

The Department of Anthropology at the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign endorses the Motion of the 32nd RBA of the Brazilian Anthropological Association. This Resolution titled “Diversify Information and Education about the Global Anthropologies of Foreign Researchers and Anthropology Students” comes at an important time in our own process of decolonizing anthropology. The Resolution urges us all to avoid cognitive extractivism, and we are committed to doing so going forward. The American Anthropological Association and the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research have already publicly endorsed the resolution, and highlighted commitments of their own in the process of doing so.

Here, however, we want to state our own commitments as a department located in the United States and intent on decolonizing anthropology in our own research and teaching. The domestic work we are committed to doing is part of that process but so is the international work we do and commit to doing as a department of anthropology.

As such, we want to combine those commitments in the following ways:

- (1) We commit ourselves as a department to ensuring that our students and our researchers engage and cite the work of anthropologists and other scholars/intellectuals in the country or region or sector of the population in which their research is located.
- (2) We commit ourselves as a department to robustly and meaningfully integrating theorists from the Global South and non-dominant sectors of the U.S. population in our introductory and graduate courses (and strongly recommend that all our courses follow suit).
- (3) We commit ourselves to recognizing the multiple approaches to Anthropology in contexts outside of the US, including the work of scholars and theorists not canonically defined as anthropologists. This includes identifying and eliminating the way these theoretical and methodological approaches are excluded from recognition through the gatekeeping practices of our field.
- (4) We commit ourselves as a department to coauthoring grant proposals, journal articles, book chapters, and books with anthropologists from the Global South and in nondominant sectors of the U.S. and other global regions.

- (5) We commit to expand and revise our reviewer practices and responsibilities as manuscript reviewers, editors, and board members to ensure that the inclusion of scholars and scholarship from the Global South and non-dominant sectors of the US are robustly represented, both as authors and within citational practices.
- (6) We commit ourselves as a department to working in partnership with colleagues in the Global South, wherever needed and each time a departmental researcher does fieldwork outside the U.S.
- (7) We commit ourselves as a department to assisting and/or working cooperatively with colleagues in non-dominant sectors of the U.S. population, wherever needed and each time a member of this department does fieldwork in such a sector.
- (8) We commit ourselves as a department to preparing all students in our graduate program for a requirement to write one of their preliminary exam questions on the research done in the country or sector of the U.S. population by anthropologists and other scholars/intellectuals in which they seek to do their doctoral fieldwork (or throughout all questions on the exam).
- (9) We commit ourselves as a department to learning and writing in the language(s) of the places where our research takes place and/or languages of the Global South. This is a necessary step to meaningful engagement with the literatures and theories of anthropologists and intellectuals and works against the continued hegemony of English and English-language dominance (as well as other colonial languages) in anthropology.
- (10) We commit to publishing and circulating our research in venues outside of the U.S. and the Global North and agree to count publishing in those arenas toward progress to degree completion (for graduate students), and annual review, promotion, and tenure processes in the department.

As the official endorsement letter sent to the Brazilian Anthropological Association by the president of the Wenner-Gren Foundation says, we must do all we can to avoid cognitive extractivism. This means that the only research projects that should be funded or even allowed outside the United States are those that “clearly demonstrate knowledge of work produced by local academics by citing literature in the local language about pertinent issues.” We are pleased that Wenner-Gren “is dedicated to broadening the conversation in anthropology to represent the full diversity of the field...[and] will strive to implement these measures. But we firmly believe that we cannot truly decolonize anthropology without taking steps of our own.

Unanimously approved by the faculty
April 22, 2021