

Editor's Notes

Sarah D. Phillips, Indiana University

With this fall 2009 issue (Volume 27, No. 2) of *Anthropology of East Europe Review* we are delighted to launch our new open access format through Open Journal Systems and IUScholarWorks. *AEER* has evolved considerably since its inception in the early 1980s as a newsletter for anthropologists working in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Around 1989, under the leadership of editors Sam Beck and David Kideckel, the newsletter transformed into a print journal with articles and book reviews. Robert Rotenberg added a journal website in the mid-1990s that offers archives of most back issues with a two year moving wall. Throughout these transformations *AEER* has been dedicated to publishing the most current, field-based research and promoting especially the work of junior scholars, graduate students, and foreign anthropologists who may have less access to the world of U.S. academic publishing. The journal, with its accessible format and quick turnaround, is an excellent venue for giving current research on the region broad exposure. These opportunities will be enhanced further through Open Journal Systems (OJS), which makes the journal content freely available to anyone, anywhere, via the Internet. Open access promises to exponentially increase the journal's readership and visibility, among other advantages.

For example, through OJS the journal's content will be searchable and indexable by various search engines and indexing services, thus giving the journal content much greater exposure. OJS helps generate statistics regarding the utilization/popularity of the journal in general, and of individual articles; this could be very useful information for contributors. Via OJS we will be able to streamline the submission and editorial review process through a central workflow system. Crucially, OJS also serves as a permanent institutional repository for all the new and past *AEER* content, thus providing an extremely reliable preservation mechanism. Over time we hope to add all or most of the back issues of *AEER* into this institutional repository. I would like to emphasize that although OJS is based at Indiana University, the journal and its future are in no way permanently tied to Indiana. To the contrary, open access offers precisely the kind of flexibility required by a journal such as *AEER*, which historically has changed editorships approximately every three years. The IUScholarWorks Library staff has generously agreed to maintain *AEER* via OJS eternally; since everything is digital there is no need for the editor(s) to be affiliated with or located at a particular institution. Indeed, thanks to OJS the journal can more easily migrate from institution to institution as the editorship changes.

This is a truly exciting time for *AEER* staff, readers, and contributors. I am extremely grateful for the support and input of many of the journal's former editors and other colleagues associated with the journal, especially Julie Hemment, Krista Harper, David Kideckel, Robert Rotenberg, Neringa Klumbyte, and Barb West. Instrumental in launching this open access initiative have been Jennifer Laherty and Sherri Michaels at the Indiana University Libraries, as well as Rachel Eyer mann, my editorial assistant. Many thanks to you all.

As the journal transitions to an open access platform we welcome your feedback. Please direct comments, suggestions, and concerns to Sarah D. Phillips, editor-in-chief, at anthroeasteuropereview@gmail.com.