

INTRODUCTION

The 2012 PlatForum editorial team welcomes you to the 13th volume of PlatForum, the longest running student organized Anthropology publication in Canada. We are proud to continue the legacy of providing an open platform for discussion for all Anthropology students across the country. The range of papers presented in this volume speaks to the rich and multifaceted diversity of the authors' academic and personal backgrounds, while highlighting the holistic and sub-disciplinary approach of the discipline as a whole.

Themes of power relations and production are prevalent throughout this volume. The authors examine how historical power dynamics permeate into the present, and how they affect individuals and groups of people to internalize and reinforce, modify, reject and subvert, observe, and make social commentary of these underlying structures. Forouz Salari positions herself within a North American society that normalizes and idealizes a slim female figure. She addresses historic religious, medical and ideological perspectives that play a role in influencing women to perform their gender and reproduce their physical bodies in alignment with the slim bodily ideal.

Alex Pysklywec, in his paper, presents the underlying patriarchal power structure that continues to marginalize and racialize poorer classes in post-apartheid Namibia, from the persistent yet de-formalized segregated communities to the use of language by municipal powers that act to marginalize poor and largely black communities. Adrienne Mann looks at how similar overarching

power dynamics are internalized, tailored and re-enacted by employees at a seafood processing plant in the Pacific Northwest. Here, she shows how the use of obscenities to create humour and entertainment both rejects the social norms of the broader community and maintains a social hierarchy within the workplace. Both papers show how communities perpetrate discrimination through socially tolerated lines of sex and/or class though other contributing factors such as race, age, or seasonal employment may be present.

Kelsey Timler's paper shows how sensitive socio-political topics can be explored in a socially sanctioned space through hyperbole and humour by contemporary stand-up comedians. She draws parallels between the role of contemporary anthropologists and comedians and suggests ways in which they can learn from each other. David Fargo puts into practice issues of representation through his archaeological analysis of stone tools from a site in southern British Columbia. His research included analysis of lithic waste material, which is commonly overshadowed by formed tool analysis. Though the scope of his paper specifically looks at general patterns of tool manufacture at the site, he also points to depositional and cultural complexities and other variables that should be taken into account in order for archaeologists to make informative assessments of human agency through material remains.

We invite readers to draw connections and distinctions between themes in this volume in hopes of fostering an exchange of ideas that contribute to broader discussions in Anthropology. Anthropology is a discipline that continually renews itself through an adaptive capacity to reposition itself along shifting theoretical foundations and through applied techniques. In turn, this enriches how we come to know the world in which we live - through collaboration and circulation of ways of seeing and shared knowledges and practices. As part of PlatForum's goal in facilitating dialogue, we have created an online version of this volume to make readership more accessible and as a tool for open anthropological debate. You can find this and

earlier volumes from previous years at <http://journals.uvic.ca/index.php/platform>. We hope you enjoy!

Sincerely,

Jenny Cohen
Editor-in-Chief