



# Anthropology & Aging

Journal of the Association for Anthropology & Gerontology

## **Anthropology & Aging From the Editor-in-Chief**

Dr. Manonita Ghosh

m.ghosh@ecu.edu.au

Edith Cowan University, Australia

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Anthropology & Aging, Vol 45, No 2 (2024), pp. 1-2

ISSN 2374-2267(online) DOI 10.5195/aa.2024.546



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## ***Anthropology & Aging*** **From the Editor-in-Chief**

Dr. Manonita Ghosh

m.ghosh@ecu.edu.au  
Edith Cowan University, Australia

I am grateful for the recognition and responsibility to step into this role as the Editor-in-Chief of *Anthropology & Aging* along with Associate Editor Dr. Meghann Catherine Ward. We will honor the legacy of the journal and outstanding work done by outgoing editors Dr. Tannistha Samanta and Dr. Amy Clotworthy to enrich our knowledge and understanding of aging and the life course. I am excited to join a wonderful editorial board including Book Reviews Editor Christine Verbruggen; Portfolio & Commentary editor Anjana John; Multimedia Reviews Editor Shriya Thakkar; Assistant Editor Yvonne Wallace; Editorial Assistants Madison Clayton, Kayla McManus, and Amara Wristen; along with Editorial Advisory Board members, authors, students and peer reviewers for their tireless efforts and commitments in shaping and manifesting the journal's vision. Our multidisciplinary editorial team is diverse, coming from various geographical locations: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, India, Northern Ireland, Turkey, and the United States. Together, we bring a wealth of knowledge, expertise and a fresh perspective to the publication.

My home disciplines are anthropology, public health, and ethnomusicology. After migrating from Bangladesh to Australia, I have keenly observed the challenges anthropologists face in having their voices heard within the dominant medical frameworks of both modern Asian societies and Western countries, especially in the context of aging studies. However, it is important to realize the limitations of the medical model of aging, which primarily sees aging as a biological and physical process. Anthropological perspectives are key to understanding the social, cultural, and environmental aspects that greatly shape how people experience growing old, paying careful attention to how aging is socially constructed and the roles, relationships, and identities that influence people as they age.

My current work at the [ECU SOCIAL AGEING \(SAGE\) FUTURES LAB](#) in Western Australia is inspired by the notion of aging futures, which highlights the social revolution needed to re-imagine our relationship to aging. As an ethnomusicologist, I empathize with other art-based scholars who struggle to publish their work due to the non-traditional nature of their outputs, such as arts, music, portfolios, narratives, multimedia projects, and photography. These forms of work often do not align with traditional academic publishing formats. At *Anthropology & Aging* we hope to assist art-based scholars in finding suitable platforms for their work and ensure their contributions are recognized and valued within the academic community.

Associate Editor Dr. Meghann Catherine Ward is an Irish gerontologist, with a research background in psychology, social anthropology, contemporary arts, and human geography. Her research has primarily taken place in Northern Ireland and North-West England. Currently, she is pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship in Turkey focusing on dementia research in the Middle East. Dr. Ward offers a unique multidisciplinary approach to the journal and aims to increase its visibility in the Middle East and Global South.

Collectively, we want to preserve the ongoing vision of the *Anthropology & Aging* journal, as well as to expand its missions, particularly in the following areas:

- **The scope of the journal:** We want to continue to uphold the holistic, comparative, and international reach of the journal, in addition to ensuring we retain a broad range of subjects in our published works that represent emerging trends and diverse viewpoints in the field. We endeavor to draw on our own cross-disciplinary pathways, to work on special issues that cover overlooked topics, and to incorporate unconventional methods.
- **Authorship and readership:** It is a priority of ours that our journal welcomes the voices of emerging scholars and researchers, alongside those more experienced in their field, which will hopefully appeal to a more diverse reader audience. We aim to provide closer mentorship, guidance, and opportunities throughout the submission process, and particularly aim to support those from culturally and linguistically diverse countries. In association with AAGE, we also hope to find new ways of rewarding our authors for the quality of their submissions.
- **Publication outputs:** We are interested in publishing work that has been conducted in unconventional manners, thereby often requiring unconventional formats and means of output. While in the early stages of investigation, we hope to expand how we present our published works and are exploring ways of supporting multi-media data sources and 'more-than-words' content.

By focusing on these areas, the new editorial board will continue to uphold the ethos of inclusivity, diversity and fairness in research related to anthropology, aging, and the life course.