ETNOFOOR CALL FOR PAPERS: THE CITY

Today more than half of the global population lives in cities. The UN estimates that the number of urban dwellers will surpass six billion by 2045 (UN 2015). Whereas early accounts in anthropology outline the long travels ethnographers undertook to reach their often rural, remote and isolated field sites, the rapid urbanisation of the past era has brought ethnography increasingly to urban centers and 'closer to home'. Cities are more often the field sites for a plethora of topics and urban anthropology is slowly establishing itself as a relevant sub-discipline (Jaffe and de Koning 2016).

The upcoming issue of *Etnofoor* seeks to conceptually develop what 'the city' means for (urban) anthropology. Rather than taking 'the city' as a contextual backdrop or stage for the processes under study, this issue aims to focus on the notion of 'the city' itself, further developing our theoretical understanding of what constitutes 'the city' and its place in anthropology.

The first and perhaps most apparent question concerns the relevance of urban anthropology: is there a need for such a sub-discipline and what unique insights can it provide? How is the 'urban' different from, for example, the 'rural', and which elements define this distinction? And how does urban anthropology today differ from classical scholarship such as Max Weber's *The City* ([1921] 1958) or the Chicago school of urban sociology, which produced the writings of scholars such as Whyte (1943), Park et al. (1925), and Wirth (1938)?

Another area of focus concerns the *making and unmaking* of cities. How are cities and neighbourhoods made, transformed, and dismantled through representations and practices? And which actors, such as architects, urban planners, and local inhabitants, play a dominant role in these processes? This requires us to look further at the interactions between various urban dwellers and the potential tensions between what is planned and unplanned, and how this impacts the way a city is experienced. Furthermore, how can we differentiate between issues related to the 'hard city', such as material and physical aspects, versus the 'soft city', which includes meanings, imaginations, and myths (Raban 1974; Reinders 2013)?

A third issue concerns the way in which cities are often regarded as sites of spatial (in)justice (Fainstein 2010; Soja 2010). Inequalities and division, characterised by informal settlements and 'ghettos', are increasingly common to growing urban centers. How are notions of (il)legality, (in)formality, and (in)equality related to the 'city'? How and when do cities become divided or how and when are they turned into shared places? How do faith-based and other non-governmental organizations provide care that the state does not provide for, for

instance to the poor or to refugees (e.g., Beaumont and Baker 2011)? This involves analysing processes of urban inclusion and exclusion, segregation, urban cosmopolitanism, ghettoization, and gentrification.

Furthermore, we are also interested in analyzing how these processes influence methodological matters. Does the shift from rural to urban require adjustments in the 'doing of ethnography'? Do ethnographers in urban contexts face specific challenges, and if so, how should we deal with these issues?

Etnofoor invites authors that engage with these issues, either from a methodological perspective or in the form of an ethnographic case study, to submit an abstract of no more than 200 words to editors@etnofoor.nl before **March 1st, 2016**. The deadline for authors of accepted abstracts to submit their full paper for consideration is **June 15th, 2016**.

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