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RESEARCH IN ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGY VOLUME 43

**HEALTH, MONEY,
COMMERCE, AND WEALTH:
ANTHROPOLOGICAL
PERSPECTIVES**

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

This volume of REA is dedicated to the memory of anthropologist Carolyn K. Lesorogol (1965–2023). Carolyn was a member of REA's Editorial Advisory Board since its 2014 formation, and was instrumental in forging a connection between REA and the Society for Economic Anthropology that year, as president of the latter. Furthermore, she published in REA and served as a peer review referee. A true friend of REA, Carolyn's contributions to the series are much appreciated, and she is fondly remembered.

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ABOUT THE EDITORS

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Raja Swamy is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Tennessee. He is a social anthropologist with an interest in the political economy and political ecology of natural disasters, and his first book *Building Back Better in India: Development, NGOs, and Artisanal Fishers after the 2004 Tsunami* (University of Alabama Press, 2021) investigates the impact of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami on coastal artisanal fishers in India's Tamil Nadu state. Weaving together concerns with contemporary debates over "disaster capitalism," humanitarianism, and neoliberalization, the book is an ethnographically grounded study of a reconstruction process that revealed in its clashing agendas the often-fraught dynamics undergirding the political agency of humanitarians seeking to do "good work," and artisanal fishers resisting displacement and reasserting their claims to coastal land. Since 2017 he has been examining the complex politics of recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Texas, specifically examining the impacts of the disaster and its aftermath on communities of color already living with toxicity and social marginalization in Houston. Swamy's academic publications cover the role of NGOs and humanitarianism in disaster reconstruction, the spatial politics of reconstruction and resistance in the aftermath of a disaster, the contested meanings of vulnerability, ecologically unequal exchange, the humanitarian gift economy, and the uses of heritage tourism development as a disaster reconstruction strategy.

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Jessica R. Ham is an environmental anthropologist working with the theoretical tools of feminist political ecology to understand how people relate to and interact with their environments to produce meaningful and healthy lives. To date, her work has centered on the ways smallholders in northern Ghana are contending with a changing climate as they strive to continue growing the food that nourishes a household. This work conceptualizes hunger as relational – produced at the interface of changing landscapes, agrarian political economies, foodways, and the body. Currently on faculty at Oxford College, Emory University’s liberal arts college, most of Dr Ham’s time and energy is dedicated to helping first and second year undergraduates see the power of learning to think like an anthropologist.

Wesam Hassan is a medical doctor who turned to anthropology, and is currently a doctoral candidate in social anthropology at the University of Oxford. She thinks through concepts of uncertainty, temporality, speculation, risk analysis, material and visual culture, and human techniques of negotiating everyday life precariousness. Her doctoral research is investigating speculative economic activities, gambling, and state-regulated games of chance activities in Turkey. Her MA research examined the biomedical uncertainty of HIV and AIDS, the experiences of HIV-positive mothers in Egypt, and the biopolitics of HIV and AIDS in Egypt post-2011. Hassan is also animated by visual and material culture and anthropology of consumption with focus on affective relations with practices (shopping, money, gambling, and betting) in the virtual and real worlds. Prior to focusing on her academic career starting in 2019, she worked as a public health specialist and researcher for more than 10 years with development agencies, such as UNFPA and UNICEF, and academic entities including John Hopkins University.

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Samuel Weeks is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. He received an MA from the University of Lisbon and a PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles. During 2017–2018, Dr Weeks was an affiliated researcher at the Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris. His research has been published in *Dialectical Anthropology*, *Deleuze and Guattari Studies*, *Review of Radical Political Economics*, *Journal of Language and Politics*, among others.