

The logo for the Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford (JASO) features the acronym 'JASO' in a white, serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.

Journal of the
Anthropological
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ANTHROPOLOGY IN TRANSLATION (JASO OCCASIONAL SERIES)

This new translation series provides an English-language space for current anthropological scholarship originally written in languages other than English. Such a space is long overdue. Successive debates about ‘world anthropologies’ or decolonisation – including in English – have produced little practical changes in editorial practices concerning non-English-language scholarship. It is no longer possible to ignore the many vibrant traditions of social anthropology worldwide, whose insights are well cognizant of English-language scholarship without receiving appropriate attention in the opposite direction. The global hegemony of English as a scholarly language, in addition to the everyday Anglo-centrism of Anglo-American anthropology departments, poses a serious epistemic barrier to an even scholarly dialogue within the worldwide anthropological community.

As an open-access anthropology journal based in Oxford, we wanted to open a modest editorial space to begin redressing this epistemic imbalance, by featuring a genuine avenue to engage with anthropology in translation. We are well aware that translation, on its own, cannot be the panacea to cure all structural imbalances in academic knowledge-production. However, it is a small step towards acknowledging the limitations of Anglo-American conversations that rarely feature non-Anglo-American scholars. We note, furthermore, that there is a broader trend towards a cross-linguistic anthropological practice in our discipline. Setting aside bilingual venues such as *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie sociale*, journals such as *HAU* and *Cambridge Anthropology* have begun featuring a translation section in recent years. Meanwhile, the American journal *Cultural Anthropology* has begun accepting articles in Spanish as well as English. We would like to join this broader trend in Anglo-American circles by offering a robust engagement with current world anthropologies through translation.

Our first article in the series is written by Ismaël Moya (CNRS) and translated by David Zeitlyn. The original article is entitled ‘L’esthétique de la norme: Discours et pouvoir dans les relations matrimoniales et maraboutiques à Dakar’, and it was published in *Autrepart* (2015). Moya argues that statements seemingly about matters of fact (household budgets) are actually about ideology. In contexts where an understanding of how things should be is much more important than trifling details on the ground the correct thing to do, to be helpful to a researcher, is to explain the proper state of affairs. This means that interview and questionnaire data about household economies reflect norms rather than the mundane situations in which families live.