

HEALTH, MONEY, COMMERCE,  
AND WEALTH

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RESEARCH IN ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGY VOLUME 43

**HEALTH, MONEY,  
COMMERCE, AND WEALTH:  
ANTHROPOLOGICAL  
PERSPECTIVES**

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



*This volume of REA is dedicated to the memory of anthropologist Carolyn K. Lesorogol (1965–2023). Carolyn was a member of REA's Editorial Advisory Board since its 2014 formation, and was instrumental in forging a connection between REA and the Society for Economic Anthropology that year, as president of the latter. Furthermore, she published in REA and served as a peer review referee. A true friend of REA, Carolyn's contributions to the series are much appreciated, and she is fondly remembered.*

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## ABOUT THE EDITORS

**Donald C. Wood** is an Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Medicine, Akita University, Akita, Japan, where he has worked since completing a doctoral degree in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Tokyo in 2004. Prior to that, he studied anthropology under Norbert Dannhaeuser and Jeff Cohen at Texas A&M University. He spent more than 15 years researching social conditions at the Hachirogata reclaimed land area in Akita Prefecture, which culminated in the publication of *Ogata-Mura: Sowing Dissent and Reclaiming Identity in a Japanese Farming Village*, by Berghahn Books (NY) in 2012 (released in paperback in 2015). He has also investigated tourism and the effects of depopulation in the Akita region, and was a contributor to the multi-authored book, *Japan's Shrinking Regions in the 21st Century* (Cambria, 2011). In recent years he has been working on a translation of a book published in Japan in 1938, conducting ethnohistorical research in Northeastern Japan, and contributing articles to *Kyoto Journal*, *Sapiens*, and *New Politics*.

**Raja Swamy** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Tennessee. He is a social anthropologist with an interest in the political economy and political ecology of natural disasters, and his first book *Building Back Better in India: Development, NGOs, and Artisanal Fishers after the 2004 Tsunami* (University of Alabama Press, 2021) investigates the impact of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami on coastal artisanal fishers in India's Tamil Nadu state. Weaving together concerns with contemporary debates over "disaster capitalism," humanitarianism, and neoliberalization, the book is an ethnographically grounded study of a reconstruction process that revealed in its clashing agendas the often-fraught dynamics undergirding the political agency of humanitarians seeking to do "good work," and artisanal fishers resisting displacement and reasserting their claims to coastal land. Since 2017 he has been examining the complex politics of recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Texas, specifically examining the impacts of the disaster and its aftermath on communities of color already living with toxicity and social marginalization in Houston. Swamy's academic publications cover the role of NGOs and humanitarianism in disaster reconstruction, the spatial politics of reconstruction and resistance in the aftermath of a disaster, the contested meanings of vulnerability, ecologically unequal exchange, the humanitarian gift economy, and the uses of heritage tourism development as a disaster reconstruction strategy.

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**Maureen Snow Andrade** is a Professor in the Organizational Leadership Department at Utah Valley University. She has an EdD in Higher Education Leadership and holds the distinction of Principal Fellow from the Higher Education Academy in the United Kingdom. She is a former Associate Vice president and Associate Dean and is currently serving as Assistant Department Chair. Her research interests include international student transitions, linguistic development, distance education, learning outcomes assessment, and leadership. She is a regular presenter at national and international conferences.

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**Nathan Draper** has a BA-Int'l Relations and an MBA. Nathan has worked in various roles in Southeast Asia since 1988, including accounting, procurement, training, and program management. He currently works as a translator and consultant. Nathan resides in Bangkok, Thailand.

**Sidney M. Greenfield** is a Professor of Anthropology Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is past President of the Association of Senior Anthropologists and the Association for the Anthropology of Consciousness of the American Anthropological Association. He presently is Co-chair of the Columbia University Seminars on Brazil, Studies in Religion and Contents and Methods in the Social Sciences. He has conducted ethnographic research in Barbados and New Bedford, Massachusetts, but mostly in Brazil, and ethno-historical and historical research in Portugal and the Atlantic Islands on problems ranging from family and kinship, patronage and politics, the history of plantations and plantation slavery, and entrepreneurship to Spiritist surgery and healing, syncretized Brazilian religions such as Candomblé, Umbanda, and Kardecist Spiritism, and Evangelical Protestants in Brazilian politics. He has authored and/or edited nine books, produced, directed, and authored five video

documentaries, and has published some 150 articles and reviews in books and professional journals. He is currently engaged in a research project with a Brazilian colleague examining religious entrepreneurship among Brazilian immigrants in New York City and several applied projects in a favela (slum) in the Northeastern Brazilian city of Fortaleza in which he and colleagues are working to improve the mental health of the members of the community and help them to raise their own food.

**Jessica R. Ham** is an environmental anthropologist working with the theoretical tools of feminist political ecology to understand how people relate to and interact with their environments to produce meaningful and healthy lives. To date, her work has centered on the ways smallholders in northern Ghana are contending with a changing climate as they strive to continue growing the food that nourishes a household. This work conceptualizes hunger as relational – produced at the interface of changing landscapes, agrarian political economies, foodways, and the body. Currently on faculty at Oxford College, Emory University’s liberal arts college, most of Dr Ham’s time and energy is dedicated to helping first and second year undergraduates see the power of learning to think like an anthropologist.

**Wesam Hassan** is a medical doctor who turned to anthropology, and is currently a doctoral candidate in social anthropology at the University of Oxford. She thinks through concepts of uncertainty, temporality, speculation, risk analysis, material and visual culture, and human techniques of negotiating everyday life precariousness. Her doctoral research is investigating speculative economic activities, gambling, and state-regulated games of chance activities in Turkey. Her MA research examined the biomedical uncertainty of HIV and AIDS, the experiences of HIV-positive mothers in Egypt, and the biopolitics of HIV and AIDS in Egypt post-2011. Hassan is also animated by visual and material culture and anthropology of consumption with focus on affective relations with practices (shopping, money, gambling, and betting) in the virtual and real worlds. Prior to focusing on her academic career starting in 2019, she worked as a public health specialist and researcher for more than 10 years with development agencies, such as UNFPA and UNICEF, and academic entities including John Hopkins University.

**Dawn Rivers** is a recent PhD recipient and an applied anthropologist operating a private business consultancy in Raleigh, North Carolina. Her research interests include alternative forms of work, workplace power relations, “otherness” in the workplace, and independent work. She has published articles in *The Anthropology of Work Review* and *Economic Anthropology*.

**Helena Moreira Schiel** obtained her PhD in Social Anthropology in 2023 from UFAM (Universidade Federal do Amazonas). She is currently an Assistant Professor at UFOPA (Universidade Federal do Oeste do Pará). She has fieldwork experience with the Karajá Indians of Central Brazil (Araguaia river), having researched and written on the subjects of interethnic relations, modes of



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**Samuel Weeks** is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. He received an MA from the University of Lisbon and a PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles. During 2017–2018, Dr Weeks was an affiliated researcher at the Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris. His research has been published in *Dialectical Anthropology*, *Deleuze and Guattari Studies*, *Review of Radical Political Economics*, *Journal of Language and Politics*, among others.