

## The politics of lists: Contestations of inclusion and exclusion at the state/non-state interface

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Conveners:

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### *Call for papers*

Anthropology has convincingly deconstructed the image of the state as a uniform actor, and it has also emphasised multiple interconnections, entanglements and interfaces across blurred state-society boundaries. One such interface that hitherto has rarely attracted ethnographic attention involves lists that entitle people to become beneficiaries of particular programmes, such as welfare, health or development schemes, or rehabilitation programmes in emergency contexts. Such lists are material as well as conceptual, in that they discriminate against and create specific categories of subjects. Furthermore, they are sites where, to paraphrase James Scott, the formal – the rules and procedures of bureaucracy – meets the informal – untidy and unruly social life. More often than not such lists are subject to lengthy negotiations among a host of conflicting or collaborating actors, and they are met with determined resistance by those who are excluded. People develop their own practices and strategies to appropriate or challenge the categories embodied in lists. Moreover, they frequently author particular, often affect-laden discourses of rights, justice and morality to support their claims. “Being on the list” does not only entitle for particular benefits but may also create specific modes of community and belonging. In many cases today, “list-making” is outsourced to non-state actors on a local or a global scale. Thus, lists are often also sites of the intersection of local and transnational reasoning.

We regard such lists as promising points of departure for the ethnography of state and power, and therefore invite papers that analyse such “politics of lists,” particularly in the realms of welfare, disasters and humanitarianism, which discuss related questions of agency, subjectivity, morality and belonging.

Please send your paper proposal (1.200 characters plus a short version of 300 characters) until February 15, 2017 to the conveners.