

Vibrant 6.1

Globalization and Circulation

It is a common sense assumption that it is quite easy to produce the first issue of a journal. The challenge is to continue to publish it after the second and third issues. *Vibrant*, which with this dossier on Globalization and Circulation is launching its ninth issue, is certainly on the way of earning space among the major internationally oriented journals in the field of Social Anthropology!

Indeed, we are pleased to report that our call for papers on the theme of Globalization and Circulation received a record of 28 submissions, all sent by anthropologists who work or study in Brazil. Besides continuing to be a vehicle for essays written by senior anthropologists, we have also begun to attract younger scholars. We are grateful to our reviewers for their invaluable work.

The current volume presents a set of articles which examine critically different aspects of the ongoing global circulation of people, signs, information, capital and goods. These are the core topics to understand the present juncture of global capitalism, marked by an intensification of the movements of people (tourists, migrants, refugees, etc), information (through different types of electronic media), symbols (including the marketing of culture), commodities and capital, throughout the globe. Besides reflecting the compression of time and space, these circulations bring to the fore processes that are apparently contradictory, such as the dynamic interrelations between the global and the local, the construction of differentiated identities and the exacerbation of xenophobia and racism. And while the movements of capital, media and signs seem to transpose a world without geographical and political borders, strong physical borders demarcate and control who and which goods may enter and circulate into national territories. These processes further recreate symbolic borders of incorporation and exclusion that bring to the fore new classifications as, for instance, the present differentiations between legal/illegal; legality/illegality.

Against the background of their research data, the authors that are brought together by this issue of *Vibrant* contribute with new analyses and perspective to a better understanding of these processes in contemporary globalization. They thus demonstrate that, more often than not, anthropologists need to tackle the complex situations engendered and structured by different kinds of global processes.