

About the Journal

Compass is an open-access journal that aims to improve the quality and reach of anthropological publishing. Through collaboration between the Association of Graduate Anthropology Students (AGAS) and the Department of Anthropology, our student-run journal allows undergraduate and graduate students to share their work and ideas, creating a platform for discussion and knowledge. Submissions consist of original ongoing research, multi-media projects, reviews of current anthropological issues, and anything related to an anthropological interest from any of the sub-fields.

Meet the Editorial Team

Managing Editors



Karlene Dunne, MA student

I have a BA (Honors) in Anthropology, research lithics and how imagery is used in archaeology. I love knitting and spin my own wool.



Tristan Mula, MA student

I have a BS in biology, love the human skeleton, and have summited Kilimanjaro—yet I'm terrified to drive over the High Level Bridge!



Uthman Khan, PhD student

I study the intersection of music, culture, and emotion with a focus on trance music producers. One of my songs made it to the Top 30 Trance Charts in the world.



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Featured Articles & About the Author



Jennifer K. Laughton
Department of Anthropology,
University of Alberta

Ride, Ride, Ride, Let It Ride: Pathological Lesions in Horse Skeletons Related to Riding.

Over 30 years, researchers have studied horse domestication by examining skeletal changes linked to riding. This study tested methods on 12 horses from Alberta, finding three with riding evidence, three inconclusive, and six without. It also discusses limitations in methods, collections, and researcher interpretation.



Viktoriia Popovych
Department of Anthropology,
University of Alberta

There Is No Ukraine Without Salo: An Analysis of the Cultural and Social Significance of Salo in Ukraine

This paper explores how Ukraine's *salo* has changed from associations of poverty and low class to a powerful symbol of resistance against Russian aggression using a comparative analysis of *salo* and *lardo*. It is more than just food, salo embodies Ukraine's cultural spirit, as the saying goes, "There is no Ukraine without salo."



Maya Abdulhak
Department of Anthropology,
University of Alberta;
Department of Psychology,
University of Alberta

Ice and Skin: Inuit Kakiniit Birth, Death, and Revival in a Modern Post-Colonial and Politicized Arctic

This paper explores the history of Inuit tattooing (kakiniit) against a post-colonial Arctic landscape, tracing its birth, decline, and revival amid Indigenous resilience. It examines kakiniit as a cultural expression, navigating its evolution, temporary erasure during assimilation, and resurgence as a form of cultural reclamation and resistance.

Current Opportunities

We are looking for!

Compass is seeking grad students to be peer reviewers for its double-blind process.

Calling all anthropology graduate and undergraduate students, and alumni! We are recruiting submissions for its 5th volume.

To join our team or submit email compass@ualberta.ca

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