

Contributors to the Volume

Gilbert AHAMER is localized in multiple working cultures: Academy of Sciences, Universities, Environmental Administration and International Consulting. His affiliations have pushed him to look through ever new lenses. This experience acts as a motivation to enable students to tackle a high diversity of perspectives, disciplines and paradigms.

David BAKER studied his PhD in Big History at Macquarie University in Sydney under David Christian. He now teaches Big History at the universities of Amsterdam, Eindhoven, and Rotterdam alongside Fred Spier and Esther Quaedackers. His research interests include Universal Darwinism, collective learning, the rise of complexity, and demographic-structural theory. He is a co-editor of the 2012 International Big History Association (IBHA) Conference Proceedings, together with Andrey Korotayev, Leonid Grinin, and Esther Quaedackers. He is also engaged with the IBHA Publications Committee in setting up a *Big History* academic journal.

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Anthony HOWELL is currently a doctoral candidate at the Geography Department at UCLA and holds advanced degrees in both Statistics (UCLA – 2012) and Geography (Michigan State University – 2009). Trained as a statistician, urban-economic geographer and China specialist, Anthony's research combines applied statistical approaches with the aid of GIS techniques and mapping of spatial relationships to develop new empirically-driven theoretical frameworks that are capable of informing social and economic policy. His dissertation research, supported by a 2012–2013 Fulbright scholarship, is a microeconomic analysis that presents new, critical information highlighting the short- and long-run impacts of Chinese industrial policy on innovation, knowledge spillovers and firm performance. Prior to enrolling at UCLA, Anthony attended Michigan State University for both undergraduate and graduate studies. At MSU, Anthony participated in nine study/research abroad programs that provided diverse opportunities to study Spanish and Chinese languages, volunteer with orphans and the disabled, intern, and carry out research projects in countries ranging from Mexico to Ireland, Czech Republic, United Arab Emirates and China. In summer 2006, Anthony participated in an undergraduate research opportunity that took him for the first time to China, where he examined rural-urban migration patterns at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing. The culmination of Anthony's experiences in China were life-changing, both personally and professionally. Since 2006, Anthony has accumulated two years of experience living in China, dedicating much of his time to language acquisition, and researching issues related to migration, inequality and regional growth.

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Patrick MANNING is Andrew W. Mellon Professor of World History at the University of Pittsburgh. He is director of the World History Center, located in the Department of History and affiliated with the Global Studies Program and the University Center of International Studies. Trained as a specialist in the economic history of Africa, he has become a specialist in world history. His research has focused on demographic history (African

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Victor de MUNCK is an Associate Professor in the Anthropology Department of the State University of New York – New Paltz. His specialty is cognitive anthropology; he has published one monograph (*Culture, Self and Meaning*) on this subject and 15 articles on describing the dynamics between cognitive processes and culture, as well as a number of articles in cross-cultural research, including ‘Sexual Equality and Romantic Love: A Reanalysis of Rosenblatt’s Study on the Function of Romantic Love’ (1999, with Andrey Korotayev), ‘Galton’s Asset’ and ‘Flower’s Problem’: Cultural Networks and Cultural Units in Cross-Cultural Research (or, the Male Genital Mutilations and Polygyny in Cross-Cultural Perspective)’ (2003, with Andrey Korotayev) and ‘Valuing Thinness or Fatness in Women: Reevaluating the Effect of Resource Scarcity’ (2005, with Carol R. Ember, Melvin Ember, and Andrey Korotayev). Professor de Munck has conducted three years of fieldwork in Sri Lanka which has so far yielded one ethnography (*Seasonal Cycles*. Delhi: Asian Educational Services, 1993) and over forty articles. Most recently Dr. de Munck received grants from the National Science Foundation and the Fulbright Foundation grant. These have been used to conduct field work on romantic love, marriage choices and sexual practices in Russia, Lithuania and the U.S. This research has thus far yielded one edited volume and a number of articles on cultural models of romantic love.

Jason L. POWELL, Ph.D. works at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. He is also visiting Research Fellow in Gerontology at the University of Oxford and Visiting Scholar at Harvard University. His research is on ageing, social care, community development, life-course, globalization, China, qualitative methodology, social justice and global dynamics. He has published over 400 refereed articles, book chapters, reports and has 40 books out or in press: *Aging in China* (2012); *The Global Dynamics of Aging* (2012); *Social Welfare, Aging and Social Theory* (2012). He is Series Editor of (i) *International Ageing*; and (ii) *International Social Policy* for Springer Publishers. He won ‘Highly Commended Article Award’ in The International Journal of Sociology & Social Policy. In the USA, *The Journal of Applied Gerontology* had a special edition on his work on Foucauldian approaches to ageing. He has been invited and served on over 110 editorial boards across the world, is Associate Editor of The Canadian Journal of Sociology, and is Editor-in-Chief of US-based international journal, *Illness, Crisis & Loss*. He has been Visiting Professor in US, Canada, South Africa, Jordan and Australia.

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