

Editor's Note

This special issue of the journal on the theme of "Ethnicity: Global Perspectives" results from papers presented at the National Association for Ethnic Studies' 22nd annual conference held in March 1994 at Kansas City, Missouri. For the first time the Association's national conference was held in conjunction with the annual conference of another organization, the Central States Anthropological Society. Under the able guidance of conference co-organizers, Harriet and Marty Ottenheimer, the meeting was an outstanding success both in attendance and active participation. Fortunately, Harriet graciously agreed to be the editor of this special issue.

In her introduction Harriet Ottenheimer establishes the importance of focusing on the far reaching impact of ethnicity in a global way. The papers in this special issue were selected because they reflect both global perspectives and emerging ethnic identities. The tendency to 'think globally but act locally' is readily apparent in the scholarship published in this special issue. No longer do the ethnic issues of one country exist in a social vacuum without having potential implications for ethnic groups all around the world. In this day of advanced computer technology, what happens in other parts of the world, almost instantaneously enters our homes through computers or televisions or other types of media. It seems as though those *incidents* on the other side of the world actually occurred right here in our own front yard. When one adds the massive influence of international immigration which is taking place in most countries, then it should be very clear to us that we are more an international community rather than isolated or even insulated ethnic enclaves.

The articles found in this issue focus on topics of ideology and identity, and explore situations in various places around the world (India, Indonesia, South America, and the United States), as well as addressing postcolonialism and ethnic group status development. Without too much of an imagination, the reader can draw comparisons to what ethnic experiences are occurring in multi-ethnic communities here and beyond our national borders and their international consequences.

This special issue makes an important contribution to the study of ethnicity and its global dimensions. Hopefully, this scholarship will serve as an essential starting point for continuing this significant research initiative.

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