

INTRODUCTION

The 2014 PlatForum editorial team is excited to share the 14th edition of PlatForum with you. Our journal is the longest running student organized Anthropology publication in Canada, and we strive to provide an accessible and open platform for all Canadian anthropology graduate students to contribute to. This edition offers a rich diversity of papers that reflect the individual interests of the contributing authors, yet the papers all highlight that anthropology is indeed a holistic discipline, as many of the contributors transcend the traditional sub-disciplines.

While the papers discuss a huge range of topics from diverse theoretical approaches, the theme of identity has emerged as a backdrop linking each of the contributions: the identity of societies, the identity of individuals, and the identity of anthropologists as researchers. The contributing anthropologists carefully question ideas that our discipline has once taken for granted and explore new possibilities and interpretations in their inquiries. The majority of the articles consider identity in context of their research subjects, while the final three have taken up reflexive considerations of how the identity of researchers influences their methodology and findings.

Reid J. Graham's article begins the consideration of identity by breaking down past stereotypes and assumptions made of Plains Indigenous villages. His work draws from ethnographic, experimental and historical production data as he explores an issue that has not been examined in recent years; the agriculture in the semi-sedentary Indigenous villages that existed in the Dakotas prior

to European contact. While the literature primarily views these Plains communities as nomadic, Graham draws attention to the often overlooked practice of agriculture in these Plains communities, and he also questions the traditional subsistence strategy categories used in ethnography.

Also aiming away from using traditional categories, Adam Solomonian examines the conjunction of identity in not only the Nuuchaanulth people, but also the identity of *Thliitsapilthim* ceremonial curtains as material objects. In this context he examines the *Thliitsapilthim* that were displayed at the exhibit entitled *Backstory: Nuuchaanulth Ceremonial Curtains and the Work of Kike-in* at University of British Columbia's Belkin Gallery in 2010. He looks at these ceremonial Nuuchaanulth curtains not as fixed objects or artefacts, but as parts of a broader web of materiality that even includes what we can not know.

Angeli Humilde bridges the gap of considerations of wider societal identity and individual identity, offering a unique perspective in her case study on transnational citizenship in the Phillippines. She focuses on individuals' uses of multiple citizenship status and transnational mobility for strategic purposes during times of increased globalization, as well as how governmentality continues to be enforced upon citizens who are living outside of their country of origin. Sarah Fletcher, in her research focusing on the challenges and stress that face immigrant youth in Victoria, also continues considerations of transnational mobility's effects on identity. She approaches the issues of stress using an ethnographic narrative tool and a focus on collaborative research methodology, emphasizing the importance of youth perspective in her research. This allowed for the experiences and identity of both the research informants and

collaborative participants to influence the emerging focus on resilience in the research findings.

Dai Davies hones considerations of individual identity construction even further through consideration of gender identities and sexualities, as observed through the performances of by participants at a university games night. Davies addresses how performance and performativity are interpreted to understand identity and how they contribute to the gender identities and sexualities of those involved in the games night.

The final three articles focus on the role of the researcher, and how a researcher's identity shapes their research practice and methodology. Karoline Guelke's photo essay is an honest reflection about her position as a tourist, ethnographer and photographer at a birthday party in a Nepali village. Guelke's reflections follow the threads of authenticity and power in the process of taking photos and later reflecting back on her intentions as a photographer. Katie MacLeoud's review article of Allison Pugh's ethnography *Longing and Belonging* continues this focus on reflexivity, examining Pugh's research at three schools in her local community of Oakland, California. The article draws attention to Pugh's alternating roles as an insider and an outsider, her attempts and the difficulties to positioning herself as an insider in diverse communities, and the challenges of both of these roles.

Finally, Thomas Siek brings the focus to the role of training to researchers' identities, calling for an increased focus on the sense of touch in the practice of osteology, which is a discipline that has primarily relied upon the visual. Siek suggests that touch helps to transcend the barriers between the subject and the object and can offer details that sight alone cannot confirm.

As you read this volume of PlatForum, we hope that you will draw connections between the articles that will allow for broader conversations about what Anthropology is today. Anthropology as a discipline never ceases to adapt and renew. Anthropologists, such as the graduate students who have contributed to this edition, are constantly shifting their knowledge base and creating and exploring new techniques. We hope that upon reading this volume you will be inspired to reflect on your own identity, and how your theoretical foundations and methodology shape your scholarship as a researcher.

PlatForum aims to facilitate dialogue and be accessible, and to aide in this goal we will also be creating a web version of this volume so that it may contribute to an online dialogue from anthropologists across the country, and beyond. Volume 14, and earlier PlatForum volumes can be browsed online at <http://journals.uvic.ca/index>.

Sincerely,

Tia Hiltz, Betsy Hagestedt and the PlatForum Editorial Team