

STOCKHOLM ANTHROPOLOGY ROUNDTABLE
FALL 2025
October 17, 9:30-17:30
SCORE, Stockholm University, Frescativägen 14A

ANTHROPOLOGY AND POLICY: ABUNDANCE AFTER AUSTERITY?

Due to its historical connection to colonialism, anthropology has long been chastened in its ability, and even desire, to contribute to local and global policy discussions. Post-structuralist anthropology's focus on "irreducible difference" further complicated these forms of engagement since policy-makers inevitably lean toward "one-size fits all" solutions anathema to anthropology's central aims. Can policy makers be pulled closer to our own axiomatic beliefs in nuanced and complex approaches to solving both local and global challenges? Or do we need to better translate the tools we have developed over the years, so as to open up cross-cultural solutions to global policy challenges?

Our roundtable proposes to dive into these thorny issues of anthropology's relevance outside the academy by springboarding off of the recent policy proposal published in Gustav Peebles and Ben Luzzatto's book, [*The First and Last Bank: Climate Change, Currency, and a New Carbon Commons* \(MIT Press, 2025\)](#). The book offers an example of finding grassroots, locally-based, solutions that are built off of insights and theories gleaned from decades of anthropological research, while also trying to place these ideas in a more popular idiom. Our first panel will scrutinize the book from interdisciplinary perspectives, while our second panel will focus on the future of anthropology and policy more generally.

Using the book as one example of many, we are particularly excited to probe what it would look like if we approached global policy solutions through the lens of anthropological concerns with abundance and the sacred, two obvious examples of phenomena that are entirely real, but elude quantification and are thus rendered inaccessible to other disciplines. As such, abundance and sacrality represent two obvious spaces for anthropological intervention, while also offering up distinct counterpoints to economists' foundational belief in a world constituted by scarcity, and thus governed via austerity.

Please contact [Johan Lindquist](#) for registration.

STOCKHOLM ANTHROPOLOGY ROUNDTABLE

TIME: October 19, 9:30-17:30

LOCATION: [SCORE](#), Stockholm University, Frescativägen 14a, 114 18, Stockholm

PROGRAM

9:30-12:30

Coffee break at 11:00-11:15

Anthropology & Policy: A Specific Example

Moderated & Introduced by [Johan Lindquist](#), Stockholm University

[Beppe Karlsson](#), Professor of Social Anthropology at Stockholm University and PI of Biordinary Research Project.

[Andrea Muehlebach](#), Professor of Anthropology at the University of Bremen, Germany. Leader of the Bremen NatureCulture Lab.

[Ranjula Bali Swain](#), Research Director at Center for Sustainability Research, SIR, Stockholm School of Economics and Professor of Economics at Södertörn University.

[Adam Wickberg](#), Researcher at History of Science, Technology and Environment at KTH and co-director of the VR Excellence Centre for Anthropocene History.

Respondent:

[Gustav Peebles](#), Associate Professor of Social Anthropology at Stockholm University.

12:30-13:30

Catered lunch at SCORE

13:30-16:30

Coffee break at 15:00-15:15

Anthropology & Policy: Pathways During Our Era of Polycrisis

Moderated & Introduced by [Molly Sundberg](#), Stockholm University

[Christina Garsten](#), Principal of the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Studies and Professor of Social Anthropology at Stockholm University.

[Simon Johansson](#), Analyst at the Swedish Agency for Defence Analysis and PhD in Social Anthropology.

[Danilyn Rutherford](#), President of the Wenner-Gren Foundation.

[Biao Xiang](#), Director of the Department of Economic Experimentation, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology.

Drinks

16:30-17:30

SCORE

Dinner

18:30-20:30

[Ethiostar, Saltmätargatan 19A](#)