This special issue of Ethnologia Europaea focuses on tour guides as cultural mediators. It opens with a discussion of tour guiding in the anthropology of tourism by Jack-ie Feldman and Jonathan Skinner and consideration of how tour guiding should be seen as imaginative and performative practice. This is illustrated by a highly international and comparative collection by leading anthropologists and ethnologists, many of whom have guiding experience themselves: Valerio Simoni on intimacy, informality and sexuality in guiding relations in Cuba; David Picard on modern guiding and traditional values in La Réunion; Jackie Feldman on Jewish-Israelis guiding Christian pilgrims in the Holy Land; Amos Ron and Yotam Lurie on the intimacy and trust in guide–tourist relations in Israel; Annelou Ypeij, Eva Krah and Floor van der Hout on the impact of gender on guide–local relations in Peru; Irit Dekel on the manipulation of the past and the present in home museums in Germany; Jonathan Skinner on the imagination and props involved in the re-animation of heritage in a historical fantasy home in the UK. The issue ends with discussion commentaries from Noel Salazar and Erik Cohen that reiterate tour guiding as a particularly temporal and physical mediating pursuit, one which raises critical questions as to the future ‘mechanics’ of tour guiding and how a performative approach to guiding engages with ‘authenticity’ and new technologies.
About the journal

*Ethnologia Europaea* is a lively and interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal with a focus on European cultures and societies. It carries material of great interest not only to European ethnologists and anthropologists, but also for sociologists, social historians and scholars involved in cultural studies.

An impression of the areas covered by the journal is reflected in some of the thematic topics of the issues recently published:

- **Practices of Resistance** (2018)
- **Silence in Cultural Practices** (2016)
- **Muslim Intimacies** (2016)
- **Rage, Anger and other Don'ts** (2015)
- **European Ethnology Revisited** (2014)
- **Foodways Redux** (2013)
- **Imagined Families in Mobile Worlds** (2012)

*Ethnologia Europaea* was founded and first published in 1967, with two issues published annually. Since its beginning it has acquired a central position in the international and interdisciplinary cooperation between scholars inside and outside Europe. The journal is ranked A according to the European Science Foundation journal evaluation (European Reference Index for the Humanities initial list) and as a top-level (level 2) journal in the Norwegian model used in Norway and Denmark. The journal adheres to ERIH PLUS criteria.

*Ethnologia Europaea* is edited by associate professor Marie Sandberg of the Ethnology section at the University of Copenhagen and professor Monique Scheer of the Eberhard Karls Universität in Tübingen.

SIEF membership

*Ethnologia Europaea* acts as the official journal of SIEF, and all paid-up SIEF members are automatically subscribed to the journal as part of their SIEF membership.

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Guidelines for submission

*Ethnologia Europaea* welcomes submissions from European ethnology and all related fields, including social/cultural anthropology, human geography, sociology, cultural history, and cultural studies. If you are uncertain whether your article fits, we encourage you to send the editors a short abstract or outline by e-mail.

*Manuscript submissions should be sent to*

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