

American Ethnological Society Roundtable

**Reviewed by:** American Ethnological Society

**Of interest to:** Practicing and Applied Anthropologists, Students

**Primary Theme:** Inequality | Inégalité

**Secondary Theme:** Politics | Politique

## **(5-0545) The Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale Roundtable on the New Far Right**

 11/23/2019    10:15 AM - 12:00 PM    Location: Vancouver CC WEST, Room 220

**Abstract:** Anthropologists have long predicted the rise of far-right populist movements (Holmes 2000; Kalb and Halamai 2011) but this nonetheless has caught the world by surprise. Political acts that were unthinkable five years ago are not only possible now but increasingly common. We once again find ourselves fighting battles that seemed long foregone. Old debates resurface, and situations that seemed unrepeatable return. In the US, migrant children are detained in facilities where they die. In Spain, pilgrimages to Francisco Franco's mausoleum have tripled in less than a year. On her first day in office, Brazil's Secretary of Equality calls for a new world where "girls will dress in pink and boys in blue." What is it, about our time, that has produced this new (yet uncannily familiar) dangerous political terrain? What does it mean for anthropological research methodologies and ethics? As new editors of the *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale*, the journal of the European Association for Social Anthropologists (EASA), we propose a round table on this issue that we plan to result in a forum section of this journal in early 2020. In this round table we would like to bring together anthropologists working on populism and the new far-right in different parts of the world to engage in a comparative exercise and think about the following questions: What are the modalities of the far right that we are talking about, from right-wing governments such as Orbán Hungary to imperial and nationalist orientations of Putin's Russia to nationalist populism (Gusterson 2017) in the US and the UK? Are these modalities secular or post-secular or religious? What is the relationship between populism and fundamentalism? How might the emergent anthropological analytics of the current far right differ from those of the studies of the resurgence of ethnicity and nationalism from 1980s onwards? Do these different figurations of "us" and "them" require different research methodologies? How the far right and nationalist populism configure the contemporary notions of sovereignty? How can we best conceptualize the relationship between right-wing populism and capitalism? How and in which cases are far right governments facilitating (or opposing?) the expansion of the global neoliberal agenda? How can we as anthropologists help better understand the position of the growing numbers of people who have come to support these movements worldwide? Given voter support for these regimes, is it time to think rethink the opposition between authoritarianism and democracy? Do these distinctions work?

### **Organizer(s)**



**Nikolai Ssorin-Chaikov**

Professor  
Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg



## **Rosana Pinheiro Machado**

Assistant Professor  
University of Bath

### **Chair(s)**

DK

## **Don Kalb**

Full professor  
University of Bergen, Department of Social Anthropology

### **Presenter(s)**



## **Nikolai Ssorin-Chaikov**

Professor  
Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg

SH

## **Susan Harding**

University of California, Santa Cruz

DH

## **Douglas Holmes**

Professor of Anthropology  
SUNY - Binghamton University, Department of Anthropology



## **Kristof Szombati**

Istvan Deak Visiting Assistant Professor  
Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

### **Discussant(s)**

NS

## **Nitzan Shoshan**

Professor  
El Colegio de Mexico