

From the Editor



Dear colleagues and friends,

It gives me pleasure to bring to you the second issue of the eSymposium for 2020. In this July issue, the first three papers engage with such diverse domains of research including methodological issues revolving around life histories of older persons in Singapore, land acquisitions and state-society relations in India, as well as ruminations on sociological and psycho-analytical theories of love. The fourth entry is one of our 'In Conversation With' genre, which features the research and academic experiences of anthropologist Myron Cohen.

Suen Johan from Duke-NUS Medical School proposes a customised life history calendar that he employed in his research on vulnerable older persons in the context of Singapore. In this first essay, he assesses the analytical value and validity of such a method in contributing towards broader research undertakings on ageing and the life course. In the second paper, Subir Rana, an independent researcher, debates about issues to do with land acquisitions and land development in Uttar Pradesh. He chronologically traces in his study, state-citizen encounters related to land sovereignty contestations vis-à-vis contemporary urbanisation, citizenship and regimes of dispossession.

The third essay is authored by Duane Rousselle (Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies), who conceptualises notions of love by deploying Lacanian psychoanalysis. In so doing, Rousselle addresses the gaps he has identified in Luhmannian theory of love by highlighting both the symbolic impossibility of love, and the idea of how love is conceived as an imaginary impasse to symbolic determinations.

The final piece of this issue presents a conversation between anthropologist of Han Chinese communities, Myron Cohen (Columbia University), and Junbin Tan, a graduate student pursuing his PhD at Princeton University. Through this interview, we read about Cohen's earlier research on family life in Taiwan, his views on doing fieldwork in China, as well as discussions on the works of anthropologists on Chinese societies across the decades.

As always, I extend a warm invitation to all who would like to contribute their papers for future issues and also welcome feedback on these articles. Please do email me if you have ideas, suggestions or queries about the eSymposium.

Thank you all very much for your enduring support and endorsement of the ISA eSymposium.

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July 2020