

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The current volume of the Lambda Alpha Journal offers eight articles, each of which offer insight, debate and perspectives across the discipline of anthropology. The opening manuscript (Crown) offers a case study in the identification of resourcing and use-activity in Folsom deposits at the Mountaineer Site, Colorado. Subsequently, distinct activity areas associated with food processing and flint knapping respectively, thereby adding context to an archaeological assemblage. The next manuscript revisits the revived “Cooking Hypothesis” and new perspectives on the manifestation of fire and cooking in the early fossil record. Particularly with reference to the debate of the eventual divergence and manifestation of early Homo and humankind.

A third manuscript offers a perspective on the power of “memory” (and tradition) on changing cultural and ideological manifestations over time (Flannagan). Archaeological and modern manifestations reflective of ideology and tradition in Upper Egypt, are compared, past and present. The following manuscript addresses the interrelationship of myth and the many faces of globalization, particularly as it relates to the impact of tourism and missionary activity impacts a Quechua community in southern Peru (Bridges). The paper to follow reports on an activity area/feature comprising a firearm target practice locus found in a dry creek bed near an historic cabin from St. Charles County, Missouri (Kindler). Questions related to the reconstruction and interpretation of the nature of the firing activity itself and what it can add to an understanding human behavior related to the use of firearms in historical contexts.

A change in theme is represented by a manuscript addressing the complexity of reproductive variation in the human body or genome (Johnson). Issues related to intersexuality are discussed, including the diversity of social/culture-based response to what amounts to human biological variation. This is followed by an article on the topic of human sexualities in the context of globally diverse cultural and political responses to LGBT rights (Hoefer). The paper reviews global homonormativity and the conflicts and inequities imposed by this concept on local forms of sexuality. The second to last manuscript raises the topic of female genital mutilation practice in cultures across the world (Todd). Documented physical and psychological trauma associated with this practice, re discussed in the context of explicit violations of women’s human rights.

The final manuscript brings attention to the relationship between “nation building” and racial politics in the Dominican Republic (Diaz). The author posits political and economic inequalities resulting from discriminating government characterizations of cultural identity.

The annual Lambda Alpha Student symposium is now in its 19th year. Presenters attended from at least three different states in the U.S and included 14 undergraduate and graduate student podium presentations from a diverse spectrum of anthropology.

I thank the student journal editor Gracie Tolley, and the officers of Lambda Alpha, Hannah Whipple, Chelsea Barringer, Samantha Fisher, and Allie Ferguson, for their efforts leading to the successful completion of the Lambda Alpha Student Symposium. Finally, I wish to thank the authors and contributors to the journal.

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Editor-in-Chief