

EDITOR'S NOTE

The scholarly narratives comprising the ethnic studies project take into the multidimensional worlds of diverse ethnic communities both in the United State and abroad. Using the conceptual, analytical and experiential lenses of ethnic studies scholars we are presented opportunities for learning more about the multifarious experiences of ethnic groups.

While we are challenged to subject both the lenses and the narratives to scholarly scrutiny, we are also challenged to be opened to the prospects and possibilities of new learning which comes from different perspectives, views, and interpretations. It is through the tension of the dynamic of scholarly exchange that we are brought closer to an accurate understanding of the complexities of the human experiences central to the scholar's narration.

The articles in this issue of ESR continue the trend long established in this journal. Namely, using the tools of interdisciplinarity to explore, represent, and in effect, further the didactic mission of ESR. Towards this end, each piece makes a worthwhile contribution.

Philip Q. Yang and Starlita Smith in the article, "Trends in Black-White Church Integration" provide a contemporary analysis of data demonstrating that 11 o'clock on Sunday mornings illustrates the extent to which patterns of Black-White segregation continues in the United States. Dina Fachin's "Inside the Image and the Word: the Re/Membering of Indigenous Identities" argues that indigenous peoples in the Americas, drawing from ancient writing systems and more contemporary visual technologies, are able to represent their own identities and in doing so offer critiques of western representations of indigenous cultures.

Quan Manh Ha's article "Trey Ellis's Platitudes: Redefining Black Voices" challenges African American authors to adopt a more authentic and relevant African American aesthetic for writing post 1980's fiction. This article asserts that attending to the messages of the Harlem Renaissance and the 1960s Black Arts Movement are essential to forming an authentic voice that does not repeat weary platitudes. In "Sacred Hoop Dreams: Basketball in the Work of Sherman Alexie," David S. Goldstein provides an

analysis of how Native American writer Sherman Alexie uses both the sport of basketball and the ball as literary tools for analyzing and commenting on the complexities of the lives of the Native Americans in Alexie's short stories and novels.

A path towards political trends is taken in the last two articles. Ravi Perry's article "Black Mayors in Non-Majority Black (Medium Sized) Cities: Universalizing the Interests of Blacks" is a research based study of the several challenges facing both candidates and incumbents in cities where the Black electoral base is small and in some cases diminishing. This article is based on a paper selected by the National Association for Ethnic Studies for the Phillips G. Davies Award for the top graduate paper. "Ethnic Politics, Political Corruption and Poverty: Perspectives on Contending Issues and Nigeria's Democratization Process," authored by Dewale Adewale Yagboyaju, explores the several issues negatively impacting Nigeria's ability to create a democratic society. The author holds leadership at all levels responsible for the prevailing corruption and poverty in this nation and suggests strategies for implementing processes for democratization.

Collectively these thought provoking articles should prompt much reflection.

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