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Editor's Note

Serials

The articles in this volume represent the interpretative and analytical traditions in ethnic studies scholarship. The first three contributions draw attention to how the tools of literary analysis and inquiry add new perspectives to our understanding of the social realities framing the lives of people of color. The remaining articles using both quantitative and qualitative research methods similarly inform the complex life experiences of people of color. In common these seemingly disparate sets of articles provide sharp and in a couple of instances challenging commentaries on life and living on the margin and the wider social spaces that are circumscribed by color lines.

The first article, "From Chinatown to Gunga Din Highway," by E. San Juan, Jr., urges a careful reading of Frank Chin's latest novel. Its messages, according to San Juan, add insight to the role of literary texts in providing both a description of the challenges facing Chinese Americans and the prescriptions for addressing these within the context of a the U.S. racial polity. Fatima Mujcinovic's article "In Search of Bernabe: Politicized Womanhood," discusses the dehumanizing effects that war and its associated violence have on the body, mind, and spirit. The piece also points out how new forms of resistance and efforts to reestablish one's humanity can result from personal trials and tribulations.

Gerald Gem's "The Athlete as Trickster" brings our attention to how the trickster trope can be used as an analytical tool for understanding how athletes, especially people of color, have responded to the challenges of the color line.

"Becoming an American," Kou Yang's article, chronicles the

social and cultural experiences of Hmong refugees coming to the United States the last twenty-five years. Yang identifies and analyzes the uniqueness of the Hmong refugee experience when compared to the immigrant experiences of other Asian groups coming to the United States.

Edward Codina, Zenong Yin, et al, in their article, "Ethnic Identity, Risk, and Protective Factors Related to Substance Use and Academic Achievement Among Mexican American Students," inform us through the use of quantitative research methods of the relationships between ethnic identity, risk, and protective factors and academic achievement. Cynthia Willis Esqueda and Rosemary Esseks explore the extent to which visual stimuli, e.g., race and occupation, are used by European American college students to assign ingroup and outgroup membership based on race of a fictional character. Their contribution, "Saliency of Category Information in Person Perception for Ingroup and Outgroup Members," is a research report of their findings. Ashton Welch in the article, "Ethnicity and the Jury System," examines how aspects of the jury selection system disadvantage ethnic and linguistic groups and the prospects for judicial relief.

In the final article in this volume, "Using African American Perspectives to Promote a More Inclusive Understanding of Human Communication Theory," Jim Schnell, relates how he has expanded the content of his courses in communications studies to include works by and about African Americans. Schnell argues that this inclusive approach benefits the student and the instructor and has implications for the inclusion of content addressing the cultural experiences of other groups.

We hope you will find this volume in the best traditions of serious scholarly commentary: provocative, stimulating, and informative.

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