Editorial

Aurélie Godet
Nantes Université, France

In line with the growth of the field of festive studies itself, the length of this fifth annual issue noticeably exceeds that of previous ones. In addition to a short methodological contribution on doing auto/ethnographic work at electronic dance music events (Aydin Quach) and three stand-alone articles—one on visual representations of the Feast of St. Martin in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Dutch art (Martin W. Walsh), a second on the Senegalese film festival landscape (Estella Sendra), and a third on the experience of senior volunteers in the South Australian city of Adelaide (Stuart Richards, Jessica Pacella, and Kim Munro)—we are featuring two thematic sections: one on transformational festivals, guest edited by anthropologists Graham St John and Sarah Pike, and one on party tourism, guest edited by anthropologist Alix Boirot.

Preceded by a stimulating introduction by St John, the section on transformational festivals comprises five research articles (by Amanda Lucia, Katri Ratia, Sarah Pike, Ian Rowen, and Graham St John and Botond Vitos). In accordance with our desire to experiment with various formats and methodologies, the section on party tourism includes an instructive introductory essay by Boirot; two research articles (by Hazel Andrews and Sitingawawo Kachipande); an interview with sociologist Thomas Thurnell-Read; a documentary film (and a companion essay) on Dutch youths in Lloret de Mar, Spain (by Annemarije Rus); and a comic on party tourism in Goa, India, that arose from a fruitful collaboration between scholar Benedito Ferrão, illustrator Angela Ferrão, and graphic designer Maria Vanessa De Sa.

Rounding out this issue is a series of ten book reviews on subjects as diverse as the rituals of early modern Afro-Mexican confraternities (Caroline Cunill), an Ottoman circumcision festival in eighteenth-century Istanbul (Annie Tozzi), Christmas celebrations on antebellum plantations in the US South (Anne-Claire Faucquez), emancipation festivals in the postbellum United States (Kris Plunkett), the diffusion of Día de los muertos celebrations outside of Mexico (Ruben Arellano), the Italian folkloric figure of the Befana (Fabian Alfie), queer carnivalesque events in the US South (Cora Gaebel), queer underground techno scene in New York City (Kyle Rogers), the international VIP party circuit (Alix Boirot), and the evolving relationship between European cities and their festivals (Bernadette Quinn).
All together, these contributions showcase the vitality of the field while testifying once more to the merits of a multidisciplinary approach to festivity. We hope you enjoy them!

The year 2023 has seen several changes at the journal, including the onboarding of ethnomusicologist Andrew Snyder as our third coeditor in anticipation of my upcoming transition to a new role. Andrew did fantastic work on some of the contributions for issue 5, and I am convinced that he and Isabel Machado will take our journal to new heights of scholarly rigor while paying close attention to issues of inclusivity and interdisciplinary/intermedia dialogue. Isabel's idea to solicit contemporary artists and designers for the cover of this issue and for one of the articles—which has led to beautiful collaborations with photographer Felipe Correia and interaction designer Daniel Wildberger—is only one in a myriad of innovations that they will be implementing in future years. I wish them the best of luck and certainly will cheer them on from the sidelines, in my new position as editorial board member and consultant.

Our next issue will include a thematic section (edited by anthropologist Laurent Sébastien Fournier) on "sports and festivity," two terms that have rarely been studied together systematically despite the festive character of many sports events and the long-standing proximity between festivals and competitive displays of physical prowess. And we will soon publish a call for papers for issue 7, which will include a thematic section (edited by Latin Americanist Miguel Valerio) on "joy as resistance" across time and space. Please share it widely and do not hesitate to submit stand-alone articles to our journal too!
AUTHOR BIO

Aurélie Godet is an associate professor of US history at Nantes Université, France, and is currently at work on a multivolume history of festivity in New Orleans from the eighteenth century through today, tentatively titled "Festive City: The Politics of Play in New Orleans (1700s–2000s)." She has been the coeditor in chief of the Journal of Festive Studies since its inception in 2019 and will be a junior fellow of the Institut Universitaire de France (IUF) for the 2023–28 period, working on a collaborative research project titled "L'empire de la fête: Festive Practices, National Identity, and Creolization in the French Atlantic (1500s–1800s)."

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