

From the Editor



Dear colleagues and friends,

I am pleased to bring to you the July 2018 issue of the ISA Esymposium. The three essays featured in this issue are authored by colleagues who are based in Turkey, Australia, and Germany. In the first paper by Mehmet Fatih Aysan (Istanbul Sehir University) and Mesut Karakaş (Gebze Technical University), the authors deliberate on the intersection between social policies and levels of happiness in the context of Turkey. Based on a nationally representative survey conducted in 2016, Aysan and Karakaş examine the concept of life satisfaction and show how this concept has been employed interchangeably with happiness in the wider literature. Using multiple regression analysis, the authors conclude that certain aspects of social security and sociocultural activities influence happiness levels positively.

Elvin Xing, who is presently pursuing doctoral studies at the Australian National University, brings to us his analysis of adhivasi activism in India in the second paper. He investigates two tribal organisations in Telangana and demonstrates how the pursuit of the common good by these two groups is intertwined with ethical considerations beyond political manoeuvres or altruism. By deploying Robbins's notion of value monism, combined with Dumontian monism, Xing outlines the different values and visions that each of the organisation subscribes to.

The third paper is a research note prepared by Helena Flam, presently based at the University of Leipzig. She provides a broad overview of the field of emotions in sociological inquiry in introducing the establishment of a new thematic group within the International Sociological Association – TG08 Society and Emotions. Apart from discussing how emotions as a scholarly domain of inquiry has been approached across the different regions, Flam also introduces key figures in the field.

The final entry for this issue is an interview with University of Edinburgh anthropologists Jonathan Spencer and Tobias Kelly, undertaken by Shivani Gupta from the National University of Singapore. Through the interview, Spencer and Kelly share their experiences in the field of anthropology, as well as their views on anthropological scholarship in the US and the UK, among other issues.

As always, I extend a warm invitation to everyone who would like to contribute their papers for future issues and also welcome feedback on these articles. Please do email me if you have ideas, suggestions or queries about the eSymposium.

Thank you all for your support of the ISA eSymposium.

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