

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

I write this final Letter from the Editor at a turbulent time in the world. Russia's unprovoked war in Ukraine has entered its eighth month. The field of Slavic Studies faces a reckoning about the centrality of Russia, while new questions about colonialism, hierarchy, ethics, and knowledge are circulating within and beyond the bounds of anthropology. Humans around the world are grappling with the reality of endemic COVID-19, mass threats from climate change, and an economic crisis that dramatically influences our field and our job prospects.

It is in this context that I have decided this issue will be the final issue of *Anthropology of East Europe Review*. Many of our colleagues have published significant articles over the course of the life of this journal. It is an incredible archive of material, voices, and perspectives that have been and will continue to be invaluable. The books that have been reviewed show the breadth and depth of anthropology in Eastern Europe, how the interests of researchers have changed over time, and how other disciplines have influenced anthropology, and vice versa.

However, in the current state of academic publishing, the model of this journal is not sustainable. As an editor-reviewed journal, publications here do not have the weight of peer review. Even with an editorial board—which includes many preeminent scholars around the world who graciously agreed to participate in reviewing articles—AEER received very few submissions for publication in all of 2021. Additionally, with no budget to sustain a journal, all the editorial work is done on a volunteer basis. Even with the fantastic efforts of Book Review Editor Dafna Rachok, a two-person team for any journal is impossible. And, as two scholars whose research is based in Ukraine, she and I carry additional emotional and existential burdens now that, understandably, affect our capacity to find new and creative ways to solicit material for the journal.

I have deep gratitude for my predecessors, especially Amanda Krzyworzeka, and for Dafna Rachok and the entire editorial board volunteers. I thank all my colleagues who talked me through the options for the journal and supported my efforts to sustain it. Understandably, given the

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immense demands of contemporary academic structures, our colleagues are likewise unable to support the publication of a journal on this model.

I greatly appreciate the work of the contributors of this final issue. But I now hope to receive your support for this difficult decision to close the journal and in my efforts to secure its archive. I look forward to reading this community's articles in other publications and seeing what new forums of academic exchange anthropologists of Eastern Europe will create in the future.

Sincerely,

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