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NEWSLETTER 2021/3 OCTOBER

IN FOCUS

Global Meeting on Economic Anthropology (June 30 and July 1)

The Anthropology of Economy Network hosted a virtual global meet-up of economic anthropology on June 30 and July 1. The meet-up explored the breadth and depth of contemporary economic anthropology beyond regional, thematic or paradigmatic divisions.

In two sessions, we explored a range of strands of economic anthropological research on Europe and the US, Africa and China, South America, and South Asia. Overall, the critical and engaged perspective of those present infused the event with a keen analytical and personal interest in themes such as extraction, informal economy, patriarchal social organization, protest, and ecology.

You find the program and recordings of the virtual meet-up on our events page on the EASA website: <https://www.easaonline.org/networks/economy/events>.

We look forward to your feedback on the event or recordings. Also, we are still

interested or have questions, let us know!

FORTHCOMING EVENT

SAVE THE DATE: Energy Ethics 2021 Conference on Energy Transitions and Planetary Futures taking place (25-27 October 2021)

You are warmly invited to the virtual [Energy Ethics 2021 Conference on Energy Transitions and Planetary Futures](https://energyethics2021.vfairs.com/) taking place October 25-27 2021:

<https://energyethics2021.vfairs.com/>

This multidisciplinary 3-day virtual conference is organised by the [Centre for Energy Ethics](#) at the University of St Andrews.

In the lead-up to COP26, we will reflect carefully and critically on envisioned energy transitions and what they might entail. Bringing together researchers across the arts, humanities, social, and natural sciences, we ask: what visions of society and planetary futures are being put forth by energy transitions around the world? What will their implications be? And how will they be realised?

We have an exciting programme of talks, screenings, debates, and opportunities for connecting with publishers and funders! Featuring:

- 60+ papers from researchers across the arts, humanities & sciences, from 32+ universities
- Keynote Addresses from Dr Dana Powell (Appalachian State University) and Prof Kim Fortun (University of California, Irvine)
- Film Screenings & Q&As with Directors
- Roundtable on “Just Transitions” & New Books on Energy Roundtable
- Virtual Exhibit Hall to meet editors and pressers (including Berghahn, MIT Press, Duke University Press, Stanford University Press, Bloomsbury) and find out more about research centres working on energy in the UK

[Registration](#) is FREE and open to all at:

<https://energyethics2021.vfairs.com/en/registration>

For any questions, please email ee2021@st-andrews.ac.uk

Workshop “Transversal value chains: Labour and capital linking different Europes” at CERl, Paris

On 8 October 2021, the workshop “Transversal value chains: Labour and capital linking different Europes” took place at Sciences Po Paris, hosted by the Centre of International Studies (CERl). The event, convened by Denys Gorbach from Sciences Po Paris and Don Kalb from the University of Bergen, was supported by EASA’s Anthropology of Labour network. The papers of the eight workshop participants were discussed by peers, as well as by Laurent Gayer from CERl and Don Kalb.

Echoing the main theme of EASA’s 2020 conference, the workshop interrogated value production and consumption chains as links in the last instance connecting core and periphery, north and south, east and west – both within and beyond the EU and European continent, thereby constantly (re)producing the uneven and combined Europe. Camilla Mevik’s opening presentation focused on the social mobility of the racialised labour aboard cargo ships – the topic further developed by Ambra Formenti, who investigated the flexible labour regimes and the multiple division lines among the migrant workers in the UK food retail. These chains of labour supply sometimes imply less physical mobility, but are deeply embedded into imaginaries of post-industrial creativity, personal financial success, and global connectedness, as shown in the papers on outsourced IT labour in Romania and on the agricultural productivism in Ukraine, presented by Oana Mateescu and Kateryna Soroka, respectively. The “moralisation” of transactions between the global centre and peripheral locations was in the focus of Stefan Leins, who presented a paper on Swiss commodity traders, and Anna Salmivaara, who analysed unequal power relations between labour unionists in the Cambodian garment industry and the global unions rooted in the rich European countries. Milan Skobic further developed this theme by reflecting on the contentious moral economy of Serbian manufacturing workers, centred on the notion of “theft”. Ognjen Kojanic offered a different angle by tracing the post-socialist survival strategy of a Croatian metalworking factory, whose integration into global capital flows hinges on underinvestment and low profitability.

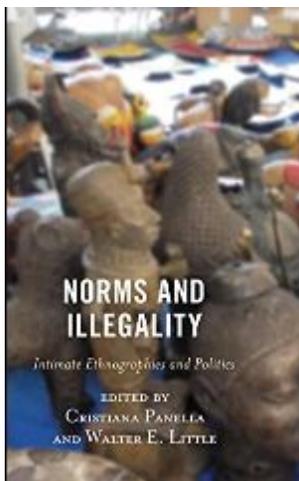
Exploring Social Entrepreneurship Across Geographical Spaces: A Conversation with Walter Little & Lynne

“Mergers & Acquisitions: Exchanges In and Beyond Economic Anthropology”, is a podcast series sponsored by the Society for Economic Anthropology, a section of the American Anthropology Association. In this episode, Ipshita talks to Professors Walter Little and Lynne Milgram about their long-term research on social entrepreneurship. Walter’s work with indigenous peoples in Guatemala and Mexico and Lynne’s focus on women workers in the Philippines lay the ground for a rich conversation and help rethink the globally standardized ideas on what constitutes social entrepreneurship. We also discuss the links between social entrepreneurship and ‘development’ and explore the ways in which ethnographic work and economic anthropology help scholars transcend static frameworks of analysis and gain a deeper sense of the distinctive needs, motivations, and values that peoples and communities bring to entrepreneurial labor.

Download the podcast from: <https://podcast.econanthro.org/posts-and-podcasts/>

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS, EDITED VOLUMES, AND SPECIAL ISSUES



Panella, C., & Little, W.E. (eds.) (2021). *Norms and Illegality. Intimate Ethnographies and Politics*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.
978-1-7936-4630-9 • Hardback
978-1-7936-4631-6 • eBook

Based on in-depth ethnographic research, *Norms and Illegality: Intimate Ethnographies and Political Control*, explores the entanglements and contradictions of what is legal and illegal. The illegalities the volume describes are ambiguous and flexible processes where theoretical conceptualizations like

of societal norms.

Through theoretical reflection and ethnographic analysis, the authors explore daily interfaces between legal, informal, and illegal domains, and the confrontation between the materiality of the norms and the corporeality of the social actors engaged in liminal and clandestine socio-economic activities. They show how the bodily presence within normalized spaces and representations does constitute a political challenge that questions legitimacy and citizenship. They indicate a construction of a counter-ethics with regard to an official norm based on the exposure of the body to physical and juridical risk as well as dynamics of social integration. In a wider perspective, the volume addresses the sense of the body lived as last economic and existential resource in an ethical knot of the discrimen between legality and illegality values.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781793646309/Norms-and-Illegality-Intimate-Ethnographies-and-Politics>

ARTICLES

Fontefrancesco, M.F. (2021). Modes and Forms of Knowledge of Farming Entrepreneurship: An Ethnographic Analysis among Small Farmers in NW Italy. *Knowledge* 1 (1): 2-11. DOI: [10.3390/knowledge1010002](https://doi.org/10.3390/knowledge1010002)

Milgram, B.L. (2021). Social Entrepreneurship and Arabica Coffee Production

Salverda, T., & Nkonde, C. (2021). When Land Becomes a Burden: An Analysis of an Underperforming Zambian Land Deal. *African Studies Review* 64 (3), 653-674. doi: [10.1017/asr.2021.65](https://doi.org/10.1017/asr.2021.65)

Schuster, C., & Sohini K. (2021). Subprime Empire: On the In-Betweenness of Finance. [with comments by Kristin Doughty, Martin Fotta, Julia Qermezi Huang, Deborah James, Jovan Scott Lewis, Susana Narotzky, Gustav Peebles, and Ariel Wilkis]. *Current Anthropology* 62 (4): 389-411. DOI: [10.1086/716066](https://doi.org/10.1086/716066)

Streinzer, A. (2021). Kinship, activism, and public health as interdependent modalities of care provision under Greek austerity. *EthnoAntropologia* 9 (1): 101–118.

<http://rivisteclub.it/riviste/index.php/etnoantropologia/article/view/359/579>

Streinzer, A. (2021). Common senses of distribution – Un/deservingness as conceptual tool for understanding inequality. In: Mikel Aramburu Otazu und Sílvia Bofill-Poch (Hg.): *Sentidos de injusticia, sentidos de crisis: tensiones conceptuales y aproximaciones etnográficas*. Barcelona, Edicions UB.

PERSPECTIVES, NOTES AND QUERIES

Property and politics on the edge of Europe

In the general election in the Republic of Ireland in February 2020 the third party, Sinn Féin, made unprecedented gains and was the leading vote-getter, ahead of the two major parties, Fianna Fáil, and Fine Gael. Sinn Féin was historically associated with the Provisional Irish Republican Army, and both the Irish media and the major parties reminded voters of this around election time. Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, however, it has grown into a left-centre third party. Mainstream media in Ireland and elsewhere nonetheless characterised Sinn Féin's unprecedented success as the most recent example of a worrying global trend of nationalist populism.

However, polling data revealed that voters mostly were concerned about housing, health, and homelessness, and the ruling parties' persistent failures in

the creation of a secondary market for domestic private loans. After courting international capital with light regulation and aggressively low taxes, real estate soared back to pre-collapse levels. One result was that more and more people were excluded from homeownership and affordable housing.

While housing and rising inequality were key factors in the poor electoral performance of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, one should be cautious about separating questions of nationalism from the attachments of housing and the 'home place'. Their connection recurs in the country over the past century or two. Irish nationalism was part of anti-eviction movements late in the nineteenth century and in the twentieth-century government provision of social housing was at the heart of efforts to improve the condition of the urban poor. More recently, however, the Irish state has repositioned its relationship to housing: it would provide the technical, bureaucratic means for the market to deliver housing. The last decade represented a critical juncture in this repositioning, as the state essentially nationalised defaulting Irish mortgages and both major parties sought out American 'vulture funds' to do some of the (tax-free) dirty work of repossessing and evicting Irish debtors.

To address nationalism and housing as distinct problems risks accepting liberal state ideology unreflectively, the idea that real estate and housing are matters for the private sector, which the state merely facilitates.

In the last three decades, anthropologists of post-socialist countries have attended not only to the way that private property was introduced, but also to the way that socialist property was unmade. The resurgence of nationalism and private property in those countries are self-evidently fused. As covid-19 eviction moratoria expire globally, how might we likewise take stock of the deeper attachments between homes and states: what sort of political formations are now competing to re-articulate, restructure or strengthen capitalist property and its exclusions in a post-covid world?

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If you want to reply to this column, or if you want to write a column or have an

The Anthropology of Economy network was launched at the 2012 conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists. The Network unites EASA members who share an interest in the anthropology of economy.

Further information on the AoE

Network: <https://www.easaonline.org/networks/economy/>

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AoE Network Newsletter 2021/3 was set by Ognjen Kojanić.



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