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Editorial

Anthropological engagements with care, mobility, and social transformation

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This issue of *Anuac* offers a multifaceted exploration of anthropological engagements with care, mobility, and the reconfigurations of social life in a world marked by intensifying inequalities and global shifts. The contributions, varied in their scope and contexts, converge around a central commitment: to foreground ethnographic insight as a mode of critical inquiry and a tool for imagining alternative futures. The issue comprises a rich thematic section, three research articles, two book reviews, and one review essay – each illuminating how anthropology can grasp the complex entanglements between people, places, and power.

Curated by Pietro Cingolani, Zaira Lofranco, and Federica Tarabusi, the Thematic Section on *Mobilità interconnesse e trasformazioni del sociale nello spazio est europeo* offers an incisive and necessary contribution to anthropological debates on Eastern Europe. This section offers a nuanced and regionally situated examination of the multiple and overlapping mobilities – of people, ideas, infrastructures, and solidarities – that shape the post-socialist and post-pan-

demic landscapes of countries such as Moldova, Romania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Rather than treating Eastern Europe as a peripheral or passive space, the editors and authors collectively reframe the region as a vibrant arena of transformation, shaped by the convergence of return migrations, forced displacements, transnational kinship networks, and grassroots solidarities. Their approach is multi-scalar and emic, paying close attention to how local actors experience and interpret shifting borders, categories of belonging, and institutional regimes.

Pietro Cingolani's contribution examines the interplay between return mobilities and refugee arrivals in Romania, highlighting unexpected solidarities and tensions between long-settled returnees and newly arrived forced migrants, particularly in the context of the Ukrainian crisis. Sabrina Tosi Cambini offers a dense, multi-sited ethnography of rudari kinship networks that traverse Romania, Italy, and beyond. Her work shows how genealogical and territorial configurations are continually reimagined, producing plural "Romanias" across space and generations. In Francesco Vietti's article, Moldova becomes a crucial node of transition and encounter, where Moldovan citizens, diaspora returnees, and Ukrainian refugees co-construct new meanings of hospitality in the shadow of war. Zaira Lofranco and Federica Tarabusi focus on Bosnia-Herzegovina's experience with migration along the Balkan route, showing how citizens with personal histories of displacement support migrants in transit – exposing the contradictions of European asylum policies and highlighting new moral economies of care. Collectively, these articles challenge binary understandings of East and West, host and guest, and movement and stasis. They call for a more integrated and critical anthropology of the region – one that acknowledges its histories, epistemologies, and capacities for transformation.

This issue presents three research articles by Elia Vitturini, Gloria Frisone, and Elisa Rondini, each offering a grounded ethnographic perspective on the construction and negotiation of community, care, and social life across different contexts. Elia Vitturini, in his article *The non-community of Somali migrants in Milan (Italy): The analysis of a "situation"*, draws on Georges Balandier's concept of the "situation" to interpret the social networks and solidarities among Somali migrants in Milan. Based on ethnographic research conducted since 2022, Vitturini examines intergenerational tensions, labour exploitation, and the changing role of clan structures (qabil) in shaping diasporic life. He introduces the concept of "non-community" to describe the open-ended, localised, and often fragmented nature of social adaptation among Somali migrants,

where expectations and everyday realities of solidarity sometimes diverge in complex ways.

Gloria Frisone offers an ethnography of Italian retirees who have settled in Hammamet, Tunisia – a group often associated with lifestyle or sun migration. Her article, *Hammamet “pensione completa”*, challenges simplistic interpretations of “privileged” migration by emphasising the diverse socio-economic backgrounds, biographical paths, and structural limits shaping this diaspora. She examines how retirees manage circular residence patterns, transnational lifestyles, and local interdependencies, with private consultancy agencies playing a crucial role in facilitating and overseeing this unique diasporic community – aptly described as a “vacation colony.”

Elisa Rondini, in *Come un’oasi protetta*, analyses discourses and practices within Italy’s community-based mental health services. Drawing from long-term ethnographic work, she examines how the language of rehabilitation – rooted in seemingly universal principles – structures standardised interventions that often remain detached from the lived experiences of users. Rondini critically reflects on how classificatory systems and performative discourses shape mental health “networks”, and calls for a renewed focus on the generative, processual dimensions of care as lived and co-constructed.

While distinct in setting and population, these three articles share a central concern with how communities – imagined or institutional – are assembled, inhabited, or contested. Whether through fragile solidarities in migrant networks, transnational lifestyles shaped by ageing and aspiration, or standardised care models that obscure lived needs, each contribution questions the ways individuals negotiate belonging and infrastructure in response to broader socio-political conditions. Together, they highlight ethnography’s ability to reveal the fragile, shifting structures of social life in contemporary contexts.

This issue also features a review article by Carlo Capello, which brings together two powerful recent works: Dionigi Albera’s *Lampedusa. Una storia mediterranea* (2025), and Lorenzo Alunni’s *Le cicatrici di Ulisse. Corpi e frontiere nel Mediterraneo* (2024). Capello’s reflection offers not just a critical assessment of the books but also a meditation on the Mediterranean as a layered and conflictual space – where borders, bodies, and memories intersect in unexpected ways. In the book review section, we also feature: a long review of James Scott’s volume *L’infrapolitica dei senza potere* (2025) by Stefano Boni, which reflects on agency and resistance among subaltern groups; and a review

of a timely and courageous collective volume, *Violences sexuelles sur le terrain* (2025), reviewed by Chiara Pilotto, which confronts the structural and methodological implications of gender-based violence in fieldwork settings.

We hope that readers find in this issue a compelling reflection of anthropology's critical relevance in a world marked by instability and transformation. These contributions speak not only to specific ethnographic contexts but also to broader challenges that demand new ways of thinking, relating, and caring. We thank the authors, editors, and reviewers who made this issue possible.

A sincere farewell: Antonio Maria Pusceddu

With this issue, we mark a moment of transition for *Anuac*: Antonio Maria Pusceddu, co-founder and long-standing member of the Editorial collective, has stepped down from the board. Antonio's contribution to *Anuac* has been nothing short of extraordinary. His intellectual integrity, collaborative spirit, and unwavering commitment to anthropological critique have helped shape the soul of this journal since its earliest days. Over the years, Antonio has guided *Anuac* through numerous editorial ventures, always advocating for rigorous, engaged, and ethically grounded scholarship. His generosity as a colleague, his sharp editorial eye, and his deep care for the field have left an indelible mark on our collective work. Though he is leaving the editorial board, he remains a cherished friend of the journal and a trusted interlocutor in our broader scholarly community. Thank you, Antonio, for everything.

Call for new members of the Editorial collective

As part of our ongoing commitment to renewal and pluralism, *Anuac* is currently seeking new members to join its Editorial collective. The call – available at <https://journals.openedition.org/anuac/1955> – invites applications from anthropologists and scholars committed to ethnographic depth, theoretical innovation, and critical engagement. We particularly welcome voices that can contribute to the journal's internationalisation and interdisciplinary dialogue. Those interested are encouraged to consult the full text of the *Call for new members of the Editorial collective 2026-2028* and contact the current editorial collective.

