

RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES NEWSLETTER

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Division Chair David G. Embrick

> Newsletter Editors

Kasey Henricks Bhoomi Thakore

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

DAVID G. EMBRICK

Dear SSSP DREM Members,



Welcome to the winter 2013 SSSP Race/Ethnicity Division newsletter. Winter is, indeed, here, and I hope that everyone is thinking about and/or preparing for the upcoming SSSP meetings in New York this summer. As many of you suspect, membership for SSSP and for our Division is somewhat determined by membership in ASA. Some of this is due to the fact that ASA and SSSP overlap their annual conferences. Another part is because that many folks consider ASA to be their primary choice for developing academic networks. However, this does not always have to be the case.

Folks you have elected to head SSSP and its divisions are working hard to make our organization a more primary place to be, where all academics are taken seriously and all scholarship is valued equally. In order for the SSSP Race/Ethnicity Division to thrive and grow, I ask for your support in the matter. My understanding is that our division is well-represented at SSSP; it is among the larger divisions with membership averaging above 150 in a good year. Regardless of size though, it seems that membership input remains lacking, both at the Division's annual business meeting and in general (e.g., newsletter).

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I offer two initial suggestions for strengthening our Division: First, I urge all of you to join us during the division business meetings. Attendance at our business meetings the past few years have been dismal. These meetings are where we gather to celebrate accomplishments and collectively think

about themes we would like covered in future SSSP sessions. Second, I urge all of you to consider our division newsletter as not only a source of reading pleasure, but also an outlet where you might vet your research, thoughts, and even accomplishments.

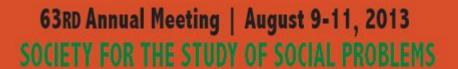
We have some great sessions lined up for the upcoming annual meetings. Please check the lineup when it becomes available. Also, I would like to give a special shout out to Kasey Henricks for all his hard work putting together this newsletter. If you looking to submit a short article piece, commentary, or something else, please do not hesitate to email Kasey at: khenricks@luc.edu.

Here is to a great year and a fabulous upcoming conference.

Best,

David G. Embrick, Ph.D. Chair, SSSP Race/Ethnicity Division Chair





RE-IMAGINING SOCIAL PROBLEMS MOVING BEYOND SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONISM





Announcements Publishing Opportunities

Humanity and Society Call for Media Reviews

Recognizing the multiple modalities of communication and how these presentations enhance our sociological understanding of the complex realities of the 21st century, *Humanity and Society*, the journal of the Association for Humanist Sociology, announces the introduction of media reviews. We invite reviewers of sociological messages in photography, web-based art, websites, popular films and documentaries, radio broadcasts, and multimedia presentations. We also invite suggestions for media reviews. Please note that book reviews can be sent to our book review editor at RJ-Hironimus-Wendt@wiu.edu.



As a generalist journal, *Humanity & Society* publishes media reviews on a wide variety of topics. We are particularly interested in media presentations that are relevant to humanist sociology. Humanist sociology is broadly defined as a sociology that views people not only as products of social forces but also as agents in their lives and the world. We are committed to a sociology that contributes to a more humane, equal, and just society.

The journal welcomes reviewers from diverse backgrounds and with diverse perspectives, including activists, graduate students, and practitioners in fields other than sociology. Potential reviewers are also encouraged to contact the Editor with suggestions for reviews in their areas of interest and expertise.

Agreement to prepare a review for *Humanity & Society* assumes that the reviewer has no substantial material or personal connection to the material or to the producer. Reviews in violation of this guideline will not be published.

Written submissions should not exceed 1000 words. Reviews should also include your: name, position, media outlet, mailing address, and email address.

To review for *Humanity & Society*, or to offer suggestions for reviews, please contact our Media Editor, Pamela Anne Quiroz, with a brief summary of your chosen review (paquiroz@uic.edu).



Announcements General Funding Opportunities

Brown University Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship

> • The Urban Studies Program of Brown University seeks applications for a two-year Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship beginning in September 2013 in the area of "Crime and the City." The successful candidate will be able to bridge disciplines and analyze the discursive, ideological, and historical dimensions of crime, transgression, disorder, deviance, gangs, delinquency, policing, punishment, incarceration, and related subjects in a specifically urban context. Expertise in the urban, racial, ethnic, and other social connotations of crime and punishment is desirable. Fellows receive stipends of \$52,000 and \$54,080 in their 1st and 2nd years, respectively, plus standard fellows' benefits and a \$2,000 per year research budget. Applications should include (1) a cover letter describing research completed and planned, (2) a curriculum vitae, (3) a teaching statement including ideas for courses on "Crime and the City"; and (4) the names, positions, and email addresses of three references who can write letters of recommendation. Review of applications will begin February 1, 2013. Applicants should submit their materials to https://secure.interfolio.com/apply/20966

American Sociological Association 2013 Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline

• The American Sociological Association invites submissions for the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD) awards. Supported by the American Sociological Association through a matching grant from the National Science Foundation, the goal of this project is to nurture the development of scientific knowledge by funding small, groundbreaking research initiatives and other important scientific research activities such as conferences. FAD awards provide scholars with "seed money" for innovative research that has the potential for challenging the discipline, stimulating new lines of research, and creating new networks of scientific collaboration. The award is intended to provide opportunities for substantive and methodological breakthroughs, broaden the dissemination of scientific knowledge, and provide leverage for acquisition of additional research funds. Deadlines are June 15, 2013 and December 15, 2013. More information is available at http://www.asanet.org/funding/fad.cfm/.



Announcements Graduate Funding Opportunities

National Science Foundation 2013 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant

• The Sociology Program dissertation improvement grants are awarded to support high quality doctoral dissertation research in sociology. The suitability of a research idea is based on the extent to which the research contributes to sociological theory and knowledge, not on specific topics. Grants up to \$12,000 are available for direct research costs associated with either original data collection or the analysis of existing datasets. Direct research costs may include such things as dataset acquisition, additional statistical or methodological training through ICPSR (Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research) meeting with scholars associated with the original data set, and fieldwork away from the student's home campus. More information is available at http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/ses/soc/socckl1.jsp

American Educational Research Association Dissertation Grant

• With support from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the AERA Grants Program announces its Dissertation Grants competition. The program seeks to stimulate research on U.S. education issues using data from the large-scale, national and international data sets supported by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), NSF, and other federal agencies, and to increase the number of education researchers using these data sets. The program supports research projects that are quantitative in nature, include the analysis of existing data from NCES, NSF or other federal agencies, and have U.S. education policy relevance. Awards are up to \$20,000 for 1-year projects. More information is available at http://www.aera.net/ProfessionalOpportunitiesFunding/FundingOpportunities/AERAGrantsProgram/DissertationGrants/tabid/12812/Default.aspx





Announcements Graduate Funding Opportunities

Miami University

Heanon Wilkins Fellow - Visiting Assistant Professor/Instructor

 Professor Emeritus Heanon Wilkins was Miami University's first full-time African-American faculty member. A distinguished professor of Spanish, Portuguese, and Black World Studies, Professor Wilkins received Miami's highest honors in teaching, research, and service and we honor him with the Wilkins Fellows program. The Wilkins Fellows program provides a culturally diverse faculty with mentoring, a salary equivalent to that of a Miami University faculty member at the same rank (instructor or visiting assistant professor), \$3000-\$5000 for research-related expenses, the potential of obtaining a future tenure- track faculty position at Miami University, and an opportunity to live and work in a welcoming community of enthusiastic scholars. During the appointment, Wilkins Fellows conduct research and enjoy a reduced teaching load. Miami University welcomes candidates who have nearly completed (e.g., ABD) or completed their doctorate or equivalent degree within four years of the August 2013 appointment date. Applicant must be a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident, temporary resident (admitted for residence as an applicant under the 1986 immigration amnesty law), refugee or asylee. Desirable qualifications include the ability to contribute in significant ways to Miami's diversity-related initiatives. Submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, a statement of proposed research (one to five pages) indicating area or discipline, and sample scholarship addressed to Dr. Carolyn Haynes via email to nguyenp@MiamiOH.edu. Three letters of reference are required, including one from the dissertation advisor. Screening of applications begins March 4, 2013 and continues until the position is filled.



Announcements Graduate Student Paper Competitions

ASA – Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities James E. Blackwell Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award

> • This award recognizes the best graduate student paper that focuses on the relation between or issues relevant to socially divided racial and ethnic groups. Eligible papers should make an important theoretical, methodological, or empirical contribution in the field of Race/Racism/Race Relations Studies. Race critical or innovative scholarship are encouraged, as well as scholarship that focuses on the welfare of all, rather than the promotion of any one particular group of color's social or political interests. The award includes a cash prize of \$300. Papers (with a maximum length of 25 pages, double-spaced, not including references) submitted for this award must be entirely student-authored and written while the author was a graduate student. The paper and nomination letter should be submitted in electronic form attached to an email including the student's name, address, telephone number, email address and/or fax number, institutional affiliation, graduate student status (i.e., year in the program and expected date of MA or PhD). Please email a copy of the paper and nomination letter to the Committee Chair, Mary Campbell, at m-campbell@tamu.edu. Submissions are due by March 30, 2013. More information is available at http://www.asanet.org/sections/srem awards.cfm

PAID MEMBERSHIP DUES?

If you have not already, renew your SSSP membership online. Visit sssp1.org and click "Join/Renew SSSP" under the Membership tab.





Praxis in Action:

Rearticulating the Meaning of Race in an Era of "Racial Transcendence"

By Victoria Brockett Valparaiso University Knowledge about racial inequality is important because it can inform racially just practices. To this end, multiple scholars have shown how racial inequality permeates all facets of social and material life, encompassing the realms of education (Lewis 2003), employment (Romero 2002), and the media (Chito Childs 2009) to name a few. When taken together, these studies yield rich theoretical understandings of racism, and also lend to data driven discussions about what can be done to foster racial equality. For these reasons, I contend that primacy should continue to be given to "unmasking inequality" (Cancian 1995: 345). However, given this stance, a question of praxis remains: What does challenging racism look like when theory meets practice? 1

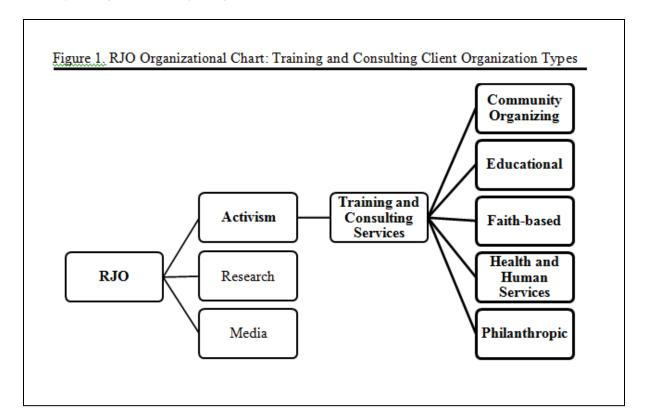
To address this question, I contribute to racial formation theory (Omi and Winant [1986] 1994) by examining a national racial justice organization's (RJO) training and consulting services through the lens of a political project. As Omi and Winant ([1986] 1994) assert, political projects bind "what race *means* in a particular discursive practice and the ways in which both social structures and



everyday experiences are racially organized, based upon that meaning" (p. 56, italics original). When interviewing (n=15) RJO trainers and consultants as well as their clients (see Figure 1) I was most interested in how systemic understandings of racism were developed and practiced in the visage of dominant ideologies such as color-blindness and post-racialism. For people and organizations trying to challenge racial inequality, these ideologies, which coalesce around America having "transcended race," pose a significant barrier. This barrier is the lack of a common sense understanding of what racism means beyond personal prejudice or bigoted actions (Doane 2003; Winant 2004; Bell 2007). In this paper, I suggest that RJO is filling this void.



Praxis in Action



Unlike color-blind or post-racial perspectives, RJO situates race as a primary factor in shaping peoples well being. Consequently, RJO and its clients contend that race-specific thoughts and policies should guide practices, and it is through such actions that the racial structure of society will be transformed. This process of rearticulating the meaning of race includes three core components: intellectuals, the disorganization of dominant racial ideologies, and the construction of an oppositional framework (Omi and Winant ([1986] 1994). To illistrate this process, I first position RJO's primary

trainers and consultants as intellectuals. Second, I outline the disorganization of colorblindness and post-racialism through RJO's discussion of internalized, interpersonal, institutional, and structural forms of racism. Lastly, I show how RJO constructs an oppositional framework, which its trainers and consultants refer to as racial justice.

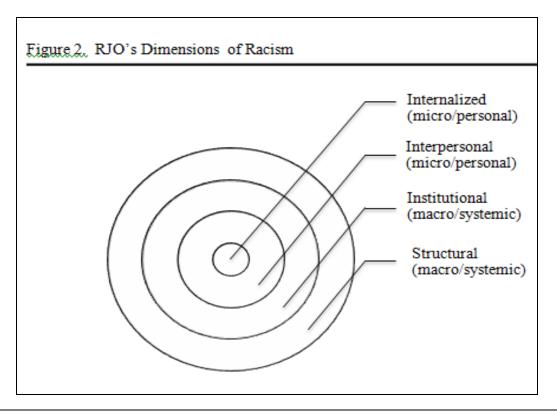
Through the culmination of their life experiences, training, and position, primary trainers and consultants are the intellectuals at RJO who lead this rearticulation process. Who they are—their racial identities, the personal



Praxis in Action

stories they tell-matters to their clients. They are viewed as experts in the racial justice field, having experience and a record of success. Although clients have plenty of experiences to draw from that can make them intellectuals in their own right, it is RJO's role to have them reflect on these experiences from a particular vantage point of racial justice. In doing so, the trainers and consultants provide them with a particular lens to frame racial justice, what they call the "four levels of racism," and this ultimately prompts intellectual agency among groups RJO engages. It is to a discussion of these levels that I know turn.

By disorganizing color-blindness or post-racialism through a discussion of internalized, interpersonal, institutional, and structural forms of racism, RJO provides its clients with a common sense understanding of this term that stretches beyond prejudice and discrimination. Throughout this process of disorganization, racism is contextualized in four realms of the social world (see Figure 2). It is positioned as producing outcomes that disadvantage people of color and benefit white people, and examples such as historically persistent disparities in education and wealth shift the focus from micro to macro manifestations of racial inequality.







Author's Bio:

Victoria Brockett is an Academic Adviser and Assessment Assistant in the Department of Education at Valparaiso University. Her research interests include inequality, public sociology, and social justice, and her work has been published in outlets such as Critical Sociology. She can be contacted at victoria.brockett @gmail.com.

Praxis in Action

When these elements are gathered together, this perspective eschews the notion that the United States has transcended race, because race is situated as impacting life opportunities through the continued unequal distribution of resources along racial lines.

Lastly, RJO introduces racial justice as an alternative framework that is both a process and a goal. As a process, it is grounded in a theoretical understanding of micro and macro forms of racism, and it is solutionscentered as well as participatory. It is focused on social actors as structural change agents who are positioned as being socially responsible for the development and implementation of ideas, polices, and practices that parallel the goal of producing equitable opportunities among racial groups. While constructing this oppositional framework, RJO distinguishes racial justice from diversity and aligns it with equity, which

is described as fairness. Like the four dimensions of racism, many of the RJO clients interviewed adopted this frame, and for some, this was due to their unfruitful experiences with diversity. Thus, the choice of language used to transmit this alternative framework is strategic on the part of RJO (see Ahmed 2007). Once these distinctions have been drawn, the spotlight turns to changing systems while focusing on outcomes rather than intentions as well as creating solutions that address race explicitly yet promote opportunities for intersectionality across multiple fields.

Even though many RJO clients have begun to implement this racial justice framework by restructuring their organizational policies and practices to equitably distribute resources along racial lines, they remain few in comparison to a sea of numerous Americans who continue to cling on to color-blind ideals regardless of their race (Hartmann et al. 2009).



Praxis in Action

As a result, racial justice on the whole remains an objective that is yet to be accomplished on a society-wide scale (Steinberg 1995). To challenge racial inequality in this era of "racial transcendence", we must continue to examine the space between thinking and doing. As Feagin (2000) contends, "Many researchers have studied racial oppression. The point is to eradicate it" (p. 270).

NOTES

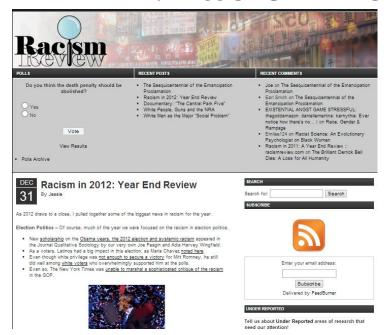
1. Though I am not the first to explore the relationship between thinking and doing in this context, contemporary studies of praxis have largely focused on white anti-racist efforts (see O'Brien 2001; Bush 2004; Tochluk 2008; Hughey 2010; Warren 2010). Alternatively, my approach is a multiracial one that is grounded by race as a relational concept (see Blumer 1958).

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www.RacismReview.com



For the latest evidence-based research and analysis regarding timely issues of "race," racism, antiracism, ethnicity, and immigration, among others, visit RacismReview. It is an academic weblog created and maintained by Drs. Jessie Daniels (CUNY-Hunter College) and Joe R. Feagin (Texas A&M University).



Praxis in Action

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Recent Accolades

Awards

Orly Clergé, Brown University, was awarded the 2012 Racial and Ethnic Minority Scholarship sponsored by the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Ashley "Woody" Doane, University of Hartford, received the 2012 Founder' Award for Scholarship and Service from the American Sociological Association's Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities.

Tyrone A. Forman, Emory University, was named one of Creative Loafing Atlanta's Top 20 People to Watch in 2013. He and his work are featured at http://clatl.com/atlanta/tyrone-forman-the-scholar/Content?oid=7204910.

Adia Harvey, Georgia State University, was awarded the Distinguished Early Career Award by the American Sociological Association's Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities.

Kasey Henricks, Loyola University Chicago, won 1st Place in the 2012 National Civil Rights and Human Rights Doctoral Paper Competition sponsored by the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change. His paper was entitled, "High Stakes Education Finance: How State-Sponsored Policy Reproduces Race and Class Inequality."

Maria Krysan, Reynolds Farley, Mick Couper, and Tyrone Forman received the 2012 Cromwell-Cox Article Award from the American Soiological Association's Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities. Their article is entitled, "Does Race Matter in Neighborhood Preferences? Results from a Video Experiment," and is featured in *American Journal Sociology*.

Alondra Nelson, Columbia University, received the 2012 Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award from the American Sociological Association's Section on Race, Gender, and Class, the 2012 Letitia Woods Brown Award from the Association of Black Women Historians, and the 2012 Association for Humanist Sociology Book Award for her book *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight against Medical Discrimination*.

Victor Ray, Duke University, was inducted into Cohort 39 of the American Sociological Association's Minority Fellowship Program.



Recent Accolades

Awards

Joe Soss, University of Minnesota, Richard Fording, University of Alabama, and Sanford Schram, Bryn Mawr College, were awarded the 2012 Cromwell-Cox Book Award sponsored by the American Sociological Association's Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities.

Nicholas Vargas, Purdue University, won the 2012 Best Graduate Student Paper Award from the American Sociological Association's Section on Religion. His paper was entitled, "Retrospective Accounts of Religious Disaffiliation in the U.S. Stressors, Skepticism, and Political Factors" and was recently published in *Sociology of Religion*.

Nicholas Vargas, Purdue University, and Matthew T. Loveland, Le Moyne College, was awarded the 2012 Most Distinguished Article Award from the American Sociological Association's Section on Religion Their Paper was entitled, "Befriending the 'Other': Patterns of Social Ties Between the Religious and Non-Religious," and is featured in *Sociological Perspectives*.

Professional Milestones

Michelle M. Christian, PhD from Duke University, accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology at the University of Tennessee beginning Fall 2013.

Nicholas Vargas, ABD at Purdue University, accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Sociology in the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas beginning Fall 2013.

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for the latest updates of SSSP's Division on Racial and Ethnic Minorities





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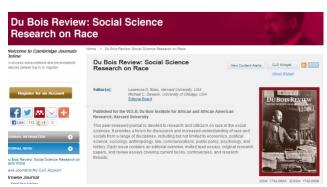
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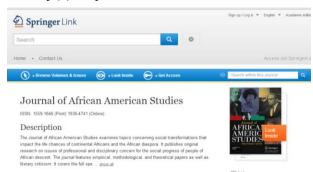


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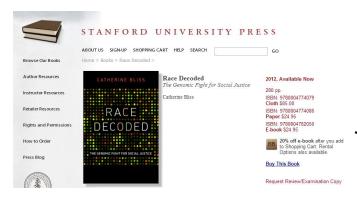
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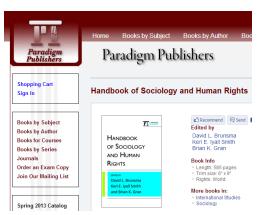
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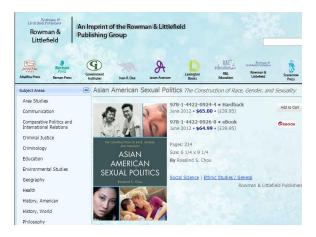
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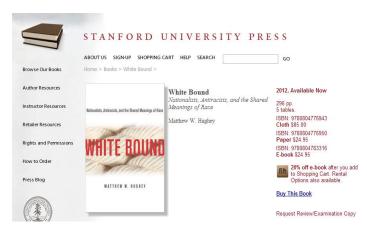
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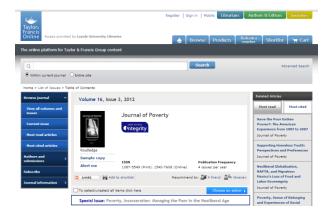
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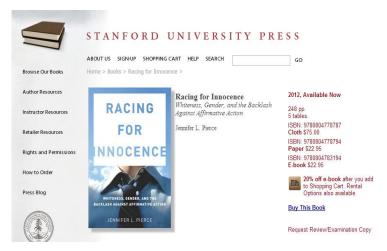
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FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR KASEY HENRICKS

Dear Fellow DREM Members,

As Winter is now upon us, a season of change is underway in SSSP's Division on Racial and Ethnic Minorities. Bhoomi Thakore and I have assumed editorial responsibilities for our division's newsletter, and we hope to continue the excellent precedent set by Dr. Marlese Durr. Our goal is to provide members with content that is not only timely and relevant but engages members. To do this, we need your help.

Just as it takes a proverbial village to raise a child, it requires much contribution from our members to make a worthwhile newsletter. Bhoomi and I welcome your input. Please consider submitting information about recent member publications, career announcements, and calls for papers or participation. If you would like to submit an editorial or share ideas for other material that would benefit members, feel free to get in touch with us.

Best,

Kasey Henricks khenricks@luc.edu