Editor’s Notes

This double issue features a range of articles which explore topics, issues and subject matter important to ethnic studies scholars, students, and the general public. In an important interdisciplinary way, these articles are each interdisciplinary explorations into the multi varied ethnic group experience. Some of these pieces provide research focused examinations of the life and living in ethnic communities. Other articles provide literary analyses of the challenges and rewards of life in ethnic communities. Still other articles offer critical perspectives regarding the social justice challenges facing ethnic groups as they attempt to successfully navigate institutional challenges still impeding the quest for social justice.

Robert Koehler’s “Petit Apartheid and the ‘TB’ Syndrome: Police Racial Profiling of Chicana/o Youths in San Jose, California” provides a interesting and informative study of how Chicana/o and Asian American youths in a large California city are objects of police profiling. Mariela Núñez- Janes’ “Diversity as an Oriental Discourse” drawing perspectives from Edward Said’s work, provides an interesting critique of how diversity concepts and practices have become essentialized and therefore, ineffective. Laverne M. Lewycky, in “Canadian Multiculturalism Ideology: Mere Tolerance or Full Acceptance” points our attention to the evolution of multiculturalism in Canada from tolerance to what he identifies as full acceptance of ethnic and racial diversity.

In “The Ties That Bind: Asian American Communities without ‘Ethnic Spaces’ in Southeast Michigan,” Barbara Kim, presents the results of her research focusing on how Asian Americans in southeastern Michigan develop and maintain functioning ethnic communities despite not having a “critical mass.” Scott Finnie’s article, “Debating Affirmative Action in Higher Education: The Controversy Over College Admissions and Racial Preferences” adds perspective to the ongoing dialectic over the legality of affirmative action in post secondary institutions. In “ ‘For a few days we would be... dwellers in Africa’”: Jessie Redmon Faucet’s Dark Algeria the White”, Claire Garcia provides interesting treatment of Faucet’s activist experience and perspectives while making the case that Faucet’s life can assist with understanding complex human relationships and especially those where power and domination have been/are central to such formations.

Heather D. Clark’s, “Signing & Signifyin’: Negotiating Deaf and African American Identities” importantly, introduces us to the cultural needs of deaf African Americans and
how they meet their needs in a larger community oblivious of what it means to be deaf and African American. In “Chinese Americans and the Borderland Experience on Golden Mountain: The Development of a Chinese American Identity in The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts” Diane Todd Bucci essays how the concept of borderlands can be used to better to understand how one can find personal success through coming to terms with ones ethnic identities. “‘Their Sleep is to Be Desecrated’: California’s Central Valley Project and the Wintu People of Northern California, 1938-1943 won the Phillip G. Davies graduate student award at the 2006 annual meeting of the National Association for Ethnic Studies. April Farnham, the author, is a graduate student at California State University, Sacramento.

Contributors

Robert Kochler is a Resident Graduate at Harvard Divinity School. His research and teaching interests are in cultural anthropology, Chican/o Studies and world religions.

Mariela Nuñez-Jancs is an assistant professor of Anthropology in the Department of Anthropology at the University of North Texas where she is also the Co-Director of Ethnic Studies.

Laverne M. Lewycky a former Canadian Member of Parliament, Professor and Chair of Communications Studies at Atlantic Baptist University in New Brunswick, Canada.

Barbara W. Kim is an assistant professor in the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies at California State University, Long Beach. Her research focuses on the intersections of race, identity formations in Asian America and intergenerational transformations in the Korean American family.

Scott Finnie is an assistant professor in the Africana Education Program at Eastern Washington University. In addition to teaching he is a consultant and trainer on diversity issues.

Claire Garcia is an associate professor of English in the English Department at Colorado College. A version of this essay was presented at the 2006 annual conference of the National Association for Ethnic Studies.