

EDITORS' INTRODUCTION: THE RADIANT FUTURE

Krista Harper and Julie Hemment, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

As we take on the editorship of this journal, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the most recent past editors of *Anthropology of East Europe Review (AEER)*, Barbara West, Nancy Ries, and Robert Rotenberg. Under their stewardship, *AEER* has become a vital forum. As graduate students finding our way in this field in the 1990s, we eagerly read emerging ethnographic work on the region in the pages of this journal, and we both published our first scholarly articles in it. *AEER* has served as a sounding board and a meeting place for an international group of students and scholars. We are thrilled and honored to take on our new role in this community and hope to lead the way to a radiant future of ethnographic explorations of postsocialism.

We are particularly thrilled to bring *AEER* to the Department of Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts—Amherst, a department with a strong tradition in the anthropology of Europe. Since the early 1970s, the department has hosted the European Field Studies program (founded by John Cole and Joel Halpern) an ethnographic field training program that has sent graduate students to do fieldwork in Europe. Over the years, a significant number of these have become key figures in the anthropology of Eastern Europe and postsocialism – alumni of the program include David Kideckel (former president of the society for the anthropology of Europe), Steven Sampson (Lund University, Sweden), László Kürti (current president of the European Association of Social Anthropologists) and Sam Beck (Cornell). The legacy continues; this year the program forged a relationship with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, which will enable our students to forge links and collaborate with junior scholars from the entire region. Since we have joined the department, the program has sent students to do funded research in Croatia, Romania, Moldova, and the Russian Far East.

As the new editors, we bring years of history and participation in *AEER* and other scholarly networks in the region. Krista Harper has been a member of the East European Anthropology Group and the Hungarianist Research Group of the Society for the

Anthropology of Europe (SAE) since 1992. She now serves as the chair of the SAE's Hungarianist Research Group. Harper has been an active member of Soyuz since its founding in the mid-1990s. She presented work and served as a panel discussant at Soyuz conferences in 2000 and 2002. Harper has published two articles in *AEER* and in 2003 served as the guest editor of a special issue dedicated to food and foodways. Julie Hemment has also been active in Soyuz; she presented a paper in 2000, and organized the 2003 conference at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She has contributed several articles to *AEER* (1999; 2000; 2001) and was the guest editor of the spring 2003 special issue. Our research interests – Harper's work has focused on environmentalism and Roma (Gypsy) civil rights activism in Hungary, Hemment's on NGOs and women's activism in Russia – spans the two regions that fall within the journal's scope – Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. As such, we feel well positioned to bring the journal to a wider audience.

In taking on editorship of the journal, we want to continue with the features that have proven so successful, while making a few innovations. We're maintaining our commitment to providing a scholarly forum for the work of members of Soyuz and the East European anthropology group, and also to publishing the work of scholars from the region. With our inaugural issue, we initiate a new structure for the journal: a "Symposium" section of interrelated articles on a theme, usually organized and introduced by a guest editor; an "Open Forum" section of articles submitted by individual authors; a "Reviews" section comprised of book and film reviews and conference reports; and a "Teaching Resources" section with course syllabi and reflections on teaching the field. We believe that this new structure will allow *AEER* to retain one of its most precious qualities—its ability to present emerging ethnographic research on Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union in a timely fashion, enabling authors to receive swift feedback from other scholars of the region.

We are excited that our inaugural issue embodies the goals of facilitating East-West scholarly dialogues, publishing current ethnographic articles, and reviewing and reporting on recent events and courses on the region. This

issue's "Symposium," submitted by guest editor Sára Kaiser, poses the question, "Whither post-socialism?" Kaiser has assembled a compelling group of papers drawn from two conferences: the Soyuz 2005 meetings held in Bloomington, Indiana, and the European Society of Rural Sociology Congress held in Hungary during summer 2005. Her introductory essay juxtaposes U.S.-based and European scholars' approaches to post-socialism and what comes next. Zhanara Nauruzbayeva's article reviews and analyzes the current state of anthropological and historical studies of memory, nostalgia, and forgetting the communist past. Using a fine-grained, linguistic analysis of the "here" and "now" in everyday conversations in East Berlin, Deanna Davidson offers another approach to the contemporary politics of memory, place, past and present. Thom Chivens, in his paper, analyzes "inevitability" and the construction of past, present, and future in his examination of the restructuring of domestic violence policing in the Polish criminal system. Stefan Dorondel's article on rural economic and environmental practices analyzes two "voices" articulating claims about Romania's future and European integration: official discourses and those of rural villagers in the Danube Delta. Maryna Bazelyvych's article on women in the medical, business, and banking professions emphasizes continuity in the ways in which gender has been constructed in pre-socialist, socialist, and post-socialist Ukraine. Similarly, Marton Kemény's paper on small-scale wine producers in rural Hungary stresses continuity with the past in a present marked by economic hardship and uncertainty.

The articles published in our new "Open Forum" section present fresh, ethnographic accounts from across the region. Although submitted independently of one another, this collection of articles reflects a strong interest in the theme of identities—from ethnic, regional, national, and transnational identities to religious, professional, sexual, and gender identities. Lyn Hooker's piece on performances of "Gypsiness" in a contemporary Hungarian folk music and dance venue offers insights into the ways in which gender, sexual, and ethnic identities are embodied

in and transformed through dance. Kristen Ghodsee's article examines the growing role of Muslim aid organizations in Bulgaria. Tanya Richardson's analysis of neighborhood identity in Odessa compares how a sense of place has been constructed and experienced by residents and writers over time. Katherine Sredl discusses identity, telecommunications, and everyday consumption in Croatia. Jill Owczarzak's piece investigates emerging identities from a different angle, analyzing discourses on AIDS, gay rights activism and normative Polish identity. Finally, Tracie Wilson treats another aspects of social movement identity in Poland in her discussion of science, cynicism, and Polish environmentalist identity. We hope that our readers will enjoy this collection—a serendipitous meditation on the theme—as much as we have in the process of compiling the issue.

Finally, the issue includes a conference report from Russian Scholar Pavel Romanov, who comments on a workshop examining "Anthropology of Professions in Russia," held in October 2005 in Saratov, Russia. In the "Teaching" section, we each offer our own recent syllabi teaching the anthropology of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. By including our own courses, we invite others to submit their own syllabi and reflections on teaching for future issues.

We thank Robert Rotenberg for his ongoing work maintaining the *AEER* website at De Paul University. Special thanks go to Lisa Hilt for her outstanding work assisting us with journal correspondence, administration, editing, production, and distribution. Outgoing editor Barb West helped us through the process of putting together this issue, even while starting Culture Works, an applied anthropology consulting business in Australia this fall (please check out her new website at www.cultureworks.com.au). We thank the Center for Public Policy and Administration (CPPA) at the University of Massachusetts for providing support for research and editorial assistance, and the Department of Anthropology for providing overhead support for the journal.

CALL FOR PAPERS

FALL 2006 SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF EAST EUROPE REVIEW

Tentatively titled "Cultures of Consumerism in Postsocialist Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia."

Critical essays are being solicited for a collection that will examine various aspects of consumer culture in post-socialist countries and how they have been transformed in the last 15 years. Possible topics include, but are not limited to: shopping, marketing and advertising, fast food, fashion, film, television, music, print media, branding, credit cards, consumer loans, luxury goods, malls, supermarkets, discount warehouse stores, tourism, e-commerce, technology, etc. Essays should focus on how these things emerged or were changed during the transition away from socialism and what impacts they are having on the daily consumption practices and/or consumer preferences of citizens in the region. Papers that investigate the intersections of gender and consumerism are particularly encouraged.

Papers should be no more than 10,000 words (including endnotes and references) and be sent as electronic submissions as a Microsoft Word .doc (or as an .rtf file) to: kristen.ghodsee@wilsoncenter.org

All papers should be received no later than February 1, 2006.

The Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Europe

The Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Europe seeks article submissions. The Journal takes a four-field approach to the study of Europe and all fields of anthropological research will be considered for publication. Grad students and faculty are encouraged to send in submissions, and collected special issues on a theme are encouraged as well.

The Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Europe publishes articles based on empirical research, as well as book reviews and review essays, relating to the anthropology of Europe. The JSAE is especially interested in publishing sessions of meetings with topics pertaining to the anthropology of Europe.

For more information, please go to the following URL: <http://www.h-net.org/~sae/sae/JSAE.htm>