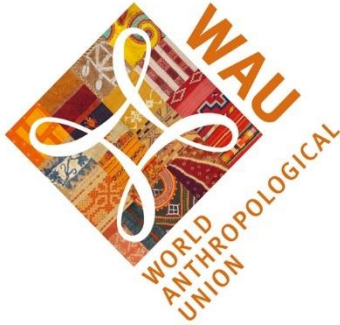


IUAES



Letter for the University of Cape Town
World Anthropological Union

April 21, 2021



We, the members of the World Anthropological Union, stand in solidarity and empathy with our colleagues, staff, teachers and students of the University of Cape Town, to collectively mourn the loss of their most precious resource, the university library. Among the vast collection of books was a world-renowned treasure trove of Africanist works, collected painstakingly over the years by the toil of numerous scholars and lovingly tended by the functionaries of the library. This is a loss that is not specific to the local scholars but a loss globally to the entire academic community.

This extremely traumatic event has come coupled with a staggering pandemic that is putting millions of lives at risk across the world. The WAU is an organization that is specifically sensitive to the academic and social responsibilities we have to one another across the world, across generations, and across intellectual beliefs. We stand by our commitment to fellow anthropologists, to all academics, and to those who will never be able to encounter these artifacts of our collective humanity.

Let us hope that the situation is brought under control very soon so that the rehabilitation work can begin. On behalf of the community of global anthropologists, we once again extend our full support at this time of crises.

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