

February 2016

Editor's Note

Eric C. Jones
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Rebecca K. Zarger
University of South Florida

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/jea>

Recommended Citation

Jones, Eric C. and Zarger, Rebecca K.. "Editor's Note." *Journal of Ecological Anthropology* 17, no. 1 (2014): IV-V.

Available at: <http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/jea/vol17/iss1/13>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Anthropology at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Ecological Anthropology by an authorized editor of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.

EDITOR'S NOTE

After 16 volumes, this is our first volume produced by University of South Florida's ScholarCommons and available on our updated website (<http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/jea/>). We are very excited to be able to continue to be fully open access, but more formally so and with more support for production, indexing, and digital archiving with a website and journal management system powered by BePress, Berkeley Electronic Press <http://digitalcommons.bepress.com>. Articles and other features published are now assigned a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) to facilitate database searches through academic search services such as Google Scholar and this has been applied to our entire back catalogue. ScholarCommons supports the *Journal's* production costs, for which we are very thankful. The excellent team there allows us to focus on editing and leave the production to the pros. The move to ScholarCommons also means that we now have an online manuscript submission, review and management system which improves the ways the publication process is managed. After a learning curve over the past twelve months, submissions are up and time-to-publication has been reduced. We plan to continue to improve on the process with forthcoming volumes.

We still publish paper copies for a nominal subscription fee for libraries and in the event a solar flare takes out all our digital copies. This is unlikely because all content of Journal of Ecological Anthropology is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) and archivally preserved in LOCKSS. The transition also has allowed us more flexibility for formats and manuscript lengths (articles are now 7500 words not including notes, references, etc., whereas before the word count including those items), plus a greater number of book reviews. There is still no cost to authors to publish and no cost for readers to download, period. To date there have been over 20,000 downloads of articles from JEA since the new site became available over a year ago. That

represents much greater accessibility of ecological and environmental anthropology scholarship and the ability to track where scholars are located. It's clear we have a global audience for this journal, which is exciting.

In this volume, authors Christian Wells, Karla Davis-Salazar and Jose Moreno-Cortes took up anthropology's age-old interest in scale of analysis, investigating the role of sociogeographic scale in influencing human activity. In a riverine valley leading to the Caribbean coast of northwestern Honduras, they conducted interviews over several years, tested water quality and mapped culturally relevant features in the biophysical environment. They found that single water systems covered many communities, often with disparate interests and approaches and often with changing members and institutions. Consequences included: poor water quality at the household scale, lack of water due to storage capacity at the community level, disputes over water quantity and quality impacts of use between communities on the same stream and reduced water quality and supply at the scale of the valley due to development dynamics, agricultural intensification and deforestation—requiring integrated approaches across scales to improve water quality and quantity and reduce disputes.

Douglas London's Field Note piece considers the roles that anthropologists take on when carrying out community-based health research in Amazonian Ecuador. London describes how health promoter training served as the means for him to collect the data he needed in his research, since asking questions is a bit inappropriate in normal conversation with Waorani. This Field Note also addresses the larger question "How can we help indigenous groups adapt on their own terms to the severe changes that are occurring due to globalization, both for the individual humans we work with and for their overall cultural integrity?" In light of recent heated debates about the roles of anthropologists in engaging

people with no, little or relatively little contact with contemporary urbanized mechanized society and the multiple facets of global commodity chains, London's paper is refreshingly introspective yet unapologetic. He suggests researchers give something valued by locals, something that can sustain future interactions between locals and outsiders, something that has greater benefits than potential problems, something you're capable of giving, and something that benefits the community and not just individuals.

We'll let the book reviews speak for themselves, but we are pleased to have reviewed human-environment books in this volume relating to religion and social movements, religion and science, indigenous fire ecology, life in a place with little water, qualitative geographic information systems, research ethics and the tension between the nation-state and effective ecological decision-making.

Finally, we have a return of a "Last Bite" comic submission by Nemer Narchi. This contribution captures stubborn contradictions in academic research about the biophysical environment and human-environment relations in a globalized world.

We would like to thank Editorial Assistants, who contributed many hours and helped over the past two years with the transition to USF ScholarCommons: Steven Williams and Alexis Winter at USF; Jamila Burns and Tiffany Lam at University of North Carolina Greensboro; and Cristina Castillo, Mary Gerado and Sara Masoud at UTHSCH.

Sincerely,
ERIC C. JONES
REBECCA K. ZARGER
Co-Editors-in-Chief