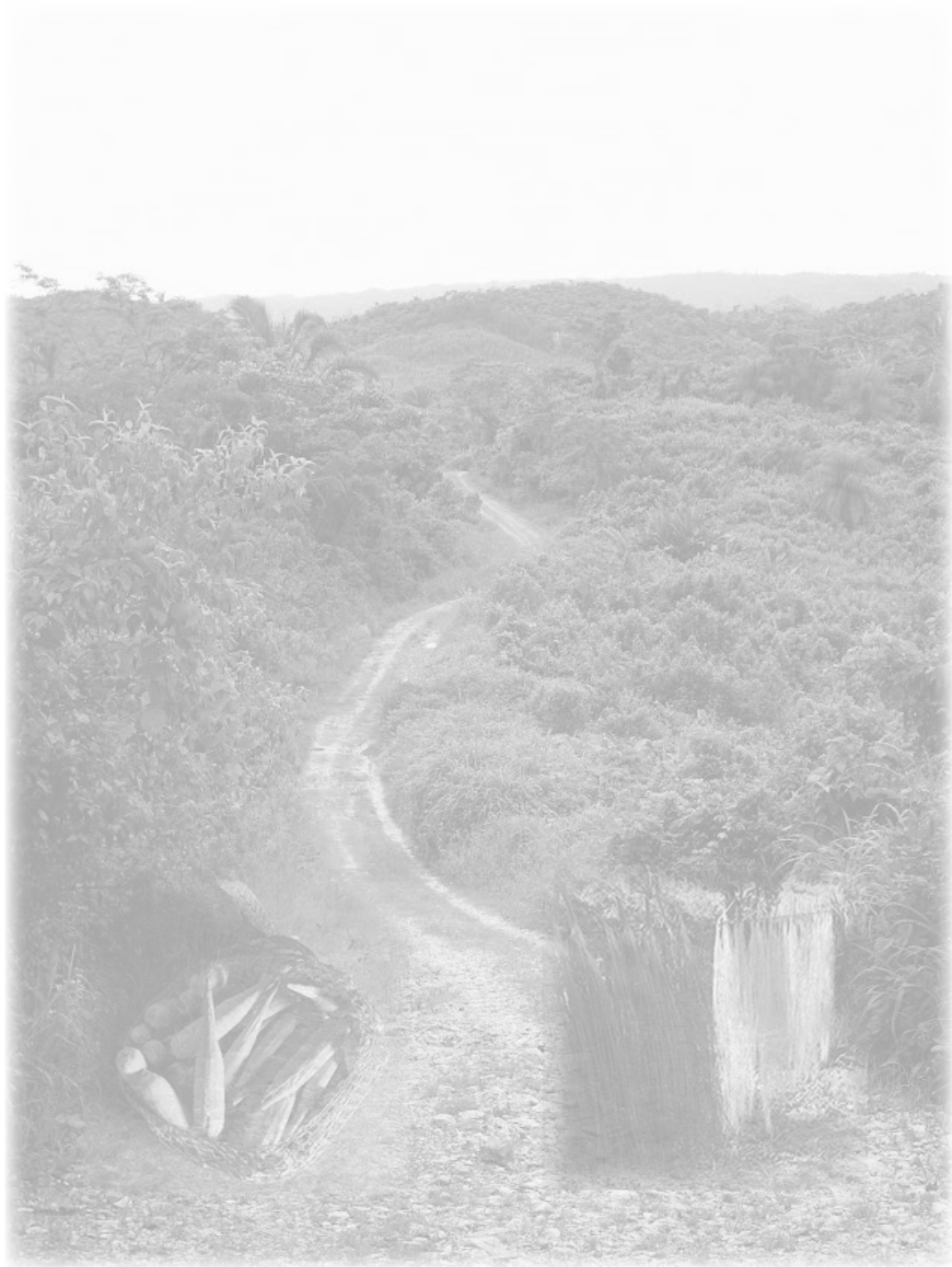
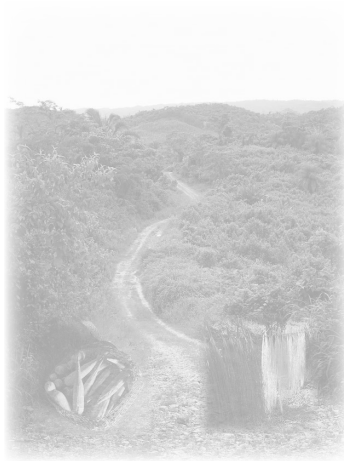


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About the Cover

Our cover images come from author Kristina Baines' work with the Mopan Maya community of Santa Cruz, Belize. Baines examines how ecological heritage practices, for example planting corn and collecting wild plants, are linked to how community members define and experience health. The author developed a community-specific measure to explore the links between health and heritage among households with differing levels of engagement with "healthy" activities that are also seen as important in terms of heritage. As environmental and economic changes impact daily lives in Santa Cruz, the roles that specific activities play in how holistic health is defined and maintained becomes increasingly critical to understand.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

With so many opportunities in so many academic fields to study societal change, we appreciate the attention the authors in this volume of *Journal of Ecological Anthropology* give to myriad ways that such societal change engages non-human life and matter. In this volume, scholars attend to the creation of new economic relations as people reconfigure their relationship to agriculture (Griffith); how people adapt to a changing climate (Dira and Hewlett; Lelenguyah, Kabochi, and Biwot); how names for things actually contain information about prior ecology and prior human-environment relationships (Jones; Masski and Ait Hammou); how we might rethink the nature of landfills (Reno); how to study wellbeing in relation to environmental knowledge (Baines); and how politics engages resource conservation (book reviews by Kashwan and Poirier).

A long-time scholar of livelihoods, David Griffith has teamed up with Raquel Isaula, Pedro Torres, and Manuel Villa Cruz for the research article “Migration, Labor Scarcity, and Deforestation in Honduran Cattle Country,” which covers families who, amidst the societal change of outmigration, find themselves without sufficient labor to continue their way of farming. This is well known throughout the world—particularly resulting from rural-to-urban labor migration—and leads to two main dynamics in northeastern Honduras. First, ranching is less labor intensive and thus replaces much of agricultural activity and, second, some people have left farming for carpentry, which has clear impacts on local forests.

Samuel Dira and Barry Hewlett investigate in their research article how the biophysical environment impinges on Sidama life in Ethiopia, without portraying a lack of human agency. The authors focus on ways in which people teach and learn about ecological change and risk factors that affect their livelihoods. Threats of food shortage and drought are met by teaching and learning the survival skills of saving (taught by parents) and trading (learned

from peers), among others. Dira and Hewlett look at both the horizontal and vertical transmission of such ecological knowledge.

There is an extraordinary story bound up in place-names that people assigned hundreds of years ago in England, according to Richard Jones. Even though the knowledge might not be actively known or practiced currently, Jones suggests that some ethnohistorical sleuthing about place-names can discover patterns of how people pass on some forms of ecological knowledge for centuries without even comprehending that names contain information about the biophysical environment. With all the scholarly attention to purposefully maintained indigenous knowledge, this perspective about unconscious knowledge helps us to realize that human-environmental interactions contain embedded information in the form of language that may not be widely known or understood.

Landfills are accumulations of waste in a place, but in his *Crib Note* Joshua Reno conceptualizes how landfills are also sociotemporal in their manifestations. Any effort to rework waste streams as well as how landfills are created and managed must take into account how complex they are biologically, environmentally, and socially.

Three short pieces that provide insights into the study of ecological knowledge find their home in the *Data Notes* section. Geoffrey Lelenguyah, Samuel Kabochi, and John Biwot found that pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in Kenya are noticing different kinds of changes in rainfall and its effects. Kristina Baines generated a unique dataset on ways to study health and wellbeing that is intimately linked to environmental heritage in a Mopan Maya community in southern Belize. Baines describes a methodology that would ideally allow others to build upon this effort to understand ecological aspects of a life well-lived. Hicham Masski and Abdelaziz Ait Hammou matched 691 fish names to 138 species to give a

glimpse into ethnic engagement of fisheries across Morocco's long coast over hundreds of years. While their interest is in understanding the kind of linguistic confusion that regulators encounter as they try to standardize nomenclature, this study should also be seen as an important and innovative contribution to the human ecological history of Morocco.

Finally, two book reviews in this issue illustrate the complexities of current understandings of conservation. A book reviewed by Prakash Kashwan focuses on a political ecological assessment of forestry in Nigeria, where local experiences mix with bureaucratic constraints within a colonial land tenure legacy to fashion land use, deforestation, and conservation that are far more complex than conservationists and social justice seekers tend to see. The other book is an edited volume reviewed by Nathan Poirier that advocates finding a common ground between anthropocentric and eco-centered environmental justice when thinking about the goals and means of conservation through a variety of case studies in locations around the globe.

With the need for clear thinking and inquiry into human-environment relations never more important, we encourage scholars in their presentation of their work here and elsewhere to be creative with alternative explanations/hypotheses, as well as creative formats to include visual, spatial, and other non-traditional formats. Special thanks to our hard-working editorial assistants Ann Vitous and Sarah Bradley at the University of South Florida (USF), Sara Masoud, Claudia Calderon, and Mary Gerardo at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and Cristina Castillo at the University of Texas at El Paso, the *Journal's* selfless and thoughtful reviewers, as well as to the USF ScholarCommons journal production staff, particularly Chelsea Johnston and Alex Onac.

Sincerely,
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