

Letter from the Chair, Commission on Nomadic Peoples

Greetings fellow members of the Commission on Nomadic Peoples, IUAES

I want to extend to you the warmest New Year's greetings, and to share important news from the Council of Commission of the IUAES. These include updates on the 2016 IUAES Inter-Congress meetings in Dubrovnik (May 4-9, 2016), which has extended its deadline for paper abstract submission to Feb 29. Secondly, the IUAES Council on Commissions has announced a new initiative for Seed Funding Grants, application due March 31, 2016, described in more detail below.

The Commission on Nomadic Peoples of the IUAES was founded in 1978 by Philip Carl Salzman with early conferences and edited volumes organized by Salzman, John Galaty, and others including *Nomads in a Changing World* (1978), *The Future of Pastoral Peoples* (1981), *Change and Development in Nomadic and Pastoralist Societies* (1981), followed by other conferences through the 1980s and 1990s (see Salzman's summary (<http://cnp.nonuniv.ox.ac.uk/about/salzman.shtml>)). From its inception, the CNP produced our journal *Nomadic Peoples*, which continues today edited by Saverio Krätli and published by White Horse Press (<http://www.whpress.co.uk/NP.html>).

The Commission on Nomadic Peoples has provided the principal forum within the IUAES where anthropologists can interact and share anthropological research on nomadic peoples - pastoralists, foragers, and mobile urban and rural populations. We engage each other's works in our congress and inter-congresses of the IUAES, and publish our findings in our journal *Nomadic Peoples*. Problems affecting nomads continue to this day - threats to land and communal property rights, drought and famine, sedentarization and pulls into alternative livelihoods, resettlement and displacement, and threats to indigenous cultures and traditional knowledge. These problems are exacerbated today by a globalization process that promotes agribusiness, tourism, and increasing extraction of resources including oil, gas, and minerals. Finally, ethnic and religious violence has accelerated in many regions of the world, including pastoral zones.

We hope you can participate in the Dubrovnik meetings in May by submitting your paper. The CNP is sponsoring five panels, and are reviewing paper submissions through the deadline period of Feb 29, 2016.

Panel 318 "Pastoral Nomads: Comparisons between Continents." (Chaired by Philip Carl Salzman)

- Panel 324 "Pastoralists and Nomads Today" (Chaired by Elliot Fratkin and Kazunobo Ikeya)
- Panel 396 "'Gypsies', 'Nomads', 'Roma': Transformations and strategic uses of political and cultural categorisations concerning Roma and Sinti populations in Italy over the last fifty years" (Chaired by Stefania Pontrandolfo and Marco Solimene)
- Panel 441 "Lands of the future: Pastoralist knowledge in a globalizing world" (Chaired by Christina Gabbert)
- Panel 718. "The Cost of Crossing: Exploring Power through Boundaries" (Chaired by Ariell Ahearn and Troy Sternberg).

IUAES Commission Seed Funding Grants

As you may have seen in communications from the IUAES Secretary-General, Junji Koizumi, the Executive Committee of the IUAES is making available a total of £15,000 (fifteen thousand pounds GBP) for seed-funding grants of £500 to £1,500 to established IUAES Commissions. (http://www.iaaes.org/comm/seed%20funding%20grants_call.pdf)

We would like you to give some thought to this opportunity and help develop proposals that can be sponsored or used by the Commission of Nomadic Peoples. The grants can be used for one of several types of projects:

1. A project symposium leading to publication
 2. A project symposium leading to a collaborative anthropological educational programme
 3. Meeting to prepare a joint research funding application
 4. Project website establishment and/or maintenance
 5. Virtual conference costs for a Commission's research project and leading to a publication
 6. Contribution to establishment of a MOOC (or equivalent)
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The application deadline is March 29. Please let me know if you have ideas or projects you are considering applying for.

With best wishes for the coming year

Elliot Fratkin
Chair, Commission on Nomadic People
IUAES