

Editorial

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Welcome to the 41st issue of LOVA Journal of Gender Studies and Feminist Anthropology. This year we have a changing chair of LOVA. After nine years of committed and loving work, Marina de Regt decided to step down as LOVA's chair, and Jasmijn Rana gladly took over the chair for the next three-year-period of 2020–23. In this issue, Roxanne Kroon shares with us the interview she held with Marina and Jasmijn to discuss what this transition might bring to LOVA's visions and aspirations for the coming years.

LOVA's 41st brings you two research articles that challenge conventional Western, liberal and secular understandings of agency. Brenda Bartelink, Gabriela Bustamante, Lerina Kwamba and Sophia Löwe describe how Dutch-African women, living in The Hague, created visual and material objects and produced stories, bodily practices, and aesthetics as a social critic that challenges prevailing discourses of inclusion in the Netherlands. In turn, Valentine Hallard takes us to Madagascar. She describes the lived experiences of women living in Nosy Komba who engage in transactional exchanges that intertwine money and intimacy, challenging understandings of money as having intrinsic values *per se*, whether to denigrate or to dignify women's agencies and politics.

We are certainly proud of the collection of essays and reflections about fieldwork practices that will enter into dialogue with our personal, professional, and political experiences in times of the current Covid-19 pandemic. Kitti Baracsi, Margarita Bujosa Segado and Victoria Fernández Sánchez shared with us fragments of their lives and experiences of "academic motherhood" during the lockdown in Spain, highlighting the problems they faced as feminists, researchers

and mothers; their polyphonic writing nicely enacts the points they are making. Olha Gazziero-Mykytyn and Claudy Voeuhé, on their side, describe the gender-rights backlash produced by gender-blind governmental policies implemented as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, explaining the particular vulnerability of women working in informal economies in the Global South. The authors make visible the vital contributions of women and women's organisations to contain the pandemic in extreme circumstances and call for feminist anthropology to play a role to improve the management of future pandemics.

Three other pieces in this issue invite us to reflect on different ways the Covid-19 pandemic challenged our fieldwork practices. Ivana Ljuština, Sofie Smeets, and Ali Venir describe their experiences of uncertainty and vulnerability in times of Covid-19 pandemic. They share with us the various dilemmas and setbacks they had to confront while doing fieldwork whether in Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina or the Netherlands. Based on these experiences, they insist on revising and reclaiming the fragility that permeates all ethnographic undertakings. Sarah Salhany was doing fieldwork in Morocco when Covid-19 shook the world. She went for her first fieldwork experience to Casablanca to study the construction of femininity through an emic female gaze, when halfway her fieldwork, she was suddenly obliged to leave without saying goodbye to her informants. She shares with us her emotions and moral dilemmas and recounts how she was able to rely on her informants, some of them became academic collaborators, to complete her fieldwork from far away. María Eugenia Ulfe, Roxana Vergara and Vanessa Romo had been travelling back and forth to Cuninico – an indigenous community in the Peruvian Rainforest –, to work with women about the consequences of the oil spilling in their territories, when they had to face strict lockdown measures due to Covid-19. The authors reflect on the unexpected practical and ethical concerns they faced when their conventional participant-observation field research turned into a remote and digital anthropological

research, and how a podcast program *Our stories from Cuninico* became an unexpected product of new ways of collaborating.

In our section of book reviews, we share two contributions related to longstanding interests of our LOVA community: Bernardo Couto Soares presents the María Puig de la Bellasaca's (2017) book *Matters of Care: Speculative Ethics in More Than Human Worlds*, and Jarmila Bednarova presents Alana Apfel's book (2016) *Birth Work as Care Work: Stories from Activist*.

As always we share with you the reports of the so many LOVA activities we had in 2020: the *LOVA Photo Competition 2020*, the *LOVA Workshop Feminist Canine Ethnography* and the *Seminar Challenges of the Fieldworker: Choosing between Success and Safety*.

Finally, in Personalia you will find news of our members about their personal lives and professional achievements, projects and publications; including an *In Memoriam for Angeline van Achterberg* by Marina de Regt.

I am involved in producing this LOVA Journal as the new editor-in-chief. I am a Peruvian feminist medical and visual anthropologist, trained in Peru, Canada, England, and the Netherlands. Until last year I held a tenure position as Associate Professor at the School of Public Health and Administration of the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, where I coordinated the Unit for Intercultural Citizenship and Indigenous Health. I decided to retire early from the university to pursue other projects, and only recently, I moved with my family to the Netherlands. I couldn't have received a warmer welcoming than becoming the editor-in-chief of LOVA's 41st issue.

Wishing that you will enjoy reading this 41st issue of LOVA's Journal, receive our best wishes for the coming 2021.