

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of *Ethnic Studies Review* reflects the important critical work being done in the field of ethnic literature, an indication that this literature is getting the attention it deserves.

Professor Helen Lock appropriately opens this issue with "Getting into the Game: The Trickster in American Ethnic Fiction." One could argue that the trickster is the most important single figure in ethnic literature, a figure bewildering and wonderfully complex, and as Lock shows, one who destroys ethnic and racial stereotypes.

Professor Robert Nowatzki in "Middle Passage to Freedom: Black Atlantic Consciousness in Charles Johnson's *Middle Passage* and S. I. Martin's *Incomparable World*" continues the breakdown of stereotypes as he explores the complex identities of black slaves and those who have succeeded them (such as Phillis Wheatley, Miles Davis, Jimi Hendrix) as a result of their contact with other cultures or what he calls "cultural blending."

Professor Özlem Görey in "The Story You Were Telling Us': Redefinition of Love in Alice Walker's *By the Light of My Father's Smile* through Luce Irigaray" undertakes another study of the familial relationships that are so often Walker's subject, this time through the theories of French feminist Luce Irigaray.

Lindsey Clair Smith confronts a body of earlier American Literature (including works of William Faulkner) that deals with mulatto characters and the tragedies they live in "Transcending the Tragic Mulatto" where she discusses recent American Literature (Leslie Silko, Toni Morrison, Clarence Major) that may reveal a truer "melting pot" than the early mythical one. The multi-racial characters these writers bring into being add substantially to the dynamic, the complexities, and the interest of American life.

In "Chinatown Black Tigers: Black Masculinity and Chinese Heroism in Frank Chin's Gunga Din Highway" Professor Crystal S. Anderson tackles the issue of masculinity in the United States and how Chin in mirroring another culture critiques and helps to define his own.

In "'Time Is Not a River': The Implications of *Mumbo Jumbo's* Pendulum Chronology for Coalition Politics" Tamiko Fiona Nimura discusses the implications of Ismael Reed's use of time as an extension of and an addition to history and the fact that opening up our understanding of time will add to our ability to understand the composition of cultures other than our own. The environment of *Mumbo Jumbo* also offers another opportunity for the trickster figure to appear.

Professors Carmen Haydée Rivera, Darlene Pagan, and Özlem Ögut discuss the work of Latina writers, Sandra Cisneros, Ana Castillo, Lorna Dee Cervantes, Christine Garcia, and Julia Alvarez who are presenting some of the most interesting and insightful literature today. These far-ranging discussions of their work are important for critical work being done in Latina studies.

This collection of essays includes a broad range of ethnicities and an international flavor that will expand the range of Ethnic Studies.

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*Please note that the volume information of the last issue of *ESR* (*Immigration: A Special Issue*) is incorrect. It should read 2002 Volume 25 Issue 2. A correction sticker has been included.