



EDITORS' FOREWORD

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In our Preface to *Forum for Anthropology and Culture* no. 18, we offered preliminary reflections on the ways in which the events of 2022 had altered the landscape of our subject. We anticipated that the 2023 number would 'better reflect the changes "since then"', and in particular, that we would publish 'a discussion about the impact of 24 February 2022 on the academic world'. Unfortunately, this anticipation proved too optimistic. As the 'special military operation' drags, unresolved, into a third calendar year, the prospect for open discussion of its effects has radically contracted. When it became evident that its publication might put the professional and indeed personal safety of participants at risk, we had to abandon plans to include the discussion in the journal. As a sad memorial to the situation, we include here Ekaterina Melnikova and Zinaida Vasilieva's Afterword to an Unpublished Forum.

At the same time, we maintain our commitment to the publication of important new work that originally appeared in the journal's Russian editions. This year, the focus is on contemporaneity and the recent past. We are delighted to include Olga Pinchuk's study of factory workers in post-Soviet commercial reality, Evgeniya Petrova and Varvara Preter's discussion of TV viewers in rural Russia today, Polina Kislitsyna's analysis of how non-heterosexual interviewees address personal experience, and Valery Vyugin's examination of 'cultural recycling' as a theoretical and critical problem and as a set of social practices. As well as reviews of a book on a manifestation of imperialism —

the electronic surveillance of Uyghurs resident in the People's Republic of China — and of academics under pressure in 1920s Poland, we include an obituary of Aleksandr Belousov, whose pioneering studies of urban folklore, in particular the texts circulating among Russian-speaking schoolchildren, were central examples of the shifts in focus among anthropologists, and specialists in culture generally, which made themselves felt in the 1990s–2000s, the subject of discussion in our first ever Forum back in 2004.

That neatly brings us to our final point: Autumn 2024 marks twenty years since the first appearance of *Antropologicheskii forum* and its English-language satellite. We can only hope, however faintly, that the anniversary also coincides with a less troubled period in the history of Russian academia, and indeed, international academia, and the larger world of geopolitics in which they operate.

Our deep gratitude goes to the authors, to our translator, Ralph Cleminson, and to the journal's editorial staff, Olga Boitsova, who have worked on the edition with commitment and rigour, despite the difficult circumstances.

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