

---

# Editorial

Dear readers,

The second issue of *Cargo* 2025 marks the conclusion of the first year of stable financial support for the journal from the Czech Association for Social Anthropology, the University of Pardubice, and the University of Hradec Králové. It thus serves as an example of fruitful inter-institutional cooperation, which has enabled an increase in the number of published texts, thanks to the language of publication accessible to the international academic community. This fulfils the goal of the editorial board: to create an academic platform for dialogue that significantly exceeds the region in which the publishers are located.

This issue is being published at a time when we are commemorating the centenary of the birth of Ernest Gellner and the thirtieth anniversary of his death. His family roots in Czechia and, in particular, his tenure at the Central European University in the early 1990s served as an important link connecting the Czech anthropological community with the global anthropological context. The Czech Association for Social Anthropology continues to host the ‘Gellner Seminars’, which were initiated by Jiří Musil, the former director of the Central European University’s Prague college, and anthropologist Petr Skalník in memory of Gellner’s work in Prague. This connection is symbolised in this issue by the centenary study written by Gellner’s former colleague, Chris Hann, the emeritus director of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle/Saale (Germany). His text is an important contribution to the interpretation of the work not only of Ernest Gellner but also of Jack Goody.

Another article in the journal’s peer-reviewed section was written by Petra Ponocná from the University of Pardubice. This contribution to the topic of social memory and protest complements the research introduced by David Pergl for *Cargo* on a similar topic in Eastern European contexts (*Cargo* 2023, vol.1). Her theme, moreover, on the Mexican example significantly helps us to understand the phenomenon of anti-monuments (antimonumentos) as a new form of memorial installed by victims’ families and activists in response to

systemic state violence. The text is based on careful field research into the phenomenon and is meticulously documented.

The third text, written by Vadim Sidorov, who currently works at Charles University, examines the metamorphoses and ideological legitimisations of the concepts of ethnicity and the nation within the Russian environment. The topic is addressed from a broad historical perspective extending as far back as the 19th century, but with the main focus on current theoretical trends associated with Russian national ideology. Although Russian anthropology currently has almost no impact on theoretical thinking outside Russia, it responds to social processes inside the country and can therefore, at least indirectly, provide some insight into what is taking place there. Sidorov's text, therefore, has high informational value.

The interview for *Cargo 2025/2* was conducted by Martin Dolejský and David Platil. In 2025, they published the book *Zmizelá Praha – Nouzové kolonie* [Lost Prague – Makeshift Settlements] (Prague: Paseka, 2025), which also draws partially on the fieldwork results of the ethnographer Vanda Langrová-Tůmová-Jiříkovská. The shared topic provided an opportunity to conduct an interview with a person who joined the anthropological community in the 1950s and witnessed events of that time. Her story recounts the changes in ethnographic work in Czechia over the past 70 years.

On 6 November 2025, British anthropologist Keith Hart passed away in Paris. It is a great honour for us to publish an obituary written by Chris Hann, who worked closely with Keith.

The articles and interview are followed by Petr Skalník's biographical, unreviewed essay 'Ageing with Anthropology', based on a lecture he delivered at the regular biennial conference of the Czech Association for Social Anthropology, which this time focused on the theme of 'Ageing of Anthropology, Ageing in Anthropology'. The conference took place in Pardubice from 6 to 8 November 2025.

The issue concludes with a review of Paul Mähle's book *Domestic Work in Postcolonial Tanzania: Gender, Learning and Unlearning*, written by Lale Yalçın-Heckmann.

Zdeněk Uherek

<https://doi.org/10.46585/cargo.2025.2.181>