

## EDITOR'S NOTES

The articles in this issue, while diverse in subject matter, focus, and voice, draw our attention to the rich interdisciplinary perspectives framing scholarly excursions into the realm of ethnic studies. The contributing authors of these seven articles draw our attention to how the constructs of human culture be it art, cultural formations, cultural products, or policies and practices can and do inform us about how people interpret, reproduce life and represent living. With some attention we also learn about how a people navigate through the place or places where they find themselves and how they are affected by and affect the societies within they live.

Sue J. Kim's article "The Dialectics of 'Oriental' Images in American Trade Cards" explores how contradictory themes shaping images of Asian immigrants in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century United States were influenced by images of Asians on popular postcard size advertisements containing images of people of Asian descent in the United States. The article "Use of Multiple Methods: An Examination of Constraints Effecting Ethnic Minority Visitor Use of National Parks and Management Implications" co authored by Nina S. Roberts and Donald A Rodriguez, provides an interesting study of how ethnicity shapes self perceptions of both visitors and non visitors, e.g., national park service employee. There are interesting policy implications for park officials in this article. Also there are instructive lessons for potential users regarding self imposed constraints which limit national park visitations as a possible source recreation. Rosanne Kanhai's "Fire in de Cane: Metaphors of Indo Trinidadian Identify in Ramabai Espinet's *The Swinging Bridge*" explores the historical, cultural and social factors shaping the identity of people of Indian ancestry in the Caribbean, but particularly those residing on the island of Trinidad. Drawing from the work of Ramabai Espinet, Professor Kanhai explores how the author's metaphors, e.g. "swinging bridge" serve to tie together the histories of people from India with those of indigenous people on Trinidad and elsewhere.

Tin the article "(In) Visible Fissures and the 'Multicultural'

American: Interrupting Race, Ethnicity, and Imperialism through TV's *Survivor*" Sarah Hentges offers an analysis of how this popular television "reality" program structures nuanced and not so subtle themes relating to identity formation, ethnicity, class, gender into a hyped version of a multicultural story line. However, as the author explains, the story line built around the relationships of the contestants, raises more questions regarding structured in ethnic and race discrimination than meets the eye of the casual viewer. Reinaldo Silva's "The Tastes from Portugal: Food as Remembrances in Portuguese American Literature" examines how contemporary Portuguese American writers use food to convey important cultural messages. Silva writes that references to food are devices by which the writer maintains a connection to her/his heritage while simultaneously declaring an identity. Farha Ternikar's article "To Arrange or Not: Marriage Trends in the South Asian American Community" is a comparative study of how traditional forms of marriage among South Asian Americans in the greater Chicago area are changing. The author asserts that changes in generational mind sets regarding marriage along with the influences of religion are giving rise to other forms of marriage. In the article "Are We Happy Yet?: Re-Evaluating the Evaluation of Indigenous Community Development" Kerin Gould challenges researchers, program heads and community activists to reevaluate claims of doing work on behalf of indigenous people. How do we know that community projects help improve the welfare status of native communities? This article challenges all to re examine the epistemologies used to determine what is progress and how is it determined. Similarly this article challenges Indigenous people to re examine the standards they employ for measuring progress and improvement.

Collectively, these articles will provoke much thinking and conversation; this is good.

Otis L. Scott  
California State University, Sacramento