

EDITORS' FOREWORD

We are pleased and proud to introduce an issue that marks several anniversaries at once. It is now ten years since the first number of our parent journal, *Antropologicheskii forum*, was published in autumn 2004. The decade since has seen a large number of developments in Russian academia and the so-called 'Russian World' more generally, not all of them positive (the anniversary Forum alludes to some of these, while making clear that the increasing interference of political and academic administrators in scholarly and scientific work is also an international problem). In that context particularly, there is real cause for celebration that a journal with a tradition of intellectual independence has not only survived, but flourished. Since the first months when those who now form the core of the editorial board discussed the possibility of setting up a journal, the original project has become far more ambitious. We now publish four numbers a year (which, as from this year, are all being issued in paper form as well as online). We have developed the website (anthrologie.kunstkamera.ru) to act as a research resource; it is a particularly convenient place for the publication of research materials that don't fit the confines of an ordinary journal (for example, audio and video resources). And with this issue, we also reach our tenth issue in English, published shortly after our twentieth issue in Russian.

Among the materials included here is the Forum published in the anniversary Russian number, in which, alongside some of the original participants in the 2004 discussion of the state of things in contemporary anthropology, history, and cultural studies, we also feature some new voices. Work by younger scholars has always been something that we are eager to promote, and our selection of articles includes materials (for example, Maria Pirogovskaya's study of the late nineteenth-century olfactory domain and its ideological and emotional resonance in relation to the pathology of infectious disease, or Kirill Maslinsky's piece on school folklore) that exemplify our house traditions both in that regard and in that they address themes that are still new to the study of Russian culture. Whether it is gender studies (as in Anna Pivovarova's discussion of beliefs about the placenta), national identity and the stereotypes relating to it (exemplified here by Elena Berezovich's presentation of the often fantastic beliefs about Russian customs illustrated by the names attached to various types of supposedly Russian dish), or topics of contemporary interest such as migration, the articles that we publish explore some of the dominant contemporary topics in the study of culture, something that we are also determined to pursue over what will be, we hope, the next decades of the journal's existence.¹

Our thanks, as always, go to the translators, Ralph Cleminson and Rosie Tweddle, and also to the editorial staff, Olga Boitsova, Marina Ilyina, Alexandra Piir, and Maria Pirogovskaya. This issue also marks a new tradition in that it is the first not to be co-edited by Arkady Blumberg, whom we congratulate warmly on his appointment to a teaching position at the Faculty of Arts, European University, St Petersburg. His contribution over the past decade in terms of editorial policy as well as translation into Russian and the day-to-day work of editing the journal has been invaluable, and we are more grateful to him than we can easily express. Particular thanks also to Alexandra Kasatkina, who has taken over from Arkady as editor-translator, and who is responsible not only for excellent translations into Russian of material in our 'parent' edition, but for the copy-editing and other technical support of *Forum for Anthropology and Culture*.

¹ We are also delighted to note in passing the publication of a collection drawing on the material published in *Antropologicheskii forum, Russian Cultural Anthropology After the Collapse of Communism* (London: Routledge, 2012), which appeared in paperback just as this issue was going to press.