



FROM THE EDITORS

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FROM THE EDITORS

We have prepared this year's issue of *Forum for Anthropology and Culture* in a landscape unrecognisably transformed by 24 February 2022. The COVID epidemic had already bedevilled international collaborations such as ours in the two previous years. Its impact has not disappeared completely (as of October 2022, when we were completing work, PCR tests remained compulsory for entry to some countries, including the Russian Federation). However, the so-called 'special military operation' (or 'events of 24 February 2022', to employ the euphemisms currently permitted by legislation in Russia) has represented a tragedy of a different order. It has created not just practical difficulties — restrictions on flights as a result of the sanctions, restrictions in access to visas — but ethical difficulties. Should international collaborations continue as rockets tear apart Ukrainian cities and civilians are murdered by occupying troops? Should embargos also reach into the cultural and academic spheres?

For some, including some anthropologists, the answer would be a definite 'no': persisting with collaborations represents 'normalisation' of aggression, and perhaps even covert support. As eyewitnesses of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, we respectfully take a different view. We believe that to end collaborations endorses isolationism and entrenches xenophobia. It is vital to maintain our long-standing contacts, and to engage in dialogue, rather than retreating into self-righteous solitude. In that spirit, we have continued work on the English-language version of the *Forum*.

Academic publications work at a pace best described as stately. Next year's *Forum* will better reflect the changes 'since then'; we are currently organising a discussion about the impact of 24 February 2022 on the academic world. However, the present number, as it happens, does address some issues that have reacquired a tragic immediacy this year, for example, deportation. And we are delighted to be able to publish a newly translated article about Ukrainian traditional culture by Maria Mayerchuk.

We are grateful to the authors and staff of the journal, who have continued to work in very difficult circumstances, and to Ralph Cleminson for his excellent translations. We hope for more clement times in the future.

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