sharper focus through their writing and research.

One of the strengths of our department, and of our students' work, is an acknowledgement of anthropology's role in addressing opportunities for improvement, investigation, education, and outreach in the communities in which we live and work. From body-centered practices and method-focused courses, to upper-level theory-heavy seminars, this year's anthropology students have grappled with multiple ways of learning to be anthropologists in today's rapidly changing world. Reflecting that learning, throughout the six sections in this issue, you will see anthropology students realize and explain the intersection of lived human experience and broader forces that shape us—both historically, and in contemporary societies. You will find examples of anthropological work that straightforwardly tackles the ways in which systems, policies, relations of power, and individual and cultural beliefs impact people's lives. In short, the authors use an anthropological perspective as a lens to dig deeper into complex emotions, beliefs, ways of being, and histories.

In Section I, Jared Fortier offers a review of Ieva Jusionyte's *Threshold: Emergency Responders on the U.S-Mexico Border*. Fortier took ANTH 500: *Peoples and Cultures of Latin America* in the Fall of 2021 for Honors credit, and as part of the course, reviewed three ethnographies that tied into course themes and topics, of which Jusionyte's ethnography was one. In this review, he addresses the role of the U.S. border as a "mechanism for violence" that is wielded without repercussions against those who cross it and live along it.

In Section II, ANTH 514: *Method and Theory in Archaeology* students showcase work that was part of a new exploration of UNH's campus history. In the Spring of 2022, they surveyed for, found, and excavated buildings constructed in the aftermath of World War II to house married veterans. As part of their final project for the course, the four students researched the site's history, the diverse student experiences during the WWII era, and the created innovative plans for future archaeological research and commitments to stakeholder engagement.

In Section III, the work of three students in Spring 2022's ANTH 525: *Anthropology of the Body: Fat, Fitness, and Form* is highlighted. Students in this course undertook a six-week long sensory ethnography project as a means to describe their lived experience of a particular cultural practice or environment. Alexia Goodwin (Qigong), Sophie MacDonald (sewing), and Natalie Rehehan

(Mehndi art) chose new-to-them-body practices and documented what they learned along the way.

In Section IV, as a member of *ANTH 640, Anthropology of Islam: Muslims' Everyday Lives in Contemporary Communities*, Tahia Rahman analyzes interconnections between spirit possession and undiagnosed mental illness in Muslim communities. In doing so, Rahman calls for the development of more effective diagnosis and individual care in *The Duality of Spirit Possession and Mental Illnesses in Islam*.

In Section V, we present the work of two students from the capstone course *ANTH 750: Islam and Gender*. In the first essay, *Religious Freedom in a Secular Republic: How French Legislation and Rhetoric Against the Veil Disproportionately Impacts Muslim Women in France*, Kyana Burgess uses primary and secondary source research, as well as an analysis of news journals to examine the ways in which decades of French laws and policies against the hijab have attempted to control the visibility of Islam and Muslim communities. In the second essay, *Muslim Masculinity, the Media, and the Medieval Period*, Kieran Mulligan discusses the way in which Muslim men and masculinity have been (mis)represented for centuries, and the political, military, and cultural impact of those ideas.

Finally, in Section VI, we showcase the work of two students from the capstone course, *ANTH 797: Anthropology of Dreams and Dreaming*. In the first selection, Elisabeth Hunter analyzes the connection between war-related trauma and dreaming across a variety of cultures and time periods in her essay, *The Effects of War-Related Trauma on Dreams and Dreaming*. In our second selection, *Commonalties Between the Ojibwa, Ese Eja, and Makiritare*, Victoria Slight draws connections between dreaming and waking worlds in three indigenous cultures where dreams are considered an integral part of the lived human experience (unlike in our own culture).

We would like to thank our colleagues for their continued commitment to crafting courses and projects that excite our students, and for mentoring them along the way. We would also like to extend our congratulations to the authors celebrated here—you represent the department well, and we are proud of the effort you have put into this work. Finally, to any students reading this issue of *Spectrum*, we hope that what you see here inspires you to submit your own work to future issues of the journal! Enjoy!