

Editorial

Our current times urgently need anthropological perspectives. Authoritarian movements challenge democratic institutions, migration policies become sites of exclusion and resistance, and the rule of law faces attacks from multiple directions. In such moments, anthropology must respond – not only with careful ethnographic research but also with timely critical interventions.

Ethnoscripts engages with this challenge through a diversity of formats, each with its own strengths. Our guest-edited special issues remain the journal's core, providing space for in-depth ethnographic analysis and theoretical innovation. We also publish reviews, obituaries, interviews, and research reports that capture different aspects of anthropological work. And now we are introducing a new format that allows for timely critical interventions: Think Pieces.

Think Pieces are short, incisive essays (1,000–1,500 words) that engage critically with current developments within anthropology and beyond. They reflect on key challenges in our discipline, address trends in anthropological research and practice, and explore how anthropology can contribute to wider societal debates. This format allows us to bridge the gap between the often slow cycles of academic publishing and the urgency of contemporary issues. We invite thought-provoking perspectives that spark reflection and discussion, and we look forward to receiving your submissions for future issues.

The four Think Pieces in this issue exemplify the kind of critical engagement we envision. Žiga Podgornik Jakil draws on ethnographic research with alter-globalisation activists during the 2015 “refugee crisis” to show how egalitarian assemblies and visions of open borders can counter nationalist exclusion. Stefan Wellgraf reflects on the methodological and ethical challenges anthropologists face when studying right-wing movements, navigating the complex terrain between “immoral” and “militant” approaches. Jonas Bens and Larissa Vettters argue that legal anthropology must respond to global attacks on the rule of law by studying both alternative legal orders and the transformation and weaponisation of liberal law itself. Gabriel Scheidecker critiques “academic gossip” in anthropology – the tendency to criticize other disciplines while speaking primarily among ourselves – and calls for genuine interdisciplinary dialogue that extends anthropology's critical relevance.

These contributions demonstrate how anthropology can intervene in urgent debates: about migration and borders, about the rise of the political right, about law and its limits, and about the role of our discipline in academia and society. They show that critical intervention and careful analysis are not opposed but complementary modes of anthropological work.

The current issue also features a special section on “Jewish Cultural Heritage, Minority Agency, and the State,” which explores how Jewish communities navigate heritage politics and state power in diverse contexts.

Ethnoscripts – now after a relaunch of our website at Hamburg University Press even more accessible than before – is committed to publishing both new research and critical interventions on our times. We invite you to engage with the contributions in this issue and to consider submitting your own work, whether as detailed research or as a timely intervention.

The *Ethnoscripts* Editorial Team