



Introductory Note by the Editors-in-Chief

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The present issue of *kritisk etnografi* – Swedish Journal of Anthropology, has as its theme, *Infrastructures and environments in late industrialism*, under the leadership of the guest editors Chakad Ojani, PhD, Pro Futura Scientia Fellow, Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University, Susann B. Ullberg, Associate Professor, Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, Uppsala University, and Asta Vonderau, Professor, Department of Social Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. The issue was initiated through a panel entitled, Prefiguring Futures in the Ruins of Late Industrialism at the 2022 SANT conference in Gothenburg. It takes its point of departure in the exhausted infrastructures of late industrialism, its ruins and toxic landscapes. However, instead of focusing on the material conditions only, the authors place the infrastructural ruins in an environmental landscape. Anthropology is used as a means to ethnographically explore everyday life in the “infrastructure-environment nexus” and the active agents in this landscape. Investigated is not merely the history of ruins but the fragments or coexistence of a future beyond the end of late industrialism. In so doing, broken-down infrastructure is not only reminiscent of a dark history but also inhabits possibilities for a new future.

The issue consists of four articles, and one substantial introduction by the guest editors. In the Introduction the editors present key concepts and themes running through the papers and the research field, including the notion of “same time” a term delineating how simultaneity between different temporalities is established as a relation. In the first article, by Proshant Chakraborty, we are introduced to the “beating heart” of Mumbai, its railway network and how the infrastructural care that workers are providing is situated in a social and political landscape. The following piece, by Jenny Lindblad, is concerned with public transportation as well. But in this case, we move to Sweden and the underground system in Stockholm and how the deterioration of the existing infrastructure is contrasted with future aspirations. In the third article, written by Elisa Maria López, Sweden is also in focus. The author brings the reader into the exciting and slightly frightening urban transformations in Kiruna. Due to underground mining the entire city centre is being moved to make way for new extractions. In the final article, Mareike Pampus presents a case study from a mining district in former East Germany. The mining activities ended a couple of decades ago and restoration efforts have been in place since then. In her text Pampus explores the restorative process and extends the notion of agency to more-than-humans by applying a multispecies lens.

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Since the journal was launched in August 2018 with the inaugural issue that dealt with *The Public Presence of Anthropology* (Vol 1, No 1, 2018) developed around Professor Didier Fassin's Vega Symposium in 2016, we have worked hard to consolidate the journal's publication and dissemination. The second issue, which was a double issue, was themed *Comparative Municipal Ethnographies* (Vol 2, No 1-2, 2019), edited by Professor Sten Hagberg, and focused on the anthropology of local politics across the world. The first issue of 2020 inquired into *The Anthropology of Wellbeing in Troubled Times* (Vol 3, No 1, 2020) and was developed around Professor Paul Stoller's 2013 Vega Symposium. The second issue of 2020 focused on ethnographic practices in applied contexts, *Putting Swedish Anthropology to Work* (Vol 3, No 2, 2020), edited by Professor Lisa Åkesson and Professor Maris Boyd Gillette. Two issues were published in 2021. The first one was a *Varia* issue, and the second explored *The Social Life of Water* with Professor Karsten Pearregaard and Professor Paula Uimonen as guest editors. In 2022, *kritisk etnografi* was published as a double issue addressing the question, *Is Europe skilling for sustainable food?*, developed by guest editors Professor Maris Boyd Gillette and Professor Cristina Grasseni. The first issue of 2023 was themed *The Future of Diversity*, focused on Professor Thomas Hylland Eriksen's Vega Symposium in 2022. The second issue in 2023 was also a theme issue on *The Fear Among Us*, under the leadership of the guest editors, Dr. Anna Gustafsson and Associate Professor Eva-Maria Hardtmann, both anthropologists from Stockholm University.

As Editors-in-Chief of *kritisk etnografi* – Swedish Journal of Anthropology we would like to emphasise that we welcome proposals for thematic issues, individual papers, and shorter pieces from colleagues at Swedish universities and beyond. To recall, *kritisk etnografi* is a scientific, peer-reviewed open access journal, free of any charges, published by the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography (SSAG).

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