Introductory Note by the Editors-in-Chief

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As its theme, this double issue of kritisk etnografi – Swedish Journal of Anthropology, has a question: Is Europe skilling for sustainable food? Our two guest editors, Professor Maris Boyd Gillette from the University of Gothenburg and Professor Cristina Grasseni from Leiden University, have convened an esteemed group of scholars who present four articles in which European food provision is theorised with the help of sustainability as an analytical tool: Nicolas Loodts’ article on anticipation at the heart of sustainability; Maris Boyd Gillette, Milena Arias Schreiber and Nathan Siegrist’s research on Sweden’s good fishers; Maria Vasile’s study of food surplus redistribution, non-profit organisations and neoliberalism in Turin, Italy; and Celia Plender’s article on collaboration, collectivity, and egalitarianism in food cooperatives. In addition to these research articles, it should be mentioned that Cristina Grasseni is also leading the Food Citizens? – a project which has inspired the thematic focus of the issue. A report on the preliminary findings and reflections of the project itself has been included to give more “food for thought”, as it were, to the readers. This report is placed in the new section Perspectives (see below).

In the Bricolage section, we are pleased to present two articles on such different subjects as fatherhood on the Faroe Islands, and drought in Angola. In his article, ‘You Just Throw Yourself Into It’: On fatherhood and family in the Faroe Islands, Firouz Gaini, Professor at the University of the Faroe Islands, discusses fatherhood and family. Building on interviews and participant observation, he explores the changing roles of fathers, particularly how these are rooted in practice rather than discourse. Apart from being a unique research on men and masculinities in the Faroe Islands, the article also theorises whether these changes are producing a “new man”, a ‘traditional’ man, or a representative of something else entirely”. In the second paper of the Bricolage section, Associate Professor Ruy Llera Blanes, University of Gothenburg, together with Dr Carolina Valente Cardoso, University of Gothenburg, Professor Helder Alicerces Bahu, at ISCED-Huíla, Angola, and PhD Student Cláudio Fortuna, Catholic University of Angola, present an article entitled, Drought Terroirs: Debating anthropological territorialities in the study of climate change and environmental disasters. The authors apply the concept of terroirs in a new and innovative manner, to discuss empirical material dealing with drought in Angola. In their analyses of territoriality and climate change, they apply the concept as to gain complexity in terms of scale, agency, and temporality.

With this issue we are also introducing a slightly revised layout of kritisk etnografi – Swedish Journal of Anthropology. From now onwards, the thematic section as well as the
bricolage section are reserved for peer reviewed contributions. In addition, we introduce a new section titled Perspectives. In this segment, we will publish review articles, reports, think pieces, short notes, and the like that are subjected to editorial review; that is, the contributions fit into the publishing strategy of the journal and comply with scientific standards when it comes to referencing, ethics, language, etc., but they are not put through the peer-review process as such. The report on Food Citizens?-project, co-authored by Cristina Grasseni, Federico De Musso, Ola Gracjasz, Robin Smith, Maria Vasile and Vincent Walstra, inaugurates the Perspectives section of kritisk etnografi.

Since the journal was launched in August 2018 with the inaugural issue that dealt with “The Public Presence of Anthropology” (Vol 1, No 1, 2018) developed around Didier Fassin’s Vega Symposium in 2016, we have worked hard to consolidate the journal’s publication and dissemination. The second issue, which was also a double issue, was themed “Comparative Municipal Ethnographies” (Vol 2, No 1-2, 2019) and focused on the anthropology of local politics across the world. The first issue of 2020 inquired into “The Anthropology of Wellbeing in Troubled Times” (Vol 3, No 1, 2020), and was developed around Paul Stoller’s 2013 Vega Symposium. The second issue of 2020 focused on ethnographic practices in applied contexts, “Putting Swedish Anthropology to Work” (Vol 3, No 2, 2020). Two issues were published in 2021. The first one was a Varia issue with a series of important research articles of high quality (Vol 4, No 1), and the second explored “The Social Life of Water” (Vol 4, No 2) with Professor Karsten Pearregaard and Professor Paula Uimonen as guest editors.

As Editors-in-Chief of kritisk etnografi – Swedish Journal of Anthropology we would like to emphasise that we welcome proposals for thematic issues, individual papers, and shorter pieces from colleagues at Swedish universities and beyond. And to recall, kritisk etnografi is a scientific peer-reviewed open access journal, free of any charges, published by the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography (SSAG).

Spread the word! Aux plumes! Fatta pennan!