Recognizing its inherent contradictions,

yet refusing a duality that understands spaces outside

the academy as more privileged sites of social change,

we call for a fugitive anthropology. A fugitive anthropology is

an anthropology that, grounded in black feminist analysis

and praxis and inspired by indigenous decolonial thinking,

centers an embodied feminist analytics while working

within the contested space of the academy.

—Maya Berry, Claudia Argüelles, Shayna Cordis, Sarah Ihmoud, and Elizabeth Estrada (2017) "Toward a Fugitive Anthropology: Gender, Race, and Violence in the Field" Cultural Anthropology 32 (4), 560.

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## CONTINGENCY

Through countless trials and tribulations, the fruition of this journal edition has been a profound lesson in contingency. The title of our journal, *Contingent Horizons*, proves especially fitting in capturing the experiences of uncertainty and perseverance in the work of our authors, but also in the efforts of the editors and all those who gifted their limited free time towards realizing the important mission of giving voice to graduate student scholarship.

There is beauty in the gradual harmony of these contingencies evolving into actualized realities, but this should not obscure the experiences of anxiety and discouragement that such conditions can produce. There is a real struggle in securing unpaid labor from those already pushed to the brink of exhaustion in demanding academic roles that rarely afford moments of respite or financial compensation. As geo-political conflicts persist, costs of living skyrocket, and wages stagnate, increasing precarity and injustices mark our time. From the surge of the Far Right in North America and globally, to the ongoing genocide in Palestine and so many other global crises, sustaining the fragile and contingent eco-system of authors, editors, reviewers, and faculty support grows increasingly difficult.

Against these odds, the publication of this issue feels somewhat surreal, dare we say magical, as we witness such efforts and strides of resilience finally pay off. In the spirit of graduate scholarship, we are pleased to share pieces that embrace innovative anthropological methodologies—autoethnography, digital ethnography, and fictional writing—pushing academic boundaries and offering new perspectives. We hope you are compelled not only by the themes explored but also by the creative and critical approaches of our contributors.

This issue presents dynamic and thought-provoking works that engage with emerging and critical debates in anthropology. The articles challenge dominant narratives by interrogating lived experiences (Garcia, on the intersection of migrant and trans identities), and examining sociocultural perceptions (He, on interpretations of zoo animals), bringing visibility to overlooked perspectives. Together, they contribute to a deeper understanding of the politics of recognition. Further exploring the role of power in shaping realities, articles in this issue also discuss themes of life and death (Headrick) and the impact of colonial influences on earth and in space (Ince), revealing how these forces sustain inequalities beyond the bounds of our world. Additionally, articles in this issue explore the theme of nationalism, examining the challenges of redress and reconciliation with indigenous peoples (Latina), as well as its manifestations in online communities (Serravalle). The issue concludes with two compelling pieces centered on environmental themes: one analyzing biopolitics at the intersection of Indigenous nations, the environment, and government through a review of Pugliese's *Biopolitics of the More-Than-Human* (Weber), and the other, a semi-fictional narrative exploring the experiences of climate migrants (Zamani).

To conclude this editor's note, we invite you to reflect on the many ways contingency shapes the themes explored in this issue. From histories of migration and trans identity to the politics of nationalism, environmental struggles, and colonial legacies reaching beyond Earth, each article speaks to the uncertainties, negotiations, and power dynamics that define our world. In embracing these contingencies, we ask: What does it mean to be contingent in today's age? What does contingency provide or take away from us? Do we have limits to contingency—can we afford to? How do we build trust through contingency? And finally, how do we persevere?