

INTRODUCTION

The 2017-2018 PlatForum editorial team welcomes you to the 16th edition of our publication. PlatForum is the longest running, student-organized Anthropology publication in Canada, and we strive to provide an accessible and open platform to which all anthropology graduate, and in this issue, undergraduate, students may contribute. As we transition to an online-only platform, we notably depart from a tradition of featuring the works of students from a cross-section of Canadian universities and showcase instead the diversity and richness of graduate student research interests from within our department at the University of Victoria. The theme of this edition is ‘entanglements’ and we asked authors from a range of sub-disciplines and thematic foci to consider the layers of complexity and interconnectivity inherent in anthropological research.

We cast our gaze between the thematic research foci of the University of Victoria’s Department of Anthropology, and the research interests of the authors featured in this 2017-2018 edition. The articles, drawings, and personal reflections herein demonstrate some of the many ways in which emerging scholars are encouraging a rethinking of, and a reflexive engagement with, existing forms of knowledge.

Authors in this issue tackle a range of important topics through different lenses and interpretations, demonstrating the creative potential of future academic scholarship. Authors submitted poetry, drawings, articles, and personal reflections on such topics as the circulations of material culture, reproduction and stigma, and academic scholarship itself. Each looks at the many entanglements of human experience.

Bradley Clements reflects on the politics of being, or becoming, entangled in Indigenous governance and disentangling from, or critically rethinking, the position and output of the academic researcher. Anna Heckadon’s illustrations help us to visualize

Anthropology in practice, seeing its many processes through a different lens. Luke Kernan and co-author Jorge Angel-Mira explore the relationships between traditional knowledge, biology, spiritual experience and land or occupied environment in Aboriginal Australian “Dreamings.” Their work delves into the intricate relationships between humans and land. Similarly, Lisa Rogers traces human-material entanglements embodied in marine shell use for ornamentation over thousands of years, and across vast geographic landscapes. She investigates the complex interactions between people and marine beads across space and time.

Anna Thompson analyzes American court cases to trace the way language becomes entangled in human rights and the differential treatment of immigrant children in U.S. detention centres while Anu Lotay encourages readers to change the narrative of miscarriage and misery, asking us to abandon reductionist assumptions which marginalize diverse experience in favour of complexity in the ways we understand, and hear, women’s miscarriage narratives.

This volume brings together research and writings from across the anthropological spectrum, entangling diverse knowledge, insight, and opinion into a complete whole. And as our Department sees the transition of Chair from Dr. Ann B. Stahl to Dr. April Nowell, we would like to dedicate this volume to these two inspirational women and leaders.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Lloyd and the PlatForum Editorial Team