

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The *Hong Kong Anthropologist* is an online, open-access journal that aims to bring anthropology to the general public and provide a platform for anthropology students in Hong Kong to publish their research. We are actively seeking research that draws upon the varied areas of anthropology and related fields.

The papers in this issue come from selected Final Year Projects (FYPs) of undergraduate students from the Department of Anthropology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Earlier versions of these papers were presented at the 2023 FYP Forum. A prevailing theme of these ethnographic reports is that of *care*. Taken together, this selection of papers illustrates the concerns of young anthropologists. These are themes they cared so much about that they devoted the last of their undergraduate days to their investigation. Individually, each of the reports discusses care in one form or another.

MUI Lok Ya's paper explores the nature of care between humans and animals with a novel perspective. Writing about a volunteer group in Hong Kong that conducts post-death care practices for stray animals, her report richly details how care can be found in the most unlikely of places as people go to great lengths to ensure that these animals, who died without human companionship, can get a semblance of peace in their death. The volunteers also find deep meaning in this activity, with care not only being extended to the animals they find but also within the group and throughout its activities.

Approaching care differently, CHAN King Lung's paper comes from the experiences and memories of young students who went through the social unrest of 2019 following the introduction of the National Security Law. Specifically, the paper looks at how the young protesters envision their future in Hong Kong and their reasons for staying despite their concerns over the new law. The report shows what the youth care deeply about regarding their future, citing family and friends as key factors that influenced their decisions to stay.

Social movements do not come out of a vacuum. CHOI Mei Kei's paper meticulously traces the history of left-wing activism in Hong Kong from the 1960s-2010s through the life trajectories of three generations of leftists, who despite their differences, all joined the organization Left21. They challenged the mainstream activist discourse that put democracy and economic-materialist concerns at odds with each other and envisioned an alternative approach to caring about the city. Facing increasing conflicts between Hong Kong and China, the report presents how Left21 carefully treads through socialist ideals and a xenophobic neoliberal reality with various degrees of success and failure.

Exploring her unique care-providing experience as a maid, HO Yu Chai Mercy's paper is an immersive autoethnography that takes us into the world of Candy House, a local maid café. Here, young women role-play as anime-style maids to entertain their "Masters" and "Princesses". While the workload is heavy and the pay low, she found her job immensely fulfilling. To understand why, this report analyses the aspects that make work joyful as well as the nuisances that make it less so. Occupied a liminal life stage as a student and worked in a liminal space designed to exist in-between fantasy and reality, Mercy uses her final days as an undergraduate to write a love letter to Candy House, to creativity, and to anthropology.

We appreciate all the contributors' efforts in developing their research into ethnographic reports for this issue, and we hope that you will enjoy reading this selection of papers as much as we did.

We would also like to thank Professor Gordon Mathews for guiding us throughout the entire process of editing this issue.

We hope that the papers in this volume encourage more submissions from students, anthropologists, and other related disciplines particularly in the topic of Hong Kong but also in the greater East and Southeast Asian regions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. More information about the journal, along with its previous issues, can be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ant/hkas>.

Best Regards,

Josef Adriel DE GUZMAN
LAM Wing Tong Amy
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