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NEWSLETTER 2018/1 DECEMBER

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Conference
Social Relations of the Capitalocene:
Work, Value(s) and Personhood Below the Commanding Heights
23 – 25 January 2019
Organisers: Chris Hann, Lale Yalçın-Heckmann and the ERC Research Group 'REALEURASIA'
Speakers are invited by the organisers. If you are interested in joining the workshop, please register with Lale Yalçın-Heckmann (yalcin@eth.mpg.de) by January 15th at the latest. More information available here.

RECENT EVENTS

Anthropology and Economic Sociology: shared methodologies and epistemologies
Roundtable co-sponsored by the Anthropology of Economy Network (EASA) Midterm Conference of the Economic Sociology Research Network of the European Sociological Association
University of Konstanz, 14 September 2018

Convenors: Martin Fotta and Andreas Streinzer

The aim of the roundtable was to start a conversation between economic anthropologists, sociologists and geographers who engage in ethnographic research of things economic. By way of introduction, Martin Fotta and Andreas Streinzer introduced their economic anthropological view of disciplinary boundaries and traditions, while highlighting significant overlaps. Then, Stephen Gudeman sketched his intellectual interest in models of livelihoods from his time as a student of Talcott Parsons to his later work on markets. Marc Boeckler, professor in economic geography at the Goethe University Frankfurt, discussed his research group's project on risk and predictability in agricultural insurance schemes in Africa. Influenced by economic anthropology and STS-oriented scholarship on the coproduction of knowledge, Prof. Boeckler championed ethnography as an epistemology to render "the rational strange". Judit Durst, trained in sociology and anthropology and a fellow at the department of anthropology at UCL, shared her experiences in interdisciplinary collaboration and the need to defend ethnography. Mario Schmidt from the University of Cologne, argued for the epistemology of ethnography as an "attitude, not a method". He juxtaposed understandings of ethnography between economic sociology and anthropology and advanced an imaginative, analytic and ironic attitude of what he called an "as if economic anthropology" that foregrounds radical constructivism.
After the initial statements, the panelists discussed questions from the audience on the differences between economic sociology discovering ethnography through urban studies and STS more than through economic anthropology; the different disciplinary standards concerning what counts as ethnography; and a possibility of a deeper engagement between the several sub-disciplines.
More information about the panel and the conference can be found here.

The moral dimensions of economic life in Africa
Workshop
University of Cologne, 8-9 November 2018

Organisers: Cristiano Lanzano (The Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden), Tijo Salverda (Global South Studies Center, University of Cologne, Germany) and Jörg Wiegratz (University of Leeds, UK)

Following upon a successful first workshop on "The Moral Dimensions of Economic Life in Africa" at the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden (14-15 June 2018), we hosted a second workshop in Cologne, Germany, at the Fritz Thyssen Foundation. Though a large number of presenters at both workshops were anthropologists, the debates particularly benefitted from the inclusion of participants with other disciplinary backgrounds, such as economic history, geography and political economy.
With a nice set of case studies from both senior and junior academics, the aim was to get a better understanding of what moral dimensions are at play when it comes to people's economic thinking, practices and relationships in African settings, on the one hand, and the structures in which they operate, on the other. Much of the discussion, unsurprisingly, focused on the moral economy concept and its applicability – or lack thereof. The discussions evidently showed that the concept remains valuable for our understanding of economic practices, inequality, redistribution, etc., though it was by no means perceived as the only way forward, as the reference to moral dimensions indicates. It is expected that a substantial selection of the contributions will be published in due course.

Thrift in Anthropology: Between Thriftiness and Wasting
Workshop
University of West Bohemia, Pilsen, 18-19 October 2018

Organisers: Daniel Sosna (University of West Bohemia, Czech Republic), Chris Hann (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany)

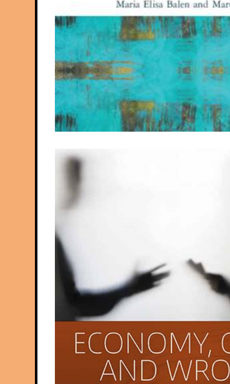
A small group of primarily anthropologists gathered in Pilsen to discuss the concept of thrift and explore its potential for understanding human economy. An incentive for this workshop was to explore inconsistencies and contradictions of thrift as well as its relations. We included both junior and senior scholars from different academic environments to bring their varied perspectives and stimulate the discussion. The format was based on nine longer presentations that left enough space for subsequent comments and questions.
The core papers represented primarily ethnographic case studies from Europe, although there were also presentations focusing on a discursive level of thrift and North American and Asian examples. The workshop uncovered several different dimensions of thinking about thrift. It can be traced across different scales, refer to different temporalities, mobilize calculative reason, morality, and emotions. Thrift has a specific relationship to value that can operate in various regimes and their mutual tensions may produce contradictions. It is expected that a substantial selection of the contributions will be published, most likely as an edited volume. The workshop would not be possible without the support from the Wenner-Gren Foundation, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, and University of West Bohemia.

IN FOCUS

The Max Planck Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy and Social Change (Max Cam Centre) is a joint project of the University of Cambridge and the Max Planck Society that started its operations in July 2017. The Centre has four co-Directors – James Laidlaw and Joel Robbins (Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge), Chris Hann (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale), and Peter van der Veer (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen) – and currently six postdoctoral fellows to undertake field research at sites around the world. Recently, the Centre has hosted events with Professor Dame Caroline Humphrey (University of Cambridge), Professor Stephen Gudeman (University of Minnesota), Professor Eva Illouz (EHESS), Professor Deirdre McCloskey (University of Illinois, Chicago) as well as several book symposia and internal seminars. Furthermore, the postdoctoral fellows hosted a panel at the ASA Conference 2018 in Oxford, participated with papers at EASA and will run a panel on *The work of value* at the forthcoming 117th AAA Annual Meeting in San Jose. Regular events as well as conference participations will in the future provide further possibility to engage with the work of the Centre and information can easily be obtained by signing up to its newsletter.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS



Balen, Maria Elisa and Martin Fotta (editors). 2018. *Money from the government in Latin America: conditional cash transfer programs and rural lives.* Abingdon, Oxon ; New York, NY : Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-815-38737-4 (Hb) 978-1-351-17316-2 (eBook)
https://www.routledge.com/Money-from-the-Government-in-Latin-America-Conditional-Cash-Transfer-Programmes/Balen-Fotta/p/book/9780815387374
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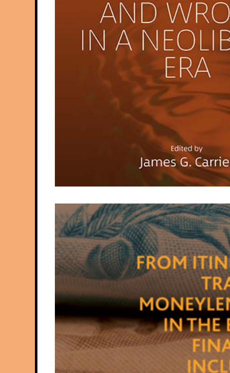
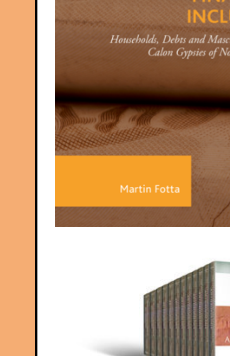
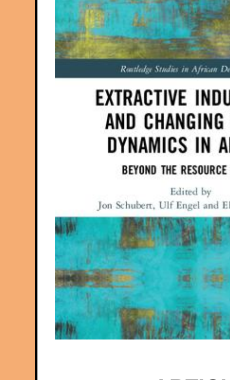


Carrier, James G (editor). 2018. *Economy, crime and wrong in a neoliberal era*. Volume 36 of EASA Series. New York ; Oxford : Berghahn Books. ISBN 978-1-78920-044-7 (Hb) 978-1-78920-045-4 (eBook)
http://www.berghahnbooks.com/title/CarrierEconomy



Fotta, Martin. 2018. *From Itinerant Trade to Moneylending in the Era of Financial Inclusion: Households, Debts and Masculinity among Calon Gypsies of Northeast Brazil*. Basingstoke : Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN 978-3-319-96408-9 (Hb) 978-3-319-96409-6 (eBook)
https://www.palgrave.com/de/book/9783319964089

Hann, Chris (ed.). 2018. *Economic Anthropology*. In *The International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. Edited by Hilary Callan. JohnWiley & Sons, Ltd. (ISBN 978-0-470-65722-5). DOI: 10.1002/9781118924396



Schubert, Jon, Ulf Engel, and Elísio Macamo, eds. 2018. *Extractive Industries and Changing State Dynamics in Africa. Beyond the Resource Curse*. Routledge Studies in African Development. New York; London: Routledge. ISBN 978-0-815-39184-5 (Hardback) 978-1-351-20062-2 (eBook)
https://www.routledge.com/Extractive-Industries-and-Changing-State-Dynamics-in-Africa-Beyond-the/Schubert-Engel-Macamo/p/book/9780815391845

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Calvão, Filipe. "Crypto-Miners: Digital Labor and the Power of Blockchain Technology." Economic Anthropology. DOI: 10.1002/sea2.12136

Marsden, Magnus and Vera Skvirskaja. 2018. Merchant Identities, Trading Nodes, and Globalization: Introduction to the Special Issue. In *History and Anthropology.* DOI: 10.1080/02757206.2018.1497622

Salverda, Tijo and Irene Skovgaard-Smith. 2018. Attribution and Contestation: Relations between Elites and Other Social Groups. *Critique of Anthropology* 38 (3): 265-284. DOI: 10.1177/0308275X18775202

Salverda, Tijo. 2018. Facing Criticism: An Analysis of (Land-Based) Corporate Responses to the Large-Scale Land Acquisition Countermovement. *The Journal of Peasant Studies.* DOI: 10.1080/03066150.2018.1439930

Schubert, Jon. 2018. "Wilful Entanglements: Extractive Industries and the Co-Production of Sovereignty in Mozambique." *Ethnography*. DOI: 10.1177/1466138118802953

Skvirskaja, Vera. 2018. 'Russian merchant' legacies in post-Soviet trade with China: Moral economy, economic success and business innovation in Yiwu. In *History and Anthropology*. DOI: 10.1080/02757206.2018.1496916

PERSPECTIVES, NOTES AND QUERIES

Welcome to Perspectives, Notes and Queries, a regular feature in the network newsletter. As you probably know, this is where you can present ideas, ask questions or make observations about the sub-discipline or the world, so long as they are relevant to economic anthropology. As you probably also know, submissions need to be brief, a maximum of 500 words.

You should send your submissions, or ideas about submissions, to me, at the e-mail address below.

I shall start things off with a brief question. Up through the 1980s economic anthropology predominantly was studies of aspects of relatively small-scale, village societies, things like exchange systems, agricultural practices and trading patterns. Since then increasingly we have studied larger and often more abstract entities and processes, things like the consequences of neoliberal reform and financialisation. Are we better or worse off for the change, and why?

James G. Carrier
jgc@jgcarrier.demon.co.uk

CALLS FOR PAPERS, APPLICATIONS AND SIMILAR

CfP: The future of retirement in Latin America
"Future today / yesterday / tomorrow. Visions of Future(s) in the Americas"
Conference
University of Bonn, 12-14 June 2019

Convenor: Martin Fotta (Fotta@em.uni-frankfurt.de)

Old-age pensions have become assimilated into the life expectations of many people in Latin America. Intra-household dynamics, attitudes towards work, and investment strategies all reflect this orientation. This panel examines how retirement benefits influence people's views of their futures and shape their behaviour in the present. Questions for consideration may include: How do people plan for social provision in old age? How do people view the role of the state in their future retirement? How are life stages imagined in relation to retirement? How do strategies of saving and investment change according to such imaginaries? How do characteristics of pension systems, formal financial instruments of credit and investment, and availability of alternative forms of retirement influence such strategies? What place do retirement benefits assume within families? How do they influence projects of non-recipients?

Deadline: submit your proposal to the panel convenor by **15 January 2019**. Proposal, in Word-format, must include title and abstract (of no more than 250 words).

More information about the conference and a complete list of panels can be found here.

CfP: Agreeing to disagree? Debating the paradigmatic and epistemological importance of negotiations in economic anthropology
Roundtable at the German Anthropological Association Conference
University of Konstanz, 29 September – 3 October 2019

Convenors: Andreas Streinzer und Mario Schmidt (AG Wirtschaftsethnologie)
streinzer@em.uni-frankfurt.de

The aim is to make visible this imagery and conceptualisations of "negotiation" from different paradigmatic and epistemological vantage points in economic anthropology and to address the question if negotiations are a conceptual backdoor for the unnoticed re-appearance of the economistic calculative agent openly dismissed. "Negotiations" feature prominently in the history of economic anthropology, such as in the analysis of competitive and antagonistic bargaining in bazaars and other marketplaces, of complex relations of value, obligation and kinship in property transactions around marriages as well as of political-economic power struggles between actors and institutions in capitalist economies. From households to central banks, bazaars to stock exchanges, "negotiations" seem to play a crucial role in conceptualising things economic, and yet remain underexplored in their conceptual and epistemological ramifications. Contributions are *not* expected to deliver 15 to 20 minutes papers on the question. Rather, we invite presenters to submit pointed motions that suggest a conceptualisation of negotiations and formulate paradigmatic and epistemological statements about their importance for (economic) anthropology (and for anthropology at large).

Deadline for contributions: **15 February 2019**
More information can be found here.

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/
Contact for Newsletter inquiries and submissions:
Detelina Tocheva, tocheva.detelina@gmail.com

AoE Network Newsletter 2018/1 was set by Ognjen Kojanić.

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