

SANT 2017

Location & Navigation

6-8 April 2017

Hosted by the Department of Social Anthropology,
Stockholm University, Sweden

Annual conference of the Swedish Anthropological Association (SANT)



Call for papers

The call for papers for the Annual Conference of the Swedish Anthropological Association (SANT) in Stockholm, 6-8 April 2017 is now open. Choose a panel and send a 250 word abstract of your paper proposal including institutional affiliation, email and the title of the panel to 2017SANT@gmail.com. The panels are listed below. Please note the panel called Current Anthropology which is open for independent paper proposals. Submissions can be made in either English or Swedish. **Deadline:** 7 February 2017.

Please also note that we will provide an opportunity to present new books and dissertations and to organize network meetings:

Book- and dissertation presentations – in this session you are welcome to present new books and dissertations. Send in the name of the author and the title (and publishing company and year of publication) to 2017SANT@gmail.com before 7 February 2017.

Network meeting – contact us if you want to arrange a network meeting during the conference and we will book a time and a room.

List of panels

1. Current Anthropology
2. Placing pasts: Exploring the situated and relational dynamics of heritage production
3. Navigating scale
4. Navigating emotions
5. Feministisk antropologi – en omöjlig möjlighet?
6. Domesticating anthropology
7. New Media Technologies and Anthropology – New Prospects and Challenges or 'Business as usual'?
8. Navigating Migration
9. From the Bank Machine to the Boardroom: Locating and Navigating Corporate and Financial Entities through Ethnographic Practice
10. Placing Austerity: Navigating Neoliberal Places and Subjects
11. Infrastructural locations
12. Plans, timing and coordination: people and resources navigating in social time
13. Comparative Municipal Ethnographies: Citizenship, Democracy and Protest

1. Current Anthropology

This panel is open for those who wish to submit an independent paper on a theme not represented in the panels.

2. Placing pasts: Exploring the situated and relational dynamics of heritage production

Claire Bullen, Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, IDEMEC

Anja Früh, University of Fribourg-Suisse

As has been well explored within Critical Heritage Studies, the designation of an object, tradition or site as being 'cultural heritage' is the result of a complex - often contested - set of social processes. A rich literature has highlighted how 'heritage production' depends upon diverse interactions between different actors - state bodies, non-governmental organisations, individuals etc. - and their distinctive capacities and opportunities to navigate through a web of multi-scalar 'regimes' of power (Bendix et al. 2012). Less attention has been paid to the way in which *where* someplace is matters when it comes to the struggles over the rewriting of pasts in particular locations. At a political moment when connections and disconnections between places are being radically reworked by – among other things - war and violence, migration, financial crises, new communication technologies and changes of political regimes, this panel invites papers that can shed light on the socio-spatial dimension of heritagisation. We are particularly keen for contributions that draw on ethnographic fieldwork to explore how the ever-changing 'relative location' (Green 2014) of places affects who and what are accorded heritage value.

3. Navigating scale

Jenny Lindblad, KTH Stockholm

Asta Vonderau, Stockholms Universitet

“Globalization is a crystal ball that promises to tell us of an almost-but-not-quite-there globality. This is powerful stuff for experts, politicians and policy makers” (Tsing 2000:332). Although anthropological fieldwork is an ultimately localized practice, in their fields anthropologists are constantly confronted with diverse modes and practices of scale making. For instance, questions and processes of climate change, economic developments, or issues related to migration are often framed as “global” by institutions and in political discourses. At the same time, they can be negotiated as local, regional, national, or global in more diverse or locally specific ways by other actors. Taking its cue from Tsing's suggestion to not

take “global forces and local places” as simply for granted, our panel makes scaling the object of its analyses.

- In which ways do different actors change and navigate their contexts of action and endow their concerns with different levels of significance?
- What are the material and political channels that enable (or hinder) scaling processes?
- How can scaling be investigated by means of ethnography?
- How do anthropologists themselves engage in processes of scaling while assembling and navigating their fields of research?

4. Navigating emotions

Tania González-Fernandez, Stockholms Universitet

Ivana Maček, Stockholms Universitet

In the unpredictable and instable fields that many of us study today, emotions appear to play an important role for the socio-cultural as well as geographical navigation and re-location. This is perhaps most apparent in – but by no means limited to - research on labor migration, political violence, and refugees, fields of research that often overlap. Psychologists take for granted that emotions are decisive for our cognition and behavior, and that a large part of communication happens without words and other symbols, through our bodies and senses. But what about social and cultural anthropologists? How do we understand the role that emotions play in our research? Moreover, how do we use emotions in our research? Emotions have been part of anthropology from discipline's early days, and some important work has already been done, notably edited volumes by Davies and Spencer (2010), Milton and Svašek (2005), and Wulff (2007), as well as Ruth Behar's “The Vulnerable Observer” (1996). In this panel, we understand “navigating emotions” in two ways. Firstly, as emotions that in a decisive way influence how we and our interlocutors navigate in various socio-cultural, political and geographical contexts. Secondly, as the ways in which we deal with emotions in our work. Although the two intertwine, the latter focuses more on questions of methodology, while the first is concerned with analytical perspective and theory. We invite presentations that deal with some aspect of anthropological work with emotions: ethnographic, methodological, or theoretical.

5. Feministisk antropologi – en omöjlig möjlighet?

Karin Ekström, Göteborgs Universitet
Sylva Frisk, Göteborgs Universitet
Susanne Åsman, Göteborgs Universitet
Klara Öberg, Göteborgs Universitet

I somras utkom antologin *Mapping Feminist Anthropology in the 21:st Century* (red Lewin/Silverstein). Redaktörerna påpekar den betydelse och inverkan grenen har haft, dels inomdisciplinärt men även hur den bidragit i uppkomsten och formandet av andra discipliner så som genusstudier och hbtq-genren. På senare år har så vitt skilda områden som maskulinitetsstudier, affektteori, teknologi- och vetenskapsstudier influerats av den feministiska antropologins insikter. Dess bidrag inom den utomakademiska, politiska sfären har varit påtagligt. Feministiska antropologer har varit aktiva i allt ifrån kampanjer som uppmärksammat brott mot mänskliga rättigheter till arbete mot miljöförstöring. De har bidragit till att avtäcka det manliga tolkningsföreträdet – mänskliga rättigheter – men också till att sätta under lupp det västliga dito (t ex Malmström och Dellenborg i diskussionen om kvinnlig omskärelse/könsstympning). Det är detta möte som denna panel vill undersöka. Mötet innebär en spänning, som även återfinns inomakademiskt, i mötet med genusvetenskapen, som är uttalat politisk och öppen med en feministisk agenda, en agenda som många antropologer hävdar är etnocentrisk och springer ur en västerländskt färgad feminism. Stämmer det? Den antropologiskt influerade filosofen Uma Narayan argumenterar för motsatsen: att ett sådant påstående är djupt etnocentriskt. Vi vill alltså undersöka spänningen som finns, dels interdisciplinärt, i mötet med genusvetenskapen, och dels utomakademiskt, i mötet med politik och aktivism inom det feministiska fältet. Vi välkomnar alla papers som ser samma potential som vi, i att undersöka den spänningen. Vi ser panelen också som en möjlighet för feministiska antropologer att mötas och diskutera öppet och förutsättningslöst, då det sker alltför sällan.

6. Domesticating anthropology

Elizabeth Dacey, Master's student, Uppsala Universitet
Karina Raña, Master's student, Uppsala Universitet

The master's degree is an instance where a myriad of topics converge. Divergent interests combine in an exceptional space that allows the students to work, talk and reflect on the opportunities and limitations of a specialised anthropology. In this regard, we are setting up this panel to discuss the sub-specialities that shape anthropology today from the master level experience. The sub-specialities appears to be a relevant topic not only from a career development perspective

but also from the ways in which anthropology makes itself a space in the public debate. How do anthropologists reach the public sphere? How do the subspecialities contribute to a better understanding of what anthropology is and how is it a tool for better and more inclusive societies? These are the questions that we want to answer from different perspectives, and that is why we encourage other master's students to present their work in order to debate the crossroads between our own researches, the current situation within anthropology and the need of inserting anthropology into the public discourse.

7. New Media Technologies and Anthropology – New Prospects and Challenges or ‘Business as usual’?

Carolina Holgersson Ivarsson, Göteborgs Universitet
Tova Högdestrand, Lunds Universitet

‘Being there’ – the anthropological call – now implies a presence also in the ‘digital everyday life’. Anthropologists conduct desktop fieldwork and ethnography in ‘virtual reality’ as a case in itself, or when for practical or security reasons certain milieus are restricted to us. What kind of methodological and ethical dilemmas does this engender? Social media has dissolved and reconfigured the boundaries between public and private, work and leisure, place and space. How do we navigate and locate ourselves in this fluid field? Does it present us with new challenges and possibilities or is it just another dimension and extension of social life that falls under the scope of the holistic approach, thus not in need of particular attention or treatment? In this panel we wish to open up for discussions on the methodological challenges and theoretical implications of new media technologies. Our own research concern viral politics, identity, nationalism and social media but we invite all kinds of perspectives and topics on new media technologies.

8. Navigating Migration

Nina Gren, Lunds Universitet
Karin Norman, Stockholms Universitet

This panel focuses on concrete and/or symbolic navigation in relation to international migration, either en route or when attempting to settle in a new (or familiar) place. As a point of departure, we think of navigation in relation to migration as attempts to plan or direct or simply handle legal, political, economic,

cultural and social processes that aim to locate the migrants in one way or the other. Locations can both be thought of as a concrete place-making (e.g. building a house in a new country or finding temporary shelter) as well as more symbolic feelings of belonging. We welcome presentations that discuss the practices of different types of migrants (e.g. asylum seekers, IDPs, deportees, EU migrants, transnational families) or the practices of people working or volunteering with migrants (e.g. bureaucrats at migration authorities, social workers, language teachers, aid workers). What meaning-making and everyday lives emerge when migrants navigate migratory processes? What obstacles and possibilities are encountered? How are volunteers and professionals navigating legal frameworks and work ethics when meeting migrants of various types? How do migrants navigate language schools as well as a new language?

9. From the Bank Machine to the Boardroom: Locating and Navigating Corporate and Financial Entities through Ethnographic Practice

Daniel Bodén, Uppsala Universitet

Ulrika Persson-Fischier, Uppsala Universitet

Elisa Maria Lopez, Uppsala Universitet

Corporations and financial institutions are ubiquitous features of life in the anthropocene. From multi-sited corporate spaces of production to the ontological challenge of “making the familiar strange”, this panel asks how ethnography can help navigate corporate and financial entities as they co-produce social space and place, moralities, and modernity in a variety of sociocultural contexts. This panel invites papers which explore corporations and financial institutions as complex actors and actants (Latour 2007), while remaining attuned to the risks of reifying them as metaphysical subjects, possessing coherent, unitary rationalities, or intentionality (Welker 2012). We welcome papers including, but not limited to, engagements with these institutions as moral actors (Rajak 2011); assemblages (Tsing 2014), producers of knowledge and technology; instruments of political and social change (Kirsch 2014); or exploring the methodological challenges of fieldwork with corporations/financial institutions. What new ethnographic forms might we develop to apprehend these? How might social theory in anthropology and ethnology benefit from innovative, creative, and alternative methods as we seek to understand corporate and financial worlds?

10. Placing Austerity: Navigating Neoliberal Places and Subjects

Ulrik Jennische, Stockholms Universitet

Simon Johansson, Stockholms Universitet

Austerity have long been a prominent feature of neoliberalism, referring to a broad range of political and economic conditions that constrain public expenditure and effectively roll back the social state in various locations, across the world. Both austerity and neoliberalism are contested concepts, capable of generating a productive tension between its particular and general characteristics and effects, highlighting the need to ethnographically ground the practices and consequences that nest within these notions. This panel aims to explore the ways in which austerity and neoliberalism becomes materialized as public places – particular locations such as streets, squares, parks and public institutions – and how these places, in turn, impact and shape the trajectories of urban dwellers through processes of embodiment, resistance and adaptation. We welcome contributions that investigate the links between a restructuring of the public domain under austerity and neoliberalism, the development of new public places and the emerging forms of subjectivity and sociality that reinforce and/or destabilize the power relations contained in such locations. The panel invites papers that include, but are not limited to, the following questions:

- What can an emphasis on navigation and location contribute to our understanding of neoliberalism and austerity?
- How has austerities changed the movement of people in the city, and what new places or non-places materialize out of it?
- And, as the state rolls back, what new forms of organizations, subjectivities and citizenship emerges?

11. Infrastructural locations

Gabriella Körling, Stockholms Universitet

Camelia Dewan, Birkbeck & SOAS

Ulrika Persson-Fischier, Uppsala Universitet

This panel sets out to engage with the current discussions about infrastructure by reflecting on the relation between infrastructure and location. As underlined by Larkin (2013) infrastructure are things but they are also the relation between things. Infrastructure is central to circulation and connectivity, including the movement of goods and people, as well as electricity and water provision, and less visible flows such as data/digital networks. However, at the same time as infrastructural development often conjure up visions of modernity, economic development and promises of connection they are equally prone to produce disconnection and

reproduce inequalities. For instance, roads and railways and electricity grids, might strengthen some places through improved connectivity at the same time as they bypass or isolate others. In order to further explore how we can think about the relation between infrastructures and location we invite contributions that through empirical cases explore how places, sociospatial dynamics and socio-environmental relations, are constructed and/or transformed through different kinds of infrastructures (infrastructural interventions). We also welcome more theoretically and methodologically oriented contributions that reflect on the various ethnographic locations (e.g. planning offices, government ministries, construction sites, towns and villages etc.) and theoretical frameworks through which infrastructure can be approached ethnographically.

12. Plans, timing and coordination: people and resources navigating in social time

Nathan Light, Uppsala Universitet

Vladislava Vladimirova, Uppsala Universitet

Navigation in social environments requires coordinating people, resources, and activities. People choose routes and plan movements and activities according to socio-natural events, such as annual cycles of ritual events, the growing season, or schedules of work, holiday and schooling. Other timescales can include the life cycle or daily patterns that provide waymarks people take into account when navigating and coordinating social connections. But many less regular emergences and conditions also shape how and when people come together to plan joint activities, coordinate, allocate responsibilities and calibrate timing. Collective activities, whether ritual, economic, or political, require careful positioning and combination of resources, performances, and participants. This panel invites papers that consider the processes of shared decision making, planning, movement and combination of elements to make up events, meetings, rituals, or other joint activities. How are people recruited, plans and timing established, resource contributions negotiated, and the social relations among participants managed? How are decisions made, communicated, and carried out? What information and resources are needed, and how are they acquired and distributed? How are time, place and social position navigated and managed in order to carry out events, and how are effective or poor coordination judged and what are their social consequences? What models and theoretical tools can help analyze processes of navigation, timing and coordination in social environments? What insights emerge from such approaches to social activity?

12. Comparative Municipal Ethnographies: Citizenship, Democracy and Protest

Sten Hagberg, Uppsala Universitet

This panel will focus on the ethnography of municipalities and local governments with specific attention paid to citizenship, democracy and popular protest as to foster conversations about the conditions and articulations of local politics from different parts of the world. The panel aims to explore the contours of what can be termed “a comparative municipal ethnography”. The idea is to use the municipality/the district/the commune as a meaningful comparative analytical unit across regions, countries and continents, assuming that the qualitative comparison of discourse and practice between municipalities puts the searchlight on the interaction of various actors and institutions, including administrative procedures, traditional authorities and party politics. Papers can focus on political parties, popular movements, policy implementation, collective actions or individual trajectories. Papers may furthermore take up the issue of citizen participation and grassroots democracy, inside as well as outside of formal politics, as to explore how such participation and democratic processes relate to citizens’ perceptions and practices of democracy. The panel welcomes both ethnographic case-studies on specific municipalities, as well as, comparative anthropological approaches. The panel will include a mix of papers on municipal ethnographies in emergent “new and sometimes fragile democracies”, in semi-authoritarian regimes, and in nations with a long tradition of representative democracy.

Email: 2017SANT@gmail.com

Web: <https://sant2017.wordpress.com/>

