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## Front Matter

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# Journal of Ecological Anthropology

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## Contents

<b>Editors' Note</b> .....	4
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### Articles

Of Fur and Fins: Quantifying Fur Trade Era Fish Harvest to Assess Changes in Contemporary Lake Whitefish ( <i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i> ) Production at Lac La Biche, Alberta .....	5
ANDREA M. MCGREGOR	

Children's Values and Attitudes About the Wild Vicuña ( <i>Vicugna vicugna</i> ) in Andean Argentina .....	27
ANA CELESTE WAWRZYK AND BIBIANA VILÁ	

Shocks and Bribri Agriculture Past and Present .....	43
PAULA POSAS	

### Crib Notes

Environmental Problems and the Grand Old Theory of 'Human Nature' .....	61
HELEN KOPNINA	

How Does Your Garden Grow?	
Environmental Justice Aspects of Community Gardens .....	69
HEATHER MCILVAINE-NEWSAD AND ROB PORTER	

### Data Notes

Alternative Food Systems at Ground Level: The Fairbanks Community Garden .....	76
ALISON M. MEADOW	

Landscape, Paysage, Landschaft, Táj: The Cultural Background of Landscape Perceptions in England, France, Germany, and Hungary .....	85
DÓRA DREXLER	

### Field Notes

Gardening as Ethnographic Research: Volunteering as a Means for Community Access .....	97
ANDREW FLACHS	

### Book Reviews

Book Review Editor's Note .....	104
Swamplife: People, Gators, and Mangroves Entangled in the Everglades .....	104
Insectopedia .....	107
Remapping Bolivia: Resources, Territory, and Indigeneity in a Plurinational State .....	110

## EDITORS' NOTE

This volume includes articles representing the fields of ethnohistory, comparative historical linguistics, applied agricultural anthropology, and ethnecology, including research carried out in Costa Rica, Argentina, Canada, and the United States. While we have rarely planned special thematic volumes, this one happens to highlight the study of community gardens in the United States, with a Crib Note, Field Note, and Data Note all focusing on the topic, perhaps reflecting the attention that this movement has garnered from anthropologists in recent years. We present a variety of perspectives on community gardening, with each article contributing theoretical, methodological, or empirical insights as anthropologists attempt to understand the social and ecological impacts of practices that vary in three quite different geographical locations.

Andrea McGregor's research is an ethnohistorical examination of fish harvests that gauges the sustainability of natural resource use in order to ascertain ecological tipping points in a large Canadian lake during a transition period between indigenous and pioneer usage to industrial harvesting that followed the expansion of the fur trade. McGregor's study demonstrates the relevancy of careful scholarship to better understand historically situated fishing practices.

Ana Celeste Wawrzyk and Bibiana Vilá's study brings needed attention to understudied child-environment interactions. While development specialists and some communities are looking to the vicuña—the wild relative of alpacas—as having potential to become a managed species for economic benefit of Andean communities, it is unclear how locals will react to such projects. Wawrzyk and Vilá look to the next generation as indications of communities' existing and potential orientations toward vicuñas.

Andrew Flachs' manuscript in the Field Note feature details the challenges and possibilities of fieldwork in the study of community gardens, including how to work alongside community gardeners and the opportunities that presents. Flachs notes that participant observation generates considerable relevant data and, most importantly, builds trust, but that the bulk of his findings tended to come from those conversations when gardeners took a breather to chat or invited him to a meal. It was through semi-structured interviews without distraction that he found most of the material he needed. This might be instructive for others carrying out similar research.

Heather McIlvaine-Newsad's and Rob Porter's Crib Note applies four generalizations about food insecurity by popular environmental justice writer and orator Vandana Shiva to their own experiences as founding members of a community garden. They note that Shiva's emphasis on unsustainability and on hunger in contemporary food systems were easily identifiable in their work with the community garden, that focusing on the changing nature of agriculture was occasionally useful, and that a focus on an obesity crisis did not provide much insight. The authors also argue that community building is a fundamental aspect of community gardens as an environmental justice response to food insecurity.

Allison Meadow's contribution to the Data Note feature illustrates the economic costs and benefits of community gardening in

frigid urban Alaska, as well as presents results on other aspects of community gardening—especially reasons for getting and staying involved—that can be relevant for food system design. Her piece will also be useful for those involved in planning and sustaining social movements to reshape local food systems.

Dora Drexler's manuscript is a Data Note that captures variation in four European languages in their linguistically evolving conceptualization of landscape over the past few hundred years. Drexler finds some similarities between German and Hungarian traditions in comparison to English and French traditions, though each society presents unique stages of linguistic change associated with other economic, social and ecological changes occurring in each society.

Paula Posas provides an investigation of agricultural practices among the Bribri of inland Costa Rica, concluding that a variety of economic, colonial and political shocks have been more responsible for changes in this population's agriculture than has population increase or market pressures. This article provides one of the first treatments of Bribri agriculture to date.

Volume 16 is the last issue produced and published by the Journal of Ecological Anthropology editorial and production staff. With volume 17, we are moving JEA to an entirely open-access publishing format, through an e-journal hosting agreement with the University of South Florida Libraries' ScholarCommons (<http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/jea>). We have been open access for many years, offering free online versions of all content within six to twelve months after publication of the paper volumes. With the next volume, articles will be freely available for download immediately upon publication without charging fees to authors. All articles will be assigned a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) to facilitate database searches through academic search services such as Google Scholar. We will continue to offer subscriptions for paper copies (\$30/year) and most subscribing university libraries are continuing their paper subscriptions with JEA for 2014.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thank you to David Casagrande for 15 years of service to the Journal of Ecological Anthropology, first as Co-Editor (1998-2003) and then as Production Editor (2004-2013). We also were fortunate to have stellar design support from Donna Gayer, the proprietor of Art as Verb who steadily improved our graphic and layout styles, and so we send a very big thank you to Donna. We now look forward to working with production support staff at USF ScholarCommons and we would like to thank Rebel Cummings Sauls, Carol Ann Borchert, Julie Fielding, and Todd Chavez at the USF library for making the transition easy for us and for approaching us with this unique opportunity. As always, our reviewers have challenged our authors to continue to build this field of human sociocultural interaction with biophysical environments. We thank our anonymous reviewers for all their hard work this year. We look forward to seeing what the next 15 years brings to the Journal of Ecological Anthropology as well as the field of ecological and environmental anthropology. We encourage you to be a part of the dialogue.

ERIC C. JONES

REBECCA ZARGER

*Co-Editors-In-Chief*