

# CONTEXTOS



REVISTA  
D'ANTROPOLOGIA  
I INVESTIGACIÓ  
SOCIAL

#13

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# #13

## REVISTA D'ANTROPOLOGIA I INVESTIGACIÓ SOCIAL

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**(Con)textos: journal of anthropology and social research** is created in 2008 on the initiative of a group of researchers of the University of Barcelona. Since 2016, the Associació Antropologies has been part of the editorial team and in 2021, PhD students from the Society and Culture program of the Department of Social Anthropology joined the editorial team.

**Open Access Journal:** **(Con)textos** offers open access following the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge.

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### EDITORIAL

## 15 years of the journal *(Con)textos*

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This year we have celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of the journal *(Con)textos*, created in 2008 by a group of doctoral students from the Department of Social Anthropology at the Universitat de Barcelona. The trajectory of the journal *(Con)textos* has been characterized by covering a wide variety of research topics from very diverse geographical locations. Likewise, from its beginnings, the journal was conceived as an open publication capable of encompassing different lines of analysis that reflect the variety of interests existing in the discipline.

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The approval of new regulations for scientific journals by the University of Barcelona has led to numerous changes in the editorial management process. Since issue 12, the external peer review process has been consolidated, which ensures the scientific quality of original articles, as they are evaluated by experts from different fields who anonymously accompany the authors in the review process. Additionally, the system of article identification through the assignment of DOI numbers has been implemented. Furthermore, in 2024 the journal's license has been modified to **Creative Commons - Attribution (CC-by)** which allows for reproduction, distribution, and public communication as long as authorship and the journal are acknowledged. In this regard, the aim is to emphasize the value of the journal being open access in diamond mode, which not only promotes the generation and dissemination of research results but also reaffirms our commitment to an open, free, critical, and socially relevant anthropology, in a context marked by the growing commercialization of knowledge.

On the other hand, since the creation of the journal, texts have been published in various languages, such as Catalan, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and English. This commitment, although it has varied over time, has been carried out with the goal of achieving a decentralization of the anthropological discipline —and of the social sciences in general— with respect to what have traditionally been the dominant centers of its production. This multilingualism, in addition to promoting the visibility of valuable research that is not necessarily developed in the Anglo-Saxon environment, also makes it possible to reach a broader audience, which tries to reach beyond the academy, and also aims to make the results of these studies available to society, specifically to the social actors involved. In this regard, we highlight that, starting from this issue, an initiative that had



previously been carried out in issue 6 is being resumed: the publication of translations of original articles from English into Spanish or Catalan.

This issue before you is the result of a call for articles under the preferred theme «Conflict and Environmental Justice». This proposal stems from the realization that the dominant model of production and reproduction in our societies, a product of global capitalism, is causing profound transformations in territories, bodies, and the social fabric. With the aim of contributing to the current debate, we raised the following questions: How do the concepts of environmental justice and social justice dialogue? What is the impact on life of the different forms of extractivism in territories at a global level? What experiences of resistance are woven in the different territories? How can we think of collective alternatives to the prevailing model of social development? How does activist and/or militant research contribute to these debates?

Following this call for papers, we have successfully confirmed that our appeal received a great response from researchers around the world, demonstrating the relevance of this issue and the various ways it manifests in different geographies. The volume of articles received has forced us to select those that best align with the journal's editorial policy and that were favorably evaluated in the peer review process. Nevertheless, given the success of the call, it has been decided that this issue and the next one will include the articles received in this call, so both issues will be framed in the same preferred theme of «Conflict and Environmental Justice». Below, the original articles included in Issue 13 will be briefly presented.

As can be observed, the central theme that articulates most of the research is the interrelation between water and socio-environmental conflict, explored from the various cases presented in each article. Water emerges as a central axis in these conflicts, transcending its role



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as a natural resource to become a critical point of dispute, reflecting the deep interdependence between communities and the ecosystems on which they sustain their way of life. Additionally, it is noteworthy how six of the seven articles examine cases of environmental justice in different countries of Latin America, with a prominent representation of Mexico. The last two also address studies in Spain, specifically in Valencia and Catalonia.

The issue opens with an article by Alice Lima Nin, which explores the impacts of illegal gold mining on the Tapajós River in the Brazilian Amazon and the local resistance that seeks to protect this ecosystem that is vital for biodiversity and communities. Based on this case study, it highlights how water becomes the protagonist of socio-environmental conflicts and will serve as a guiding thread throughout the following articles. Enrique Francisco Pasillas Pineda's article analyzes the effects of colonization, agricultural exploitation, and indigenism policies on the cucapá people, located on the northwestern border of Mexico. The next article, by Rogelio Josué Ramos Torres, presents an analysis of the tensions generated in the Isthmus of Chiapas, Mexico, where government-driven modernization has generated a clash between traditional artisanal fishing practices and the logic of the free market. In this context, the concept of risk is placed at the core of the identity and social organization of fishing communities.

Following, we present two articles in which water justice occupies a key place, but in both cases the role played by women in the conflicts presented is also highlighted. First, Verónica Vázquez García and Mayra Denisse Valdez-Rodríguez, in their article, examine the participation of women from Tlamanca, Puebla, in the defense of the territory against the La Lupe mine. Through interviews and workshops, they analyze how their struggle for water and access to agricultural resources has led them to mobilize, highlighting their scarce representation in decision-making



spaces. Second, Núria Jiménez García analyzes the practices of resistance and environmental conservation led by women in Ensenada, Baja California, in the face of socio-ecological crises such as the destruction of coastal ecosystems. The fundamental role played by these women in the defense of the marine territory is made visible, considering their knowledge and practices as forms of political intervention.

Thereafter, this issue also presents a collectively authored article which analyzes the impact of extractivism on health and the environment through case studies in Argentina, focusing on the agroindustry of soy and corn, in Mexico, regarding the avocado agroindustry, and in Spain, on urban extractivism in Valencia. From a socio-environmental health perspective, the conditions that facilitate these destructive processes are explored, as well as their repercussions on health, the environment and territories, and the asymmetries generated in terms of environmental justice. This analysis has been developed by Laura Elena Ortega Elorza, Gabriel Keppel, Lilian Eréndira Pacheco Magaña, Lisandro Ferrazini, Paula Re, Horacio Pereyra and Damián Verzeñassi.

Finally, we close the section of original articles with Sarah Moreno's research that examines the plague condition of wild boars in Catalonia, focusing on how the transformations of the landscape in two different contexts (urban in Barcelona and rural in Montsec) contribute to this phenomenon. The innovative perspective of the text lies in addressing the concept of «plague» not as a fixed category, but as a temporary and mutable condition, linked to the relationships between human and non-human beings.

In the section of research projects we include, as has been done since issue 11, the Final Degree Project with the highest qualification in the 2023/2024 academic year of the Degree in Social Anthropology at the University of Barcelona. This is the article by Arianna Rosich-Soteras in

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which she explores how the generalization of obstetric ultrasounds has transformed the experience of pregnancy, focusing on how these biomedical practices construct the notion of risk in pregnant women.

In the subsequent section, we present reviews of two recent works, both published in 2023. First, there is the review by Laura Romero of the book *Ecologías insumisas. Antagonismos al geontopoder de la extracción petrolera* by Mauricio González, which emphatically exposes the devastating consequences of oil extractivism in the indigenous territories of Mexico. On the other hand, Neixé Castellano, based on the review of the book *Settling Nature: The Conservation Regime in Palestine-Israel* by Irus Braverman, examines the intersection of environmental conservation and colonialism in Palestine and Israel. Through a critical analysis, Neixé highlights how conservation policies, rather than being neutral, become tools to reinforce Israeli territorial control, transforming ecological practices into an instrument of occupation.

Following this, we present the section of dissemination articles, which includes several texts framed within the thematic line of «Conflict and Environmental Justice». First, we present the article by Luis Alfonso Castillo Farjat, in which he analyzes how the expansion of Mexico City has led to the destruction of Lake Texcoco, a process that dates back to colonial times and continues today through projects such as the construction of an airport. Despite attempts at ecocide, the author highlights how local farmers have mobilized to stop the devastation of their ancestral territory, showing their resistance and capacity for agency in the face of these environmental crimes.



Next, we include two texts that result from the conference of the Red de Antropología Ambiental<sup>1</sup> held in Seville in June 2024. This meeting was presented under the title *Cambios climáticos y antropologías (para el) porvenir. Desafíos de investigación y acción* | *Alterações climáticas e antropologias do devir. Desafios para a investigação e ação* and was structured around three main axes:

1. Anthropology of public policies with implications for adaptation, mitigation and climate justice.
2. Perceptions and knowledge of climate change and informal and community-based adaptation practices in response to its impacts
3. Collective action and new imaginaries in the face of the climate emergency.

In addition to the participatory sessions, a field trip was carried out with the aim of addressing local problems linked to the climate emergency, contrasting the experiences of neighbourhood associations and social activism with the initiatives promoted by public administrations. The aim was to reflect on the different ways of appropriating and communicating climate change in practical and immediate contexts, as well as on small-scale adaptation actions and proposals to deal with this phenomenon. The three places visited were the La Bachillera neighbourhood, the «Life WaterCool» project and the Huerto del Rey Moro.

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<sup>1</sup> The Red de Antropología Ambiental was created in 2014 during the XIII Congress of Anthropology to promote academic exchange and collaboration among specialists from different universities in the Iberian Peninsula. Since then, the Red has organized periodic meetings and has become established as a participatory space for critical reflection on contemporary environmental challenges. <https://redantropologiaambiental.wordpress.com/>



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Therefore, considering the connection between the topics discussed during the conference of the Red de Antropología Ambiental and the preference theme of this issue, it has been decided to include the transcription of the inaugural conference given by José A. Cortés Vázquez, entitled *Hacia una antropología del cambio climático: interrogantes, propuestas y retos*. In addition, the *Manifiesto para una antropología sobre el cambio climático: cambios climáticos y antropologías (para el) porvenir. Desafíos de investigación y acción* jointly written by all the participants of the meeting, will also be included. We hope that both texts will help reflect on a transversal way the different case studies presented in the articles included in this issue.

Finally, we present one of the important new features of this issue, since, as we mentioned before, we are bringing back a section dedicated to the publication of articles originally written in English or other languages, which will be translated into Spanish or Catalan. On this occasion, we present the article *Redes de intercambio y tiendas gratis en Berlín: mujeres y mercancías en experiencias de consumo «alternativas»* by Irene Sabaté Muriel, originally published in the journal *Etnográfica* in 2009. This contribution offers a critical look at the dynamics of alternative consumption in Berlin, addressing key themes such as exchange and the revaluation of goods outside traditional commercial circuits.

From the editorial team of the journal *(Con)textos*, we are pleased to present this issue, the result of months of dedication, which we hope will be of interest to you. First of all, we would like to thank the authors for their trust and the time they have dedicated to the editorial process. Likewise, this process would not have been possible without the exhaustive and rigorous work of the reviewers, who have undoubtedly contributed to making this publication possible. This selfless work is a fundamental component of the scientific publication process, allowing you to now read



these pages. With these words, we close this anniversary editorial, and, as always, we encourage you to participate in the upcoming editions of *(Con)textos* by submitting original articles, dissemination articles, translations of articles, and reviews.

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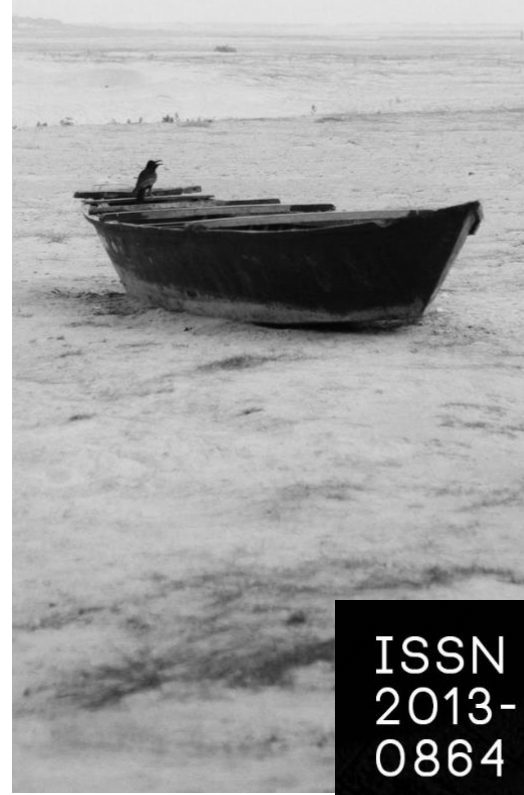
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