

## Editorial: A Space for Difference

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With the 57th volume of the *Ethnographisch-Archaeologische Zeitschrift (EAZ)*, we are delighted to relaunch one of the oldest academic forums of cross-disciplinary inquiry into humans and their lifeworlds from past to present. We reopen this journal at Kiel University, Germany, in 2023 with a volume dedicated to Franz Boas who was awarded his PhD in Kiel 142 years ago.

Within the contemporary humanities, integrated discourses that bridge archaeology, social and cultural anthropology and philosophy are becoming increasingly relevant in the endeavour to reach a broader and more comprehensive understanding of the human condition and our cultural-historical development as a species. As scholars within any discipline continue to narrow their scope of speciality towards more restricted domains or niches, it is important to also re-emphasise that much can be gained from the intersecting of multiple fields. The integration of these disciplines and perspectives has the potential to highlight the variability of human behaviour and experiences across space and time. By providing an appreciation of diverse temporalities, including *longue durée* perspectives, we hope to inspire new research in the interstitial zone between archaeological and ethnographic visions of human diversity. This agenda requires cross-cultural approaches grounded in pluralistic research strategies that are represented equally. In the last few decades, critical approaches to anthropology and archaeology from different directions (rooted in post-colonial, indigenous, feminist and queer concerns) increasingly problematised the androcentric, western and English-speaking hegemony of academic discourse, which reproduces global power imbalances and colonial forms of exploitation. The combination of anthropological and archaeological research, including a revival of transdisciplinary specialities such as

ethnoarchaeology, can amplify alternative and subaltern voices in ways that help decolonise the disciplines.

### **Aims and scope**

The *EAZ* aims to contribute much-needed critical and self-reflexive perspectives on contemporary global challenges such as social inequality, climate change and Indigenous sovereignty. The journal provides a novel, pluralist and international forum for these debates that is grounded in its long-standing history as a cross-field medium. Founded in 1953 in East Berlin, the *EAZ* draws from interdisciplinary traditions launched in Germany in the mid-19th century that integrate diverse approaches to archaeology and anthropology. This tradition influenced Franz Boas when he developed his seminal four-field approach to anthropology in the U.S. In Europe, however, the fields became institutionally separated, and the *EAZ* largely stood alone in upholding a transdisciplinary scope into the early 21st century. Published in Leipzig, Germany, between 2009 and 2018, it increasingly incorporated theoretical and philosophical contributions and analyses of the history of archaeological thought.

The re-launch of the *EAZ* at Kiel University establishes the journal as a forum for integrated and transdisciplinary approaches focused on challenging taken-for-granted research conventions by creating space for alternative epistemological frameworks. The *EAZ* is dedicated to research and scientific communication at the interfaces of archaeology, socio-cultural anthropology and philosophy focused particularly on relations between society, culture and the environment. By bridging disciplines to transcend their methodological and epistemological limitations, the journal aims to foster a deeper understanding of human

lifeways in ancient and contemporary contexts. It invites contributions focused on comparative analyses and analogy-based reasoning, multi-species approaches, ontological reflections, community-based research, cultural heritage, critical assessments of scientific colonialism and ethnocentrism, Indigenous and subaltern epistemologies and ethical reflections on ethnographic work and archaeology practice. The journal promotes a progressive social and political agenda by remaining open to new ontological and epistemic possibilities that have the potential to strengthen cultural survival and advance global equality.

### **Format, technical set-up and language**

The journal will be divided into three main sections:

- Regular research papers (with external peer review);
- Open section, e.g. for experimental and creative formats, discussion pieces and commentaries (not peer-reviewed but assessed by editors-in-chief);
- Book reviews and conference reports.

The *EAZ* is also open to publishing contributions from thematically relevant workshops and conferences. The journal will be published online-first in an Open Access free-of-charge version (Diamond Open Access). A paper version will be printed once a year and can be purchased on demand.

The editorial workflow of the *EAZ* rests on two pillars: Open Journal Systems (OJS) and Fidus Writer (FW), both of which are Open Source, community-based efforts to provide editorial software solutions free of charge. OJS serves as the backbone of the workflow, provides tools for communication between editors, authors and reviewers and integrates a web server to publish the content of the *EAZ* free of charge. FW provides a writing and commenting environment which is tightly connected to OJS. Thus, a smooth reviewing process is ensured, and a streamlined, automated and effective production of the finished paper is supported. OJS and FW are running on servers hosted by the Computing Centre of Kiel University, thus securing the long-term availability of the *EAZ*. The Cluster of Excellence ROOTS at Kiel University provides funding for the further development of specific features of the *EAZ* as, for example, an interface for bulk translation of papers in other languages than English. The print-on-demand of paper copies of the *EAZ* will be organised in collaboration with Kiel University Press.

In accordance with our philosophy, authors are free to publish in any language of their choice in which they feel

their ideas and findings can be best expressed. At the same time, we acknowledge the growing role of English as a *lingua franca* in worldwide scientific communication, therefore an English version of non-English texts is encouraged to be published in addition to the original version.

### **Editorial board**

The steering committee of the journal consists of a group of six editors-in-chief, composed of the Kiel core group and distinguished international scholars from relevant fields who will select the papers and ensure quality assessment through a peer review process. An international scientific board of associate editors from across the globe and relevant fields of expertise is involved in the acquisition of contributions to the *EAZ* and in identifying suitable peer reviewers.

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