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Authors

White, Douglas R.
Manlove, Robert
Colby, B. N.
et al.

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The editors and our International Editorial Board are pleased to present the premier issue of *Structure and Dynamics*, an electronic journal designed to serve as a new international forum for anthropology and related sciences. We do so with a solid institutional base for the journal and clarity of purpose aimed at contributions to the general understanding of the human condition, past, present, and future. By inviting contributions from all the sciences and by reinvigorating the spirit and method of science in anthropology (broadly conceived), we hope to offer a conduit for a renewed dialogue in the social sciences that is rooted in interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives.

While centered on anthropology, the new journal seeks to draw its strength from the fertile connections between anthropology and other disciplines. Complementing this, we will adopt a new manner of journal operation in which submissions of merit are not simply accepted or rejected (or critiqued with recommendations for major or minor revisions) but may become the focus of dialogue with the authors moderated by an editor. By connecting ideas, data and often disparate approaches in the spirit of mutuality, our goal will be to distill and recognize each individual's achievement while resolving or further illuminating the questions, issues and representations of significant problems.

In expanding productive interdisciplinary dialogue, as in this endeavor, we think that electronic journals will be paramount. Today the electronic journals stand in complementary relationship to the standard journals. As their potential is realized, we believe they will supplant the standard journals as the medium of choice. This will happen for five reasons. First, the technology permits the rapid and painless submission of articles and reviews. The numerous and onerous submission requirements typically found in paper journals are eliminated. Electronic journal sites on the internet automatically guide authors through submission, alert the editors to new submissions and set up the process of review. Second, submissions can be quickly channeled to several individuals who are part of or newly added to our international pool of reviewers and whose accomplishments enable them to comment on the author's work. This review process is orchestrated by an editor and also consists of constructive exchanges between the reviewers and the author for the development of the article rather than simply acceptance or rejection. Third, electronic journals are not static. Published articles invite comments and further reviews that can be posted with the original article on the web site and, hence, provide an open forum moderated by an editor. Communication between those in debate stands in parity with the development of the discipline. Further, interactive materials consisting of uploaded data, expanded illustrations, dynamic graphics, video and film clips, soundtracks, and interactive software can be made accessible from the links in the article itself, and references can link to permanently accessible offsite resources. Fourth, subscribed readers of the electronic journal can be notified when articles in their areas of interest appear and can thus be assisted in their search for pertinent materials, including those cited in the numerous paper journals by our authors. Readers can electronically transfer and collect key articles in their subfields. And, fifth, electronic publications and related materials can be offered free of charge when the infrastructural investment has already been made by an educational institution

such as the University of California. This makes it possible to freely and widely disseminate research articles to colleagues and students. For this great boon, *Structure and Dynamics* in particular is much indebted to and appreciative of the Berkeley Electronic Press, the UC Office of the President and UC eScholarship, the Institute for Mathematical Behavioral Sciences at UC Irvine, members of our focused research group in Social Dynamics and Evolution, and to all our reviewers.

Since the journal's inception, we have learned how truly instructive and synergetic it can be to offer a high-quality, peer reviewed electronic journal to the scientific and social sciences community. We have processed over 30 articles, engaged hundreds of reviewers, succeeded in encouraging our authors to place supplementary methodological resources in the journal to accompany their articles, helped authors develop their arguments and presentations, and, in several cases, found ourselves assisting in designing visualizations, reprocessing data, and suggesting new data analysis and model formulation. The peer reviewers who have responded to our requests are among the most accomplished in their respective fields; they have responded generously and enthusiastically with their time and effort and engaged with authors in critique and suggestions in constructive electronic dialogue, open or anonymous. We have seen this careful review process disqualify some papers but simultaneously generate articles with a standard of quality equaling the best of standard print journals. As with other electronic journals, *Structure and Dynamics* will be widely indexed in the manner of the standard paper journals.

In *Structure and Dynamics*, we as editors dedicate ourselves to facilitating electronic debate and communication in the firm belief that anthropology is a vital and vigorous discipline among disciplines and to the reinvigoration of anthropology with the spirit and fervor of the human sciences. We invite you to join us—as a subscribed reader at no cost—and to contribute and thereby to join us in raising the aspirations of anthropology and the human sciences today.¹

¹ Acknowledgments: We thank Murray Leaf and Guillermo Algaze for helpful edits of this inaugural statement.