

Call for Submissions

PoLAR Political and Legal Anthropology Review's open access website, *PoLAR Online*

Emergent Conversation

Dividends of Property

This Emergent Conversation is part of *PoLAR's* Digital Editorial Fellowship program and seeks to curate a comparative ethnographic conversation about property through its parts and parcels in *PoLAR Online's* "Emergent Conversations" forum.

Gardens, their magic, and their fences are some of the oldest intrigues in anthropology (Sykes forthcoming). The questions that gardens have enabled anthropologists to ask are pertinent to the puzzles of parceling land and parting property across tended and built environments today. Playing with *Dividends of Kinship* (Schweitzer 2000), this series studies what is done through the parts and parcels of property and how such parts and parcels come to be legible, recognizable, and socially meaningful. The series aims to put in conversation ethnographies of the demarcation and delineation of properties (Sullivan et al. 2025) to revitalize anthropological interventions on the fabrication of both property and the persons drawn into relationships through it (Pottage and Mundy 2004). This approach scales up to address how property regimes interact (Strathern 2022) and the making of property through legal pluralisms (Monson 2023).

This call for contributions casts a wide ethnographic net and invites responses on themes including, but not limited to: the constitution of parcels in land tenure systems; the allotment of land in rotational agricultural systems; the reclamation of forest and sea areas for horticulture and development; the allocation of land for housing and infrastructure; the implementation of land consolidation programs; the rendition of parcels in cadastral, regulatory, and mapping systems; the creation and use of cemetery plots; the parcelization of property for inheritance; the afterlives of discarded parcels of land; the aftermath of coastal erosion; and other topics that elucidate how property is made through its parts. Contributors may consider the following questions:

- How is property made through and across the boundaries of its parts and parcels?
- What entities, persons, corporates, and kinships emerge in the parting and parcelization of property?
- How are urban, resource, and knowledge frontiers made through parts and parcels of property?

The series invites short essays (2000-3000 words) of ethnographic case studies. Please refer to the [PoLAR style guide](#) to format the submissions. To discuss a potential contribution, please email Soheila.shourbaji@manchester.ac.uk.

Works Cited

- Monson, Rebecca. 2023. *Gender, Property and Politics in the Pacific: Who Speaks for Land?* Australian National University. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Pottage, Alain, and Martha Mundy, eds. 2004. *Law, Anthropology, and the Constitution of the Social: Making Persons and Things*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Schweitzer, Peter P, ed. 2000. *Dividends of Kinship: Meanings and Uses of Social Relatedness*. London: Routledge.
- Strathern, Marilyn. 2022. *Property, Substance, And Effect: Anthropological Essays on Persons and Things*. Chicago: HAU Books.
- Sullivan, LaShandra, Meghan Morris, Gregory D. Morton, and Lee Cabatingan. 2025. "Property and the Matter of Belonging." *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, 48: 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1111/plar.70005>.
- Sykes, Karen. Forthcoming. *Other Gardens: The Post-Edenic Moral Economy Amongst Transnational Papua New Guineans*. Chicago: HAU Books.