The Untold Personal Side of Egypt’s Revolution Featured in American Ethnologist

Lila Abu-Lughod and Farha Ghannam share the untold personal side of Egypt’s revolution in this quarter’s American Ethnologist. By authoring local interpretations of the uprising from locales unspoken of by the press, their stories share an intriguing interpretation of the events in the low-income neighborhoods of Cairo and rural Upper Egypt.

Abu-Lughod, a Joseph L. Buttenwieser Professor of Social Science at Columbia University, notes that in her article, Living the “Revolution” in an Egyptian Village, she offers “a glimpse of what happened in one village in Upper Egypt where, as elsewhere, daily lives were deeply shaped by devastating national economic and social policies, the arbitrary power of police and security forces, and a sense of profound marginalization and disadvantage.” Rather than fighting in the name of democracy, these youth consider their actions to be in the name of necessity and social morality.

Farha Ghannam’s article, Meanings and Feelings: Local interpretations of the use of violence in the Egyptian Revolution, interviews colleagues in Cairo who live in low-income neighborhoods. Interestingly, she focuses on state-sponsored communications to residents and their sentiments towards Mubarak before and during the uprising in relation to the events post-Mubarak. Ghannam, an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Swarthmore College, is available for interview.

American Ethnologist, a quarterly journal produced by the American Ethnological Society (AES), in its February 2012 issue features these articles on the Arab Spring uprising in Egypt. The nine authors are anthropologists with a wide range of specialties who have years of research experience in Egypt. The online and print editions are currently available. Articles and abstracts are available at www.americanethnologist.org.

This journal is edited by Angelique Haugerud of Rutgers University and its content deals with all facets of ethnology in the broadest sense of the term. Articles creatively demonstrate the connections between ethnographic specificity and theoretical originality, as well as the ongoing relevance of the ethnographic imagination to the contemporary world.

The American Ethnological Society, founded in 1842, sponsors the journal American Ethnologist. AES is a section of the American Anthropological Association.

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Founded in 1902, the American Anthropological Association is the world’s largest professional organization of anthropologists and others interested in anthropology, with an average annual membership of more than 10,000. The Arlington, VA – based association represents all specialties within anthropology – cultural anthropology, biological (or physical) anthropology, archaeology, linguistics and applied anthropology.