



## The Ethnographic Edge



ISSN 2537-7426  
Website: <http://tee.ac.nz/>

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### Title of Issue: The Ethnographic Edge Volume 1, Issue 1, 2017

**Editors: Jacquie Kidd and Robert Rinehart**

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To cite this article: Rinehart, Robert, E, and Jacquie Kidd. 2017. "Contemporary Ethnographies Я Us." *The Ethnographic Edge* 1, (1): 1–2. <http://dx.doi.org/10.14663/tee.v1i1.27>

**To link to this article:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.14663/tee.v1i1.27>

**To link to this volume** <http://dx.doi.org/10.14663/tee.v1i1>

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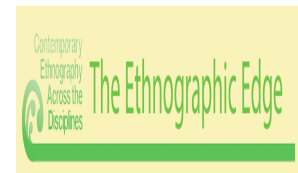
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## Contemporary Ethnographies Us

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*The Ethnographic Edge* has arrived! In 2010, we—that is, a collection of sport sociology scholars at the University of Waikato—established the first CEAD *hui* (te reo Māori for a meeting or gathering for discussion). The *Association* for Contemporary Ethnography Across the Disciplines began in 2014 and, in 2017, thanks largely to the efforts of now-co-editor Jacquie Kidd, has its own vehicle for dissemination of important, cutting-edge work, and for exploration into all kinds of ethnographic practice(s), praxis and problematics.

The title of this journal, *The Ethnographic Edge*, is significant: obviously steeped in ethnographic tradition(s) and worldview(s), we mean it to be avant-garde, in the sense that the work displayed feeds and disseminates new questions, drives novelty, challenges assumptions. We mean it to be cutting-edge: we welcome visual ethnographies, ethnographies that explore the sensory and sensual in technologically-challenging ways; we seek to push boundaries, to create a safe space in which to explore marginalised, sometimes ‘unsafe’, topics and practices. In its edginess, we mean it to embrace peoples and their spaces who occupy the margins; to surrender this space to quiet or disenfranchised voices and to offer yourspace-ourspace-thirdspace for exploration and encouragement in a milieu of *awhinatia* (care) and *tautoko* (support). We mean it to be welcoming of all sorts of ethnographic problematics, welcoming to fresh approaches that push our ways of thinking about subject matter but, even more, about what ethnographic work may do.

We mean it also to be informed by an indigenous, socially-just, feminist communitarian ethos that is both critical in its epistemology and humane in its ontology. We want a lot from this little journal: it is meant to be a platform for praxis, for noticing, unsettling and combating the unfairness within the world and, through on-the-ground solutions and coming together of like-minded scholars and participants in our research, to solve problems.

We know that this remit for our readers and authors will continue to create disharmonies, cacophony, and puzzles: in our view, discussion and openness and democratic debate is the way forward for humankind’s progress. As a dissonant Carl Jung is said to have written to James Joyce regarding his response to *Ulysses*: “... I must tell you that I’m profoundly grateful to yourself as well as to your gigantic opus, because I learned a great deal from it. I shall probably never be quite sure whether I did enjoy it, because it meant too much grinding of nerves and of grey matter” (Jones 2014, 4). This



personal letter came after Jung had published a sharp review of the novel in *Europäische Revue*. In it, Jung wrote, “It seems to me now ... that all that is negative in Joyce’s work, all that is cold-blooded, bizarre and banal, grotesque and devilish, is a positive virtue for which it deserves praise” (in Jones, 2014, 3). Cognitive dissonance, initial gob-smacking confusion: these are indications of the potential for real growth, these are markers of revolutionary societal change for the benefit of humankind.

The initial issue of *The Ethnographic Edge* is, of course, both highly symbolic and significant. We wish to create a ‘splash’ on the ethnographic scene, while remaining true to what ethnography (auto, duo, collective) *means* and *does*. As our renowned Board of Directors have agreed, we have put forth a kind of ‘Forum’ section, one where Professor Keyan Tomaselli (University of Kwa-Zulu Natal) has graciously offered some personal insights on institutional ethics and the contemporary world. Within this forum, four scholars have provided reactions and/or responses to Tomaselli’s piece. It is a lively beginning, and one that, hopefully, sets a tone for honest dialogue, mutually-respectful interaction, and ways forward through discourse. As well, we have several other splendid research articles, ranging in subject matter from justice within bipartite systems on the marae to a meaningful discussion of the place of art-based research within qualitative research to an in-depth discussion of various tensions in co-production of an ethnographic piece.

These initial essays demonstrate the quality and range of engagement with the ethnographic within this journal. It is tricky ground, a delicate space to inhabit: as exemplars for issues to come and for future pieces, these essays (and poems, and photos, and ...) serve as metonymies for this journal. For, to be honest, on the one hand, we wish to challenge modernist ‘truth claims’ of a grand theorising scientific model that has distilled into a neoliberal, audit culture driven, anti-intellectualism ethics system that at times is incredibly out of touch with human experience. On the other hand, we reject the claims of the right that everything we disagree with must be false, that we exist in a ‘post-truth’ infused world. The surety, the way through, is a type of humanistic intellectual project that re-inserts the subject into the equation. Whether the subject is human, post human, other living animal, or even, certainly, vegetative life form, acknowledgement of its subjectivity is crucial to our project.

Another of our key aims is to provide a forum for non-dominant voices that may run somewhat counter or tangential to hegemonic ways of thinking. By opening up rather than closing down our receptivity to those voices who have been relatively voiceless—indigenous voices, queer voices, Southern Hemispheric voices, and other ‘on-the-periphery’ voices—we hope to promote and nourish community in its highest sense.

Thus, we present to you the first issue of the first volume of *The Ethnographic Edge*. We encourage submissions from ACEAD members, but also hope that word-of-mouth and social media transmission will spread the message that a new electronic journal for and about ethnography has been born!

## References

- Jones, Josh. 2014. Carl Jung writes a review of Joyce’s *Ulysses* and mails it to the author (1932). Open Culture (18 June). <http://www.openculture.com/2014/06/carl-jung-writes-a-review-of-joyces-ulysses.html> Retrieved 23 October 2017.