

Editor's Note

This issue of the journal includes articles that focus on a variety of topics in the discipline of Ethnic Studies. In the first article Gabriel Haslip-Viera challenges scholars to reassess the theory of human development in the Western Hemisphere. Haslip-Viera presents a compelling argument that focuses on the basic claims and methods used by Afrocentrists to support their theory. His concluding section discusses the potential consequences of this theory on future relations among African Americans, Native Americans and Latino Americans.

Jack David Eller investigates the issue of ethnicity as an affective relationship. He argues that affect is a critical element in ethnicity but that current theory of ethnic affect has been counterproductive. Eller introduces two theories—attachment theory and social identification theory—to illustrate his position. Robert L. Perry and Melvin T. Peters concentrate on the African American intellectual of the 1920s, focusing on the sociological implications of the Harlem Renaissance for the African American experience. The article integrates the impact of the work of political activists, a multigenre of artists, cultural brokers and businesspersons.

Jim Schnell addresses the use of African American perspectives as a way to promote a more inclusive understanding of human communications theory. His piece highlights the need for more research that really 'brings in' divergent perspectives to the mainstream of academic curriculum issues. These new views are crucial if the field of communications is to continue to challenge itself from the inside. However, the implications herein discussed can easily be applied to any other discipline for which 'new views' of the world are lacking.

Michael Soldatenko looks at the situation of Chicano Studies from 1970-1985. His essay examines the development and subsequent failure of Perspectivist Chicano Studies. Soldatenko's work highlights that fact that divergent views have always existed within Chicano Studies, and that Chicano Studies is not one standard or narrow view of understanding the experience of people of Mexican descent residing in the United States. The final article is by Ellen Puccinelli, a first place recipient of our NAES Undergraduate Student Paper Competition. Her paper is on Laura Esquivel's novel *Like Water for Chocolate* in its broader contexts of genre resistance and cultural identity.

The wide array of topics and perspectives found in these articles is promising for the Field of Ethnic Studies. Ethnic Studies scholars are becoming more diverse in their approaches to studying and researching our discipline. Additionally, scholars are more willing to 'agree to disagree' and recognize that these potentially difficult dialogues will only help expand and strengthen our discipline from within.

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