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Yasmeen Arif is Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, University of Delhi, India. Her current work explores notions of recovery in lifeworlds that emerge from conditions of damage and devastation. She is completing a manuscript called "Afterlife, reclaiming life after catastrophe" where she draws material from a global terrain of catastrophes and disasters across the conventional categories of the natural, social, political and economic. A second forthcoming manuscript focuses on issues of social anthropological knowledge production, history and theory. She has held positions and Fellowships at the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities); CSDS, Delhi and the American University of Beirut. Her work has been published in the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Domains: International Journal of Ethnic Studies*, *Journal of the World Anthropological Network* etc. and in a number of edited volumes.

Petr (Peter) Skalník was born in 1945, in Prague. He is a political anthropologist and Africanist, specializing in state and chiefdom studies. He has been educated in Prague, Leningrad and Cape Town. Since 1967, he has been teaching African studies, social anthropology, and politics at Universities in Czechoslovakia (since 1993 Czech Republic), Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, Poland, France, invited lectures in four continents. He has conducted fieldwork in the Caucasus, Slovakia, Ghana, southern Africa, Papua New Guinea, Azores, Czech Republic, Poland. He has edited and co-edited twenty books, among them *The Early State*, *The Study of the State*, *Outwitting the State*, *The Early Writings of Bronislaw Malinowski*, *A Post-communist Millennium: The Struggles for Sociocultural Anthropology in Central and Eastern Europe*, *Anthropology of Europe: Teaching and Research*, *Studying Peoples in People's Democracies: Socialist Era Anthropology in East-Central Europe*, *Postsocialist Europe: Anthropological Perspectives from Home*, *Africanists on Africa: Current Issues*, *Africa: Power and Powerlessness*. Vice-President of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences.

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