

## **Society for Urban, National, and Transnational/Global Anthropology**

Jayne Howell, Contributing Editor

As the incoming SUNTA Secretary, Susan Falls of the Savannah College of Art and Design will be editing this column in future. May she find this process as enjoyable as I have. I've had the opportunity to meet and work with AAA and SUNTA members on a different level. Thank you to everyone who supported this column through their kind "Keep up the good work" messages or by submitting essays. These research summaries are a reminder of the range of urban and rural research, community projects, and advocacy groups in which SUNTA members participate, and their significance and scope that crosscuts national boundaries.

In keeping with the scope of SUNTA, the essays members volunteered for this column focused on urban life, and migrants' journeys and adjustments to and in their new homes. Among the former, Erick Castellanos and Elizabeth Gilmour explored the choices made by residents of New York City boroughs where fast food restaurants outnumber locations selling fresh fruits and vegetables. Writing about Oaxaca, Mexico, I examined teacher union labour actions—which include strikes, marches and human roadblocks—that brought a normally bustling capital city to a standstill as a means of protesting neoliberal policies. More recently, Margaret Baurley and Dan Branstrator's essay highlighted ways their knowledge of and relationship to the city changed when they became involved with the members of an Indianapolis neighborhood association while participating in an ethnographic field school.

Essays on migration and transnationalism examined communities in the United States and abroad. In the first volunteered column in my tenure, Laura de Luca examined the compelling question of the "new humanitarianism" and aid provided to Sudanese refugees—and particularly the "Lost Girls"—who relocated to Colorado. Shortly after, Ana Croegaert analyzed the financial orientation of Bosnian refugees in Chicago, whose housing choices provided differing degrees of security for them. Barbara Waldern contributed a fascinating perspective on her experiences as a North American teaching English in Korea, where food options and language were constant reminders that she was a guest in a foreign land. Two articles explored what it's like for South American's lived in North America and Europe: Deborah Altamirano's discussion of return migration and repatriation among transnational Chileans living in Canada and Santiago. Maria Tapias and Xavier Escandel analyzed ways that Bolivians living in Spain process and perceive the migratory experience. In another, Wendy Vogt explored the harsh realities of Central American migrants' experiences in Mexico vis-à-vis representations in popular films. Two authors wrote about Maya communities in the United States. Ronald Loewe discussed the efflorescence of Maya culture in Guatemala and the California diaspora. Lisa Maya Knauer provided her experiences of working with members of a Massachusetts Maya K'iche' community to accurately represent their histories. Tamar Diana Wilson provided an analysis of ways the recession in the U.S. economy has reduced remittances going to Mexico and the numbers of migrants seeking their fortunes in *el norte*.

Invited essays written by recipients of the SUNTA Undergraduate and Graduate Student Paper Prize highlighted cutting edge local level research with global implications, whether "leaky" water systems in Mumbai (Nikhil Anand), urban gardens in Havana (Marina Gold), or HIV-educational programs in South Africa (Theodore Powers). Similarly, these students' research engages the symbolism of protest imagery, ranging from is graffiti at Oscar Wilde's grave (Hannah McElgunn) to

the anti-colonial cum anti-neoliberal sentiments expressed by Caribbean vendors (Adom Philogene Heron).

You'll be hearing from Susan as 2012 begins. Please send your photos and essays for this column to her at [sfalls@scad.edu](mailto:sfalls@scad.edu). With *Anthropology News* available online, this really is a great way to share your research with colleagues and students.

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