

REPORT OF THE WCAA PUBLISHING COUNCIL – MAY 2024

Members:

Carmen Silvia de Moraes Rial, Chair (2020-)

Michel Bouchard (2020-)

Monica Heller (2020-)

Emily Metzner (2020-)

Ricardo A. Fagoaga (2020-)

Cheng Gang (2023-)

Vivinia Dominguez (2020-2023)

Gordon Mathews (2020-2023)

Jinsook Choi (2023-2023)

The Publishing Council was created in 2020. It oversees WCAA publications and seeks to promote the circulation of anthropological work. One such publication is *Déjà Lu* (“Already read”), a WCAA initiative that aims to pluralize the dissemination of anthropological knowledge on a global level by republishing articles that have been selected by chief editors of the journals of the member associations of the WCAA and other relevant journals in the field, some of which might be considered to be very big journals with broad circulation, some considered smaller with much lower circulation and citation indices. *Deja Lu* asks editors to choose the articles to avoid the imposition of hegemonic styles of argument and article structure or canons. The idea is to give those articles and journals global visibility through the WCAA’s international networks.

In 2021, the Publishing Council turned its attention to the makeup of editorial boards of anthropology journals around the globe, looking to find global diversity and significant representation of anthropologists producing knowledge from the Global South. The patterns we observed raised questions for us about what kinds of challenges chief editors face in ensuring global diversity on their editorial boards and in their publications, and prompted us to hold a series of fora for these conversations to deepen and share knowledge and to reach wider publics, and to share and devise strategies and ideas for how to overcome these obstacles.

The first of these forums was a WAU webinar on March 23rd of 2023. WAU, which stands for World Anthropological Union, which coalesces the WCAA and the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, or IUAES. A second WAU webinar was held in June of 2023. A third was a panel of editors who convened at the IUAES Congress, held in Delhi, India in October 2023, some in person, some virtually.

Each of these fora featured chief editors of anthropological journals in several parts of the world – including *Man in India*, the journal *Africa* based in the UK, *Etnografica* in Portugal, *Journal of Anthropology Southern Africa* in South Africa, *Horizontes Antropológicos* based in Brazil, *International Journal of Business Anthropology* based in China, *EASA* the European

Association's journal *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale*, *Korean Cultural Anthropology* based in South Korea, and *Cultural Anthropology and American Anthropologist* in the USA. During these fora, editors discussed global practices, problems, and hopes for anthropological publishing, and explored what associations such as WAU and the AAA can do to enhance global diversity in anthropological journal publishing.

In November 2023, the Publishing Council presented its work and findings at the CASCA/AAA Meeting in Toronto at a roundtable session titled, *Publishing Anthropology Worldwide* (which was also sponsored by AAA's then Members Programmatic Advisory and Advocacy Committee).

In the WAU congress in Johannesburg the WCAA Publishing Council will held a panel and a round table. In the early part of the year, PC members have worked on organizing this panel for the WAU Congress in South Africa, featuring editors of anthropological journals based in Europe, Latin America, Africa, China, and the United States and a the Round Table.

The Council is also working on a best practices guide for editors to ensure global diversity in publishing and knowledge dissemination.

At the end of 2023, the WCAA Publishing Council saw the roll off of members Jinsook Choi, Virginia Dominguez and Gordon Mathews. In 2024, James Chen joined the Council.