

14 April 2018

Dear anthropology colleagues

I recently reached out to colleagues across the region to enquire after their well-being and the well-being of anthropology and its students. The response was palpable and reflected an immense desire to converse. So welcome to the inaugural ASnA President's Newsletter. In trying to find a word/title, I have chosen to draw on the Maori word *Kōrerorero* from my native New Zealand. *Kōrerorero* is both a noun and a verb meaning a 'conversation' or 'to converse'. For the moment '*kōrerorero*' conveys my goals here: to converse with ASnA members, anthropological colleagues both in the academy and outside of it, and students learning the art of anthropology.

***Kōrerorero* Starters! (or ice breakers)**

I was recently informed that North West University colleagues have introduced an honours programme this year, and currently have four students registered. Head of Department Pia Bombardella has invited any guests passing through 'Potch' to drop in and join them for their departmental tea on Wednesdays from 14:15 in the Anthropology Project Room.

Mozambique's New Museum of Archaeology

The Department of Archaeology and Anthropology of Universidade Eduardo Mondlane celebrated the opening of its Museum of Archaeology in December 2017. The university, Mozambique's oldest, is named for an icon of the country's independence movement and the first president of FRELIMO, the Mozambique Liberation Front ruling political party. Mondlane, trained as an anthropologist and sociologist, was assassinated in 1969. The museum in Maputo is the first to span the



southeastern African nation's history from the lower Stone Age to modern societies. Dr. Cláudio Mongoi, the director for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, envisions a space devoted to inspiration and wisdom as multiple academic disciplines – in languages and literature, political science, history or anthropology – “*A place where the different humanities and social sciences know each other.*” Read more [in Portuguese](#) or [in English](#)

Meet our new editors

Two new members have joined our editorial team. The journal's Editorial Board advertised for a new editor to join Editor-in-Chief Shannon Morreira and Editor Sandra Manuel in October 2017 and recently appointed Rita Kesselring for the position of Editor and Romie Nghitevelekwa for the position of Book Reviews Editor. The role of Book Reviews Editor entails keeping track of new books, especially those by ASnA members; finding people to review the new books; liaising between publishers and reviewers so they get the book to review; and finally doing an edit of a short review.

- Shannon Morreira is Editor-in-Chief of the journal. She is Senior Lecturer in the Humanities Education Development Unit at the University of Cape Town. She is the author of *Rights After Wrongs: Human Rights and Local Knowledge in Zimbabwe* (Stanford University Press, 2016)

- Sandra Manuel is Assistant Professor in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique; where she is also Adviser for the Vice-Chancellor.
- Rita Kesselring is Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Basel, Switzerland. She is the author of the book *Bodies of Truth: Law, Memory and Emancipation in Post-apartheid South Africa* (Stanford University Press, 2016) and currently works on governance, the built environment and the body in new mining towns in Zambia.
- Romi Nghitevelekwa is a Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of Namibia. She successfully defended her PhD at the University of Freiburg earlier in 2018.
- Caroline Jeannerat is the editorial assistant and copy-editor for the journal. She trained in anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Michigan.

Botswana Buzz

The [call for papers](#) for the annual conference to be held in Gaborone, Botswana later in the year is generating considerable buzz. From the grapevine, I understand that the northern South African universities are organising panels and transport for their students. Julia Hornberger, the Head at Wits, informed me that Wits “are busy with a concerted effort this year to bring as many staff and PG students to the Conference in September. We will be present with about 3-4 panels which are being put together by PG students with our help and supervision.” North West University is funding their newly registered Honours students to attend the conference. And for the last few years, the University of Johannesburg has been generous in hiring a mini bus to transport their students. I’m imagining that Johannesburg will serve as a central transport hub, and anyone needing or offering a lift to Gaborone should email me for contacts. I’ll need a lift if anyone’s willing?

University of Zululand Profile

I received the most wonderful response from the Prof Antonia Nzama, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Zululand which led to a flurry of emails as I slowly narrowed down the UZ anthropologist and was eventually pointed to Mr. Clasper Monyela. Asking about anthropology at UZ, Clasper provided me with the following:

“After the institutional transformation that took place some years ago, the Department of Anthropology was integrated with Development Studies and become The Department of Anthropology and Development Studies. In other words, anthropology does not exist as a standalone programme. There are only eight undergraduate anthropology modules taught in the department currently. And all post-graduate qualifications (Hon, MA and PhD) are intended to be reinstated and offered in the year 2019. Lastly, the department currently has only one lecturer, Mr. Clasper Monyela for anthropology. However, in the region and province, KwaZulu-Natal, anthropology has been highly recognized as a discipline with a potential to contribute to new knowledge production, particularly, regarding the genealogies, cultures and traditions, and history of the societies and people in province. This is to give access of local voices to the global contexts and provide globally competitive graduates, relevant for the human capital needs of our country, by proving quality education which upholds high standards of research and academic excellence.”



“Anthropology...how can you get a job doing that?”

I'm frequently asked about life after studies and whether one can get a job with their anthropology. ASnA membership is very academy dominated and we often lose contact with our fellow anthropologists and former students once employed outside of the academy. I hope over the coming year to build and strengthen these links. For now, my goal is to simply introduce people using their anthropology outside



the academy. If you know someone or an organisation you'd like me to profile in my next newsletter then send me an email.

Meet Tasnim Alli, the Client Insights & Analytics Initiative Leader for Metropolitan Life

“My passion and creativity for understanding the human condition was moulded at the University of Johannesburg where I received my Master in Anthropology. My MA focused on organisational culture through ethnography and with the help of my supervisors Prof Thea De Wet and Prof Ingrid

Marias, I learned to do the most important thing that would help me in my career: tell the story. I lead a multi-discipline team using both qualitative and quantitative methodologies in research to tell the story of the client to the business. Anthropology principles are used in everything from deep insights through ethnographic research to UX (user experience). It has also been instrumental in helping define the structure of the team I work with because of its ability to respect different disciplines, see what others don't and probably the most important – tell the holistic story. In telling the story we as a business can create a client-centric focus that understands the humanity in everything we do.”

'Kia kaha ki te kōrero – give speaking a go'

Helen

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