

Remarks

Newsletter of the Section on Racial
and Ethnic Minorities of the
American Sociological Association

January 2009



**News From SREM
Chair
Emily Noelle Ignacio**

As we come into the new year, I would like to encourage all members of SREM to be active in the section. Along those lines, if you have not already renewed your SREM membership, please don't forget to do so, so that you can vote in the upcoming elections. Remember that the 2009 section award nominations for all awards will be due April 10, 2009. More information about those awards are included in this issue on pages 6-8. Self nominations are welcome for the book, paper and graduate student paper award!

Also, although the deadline for ASA submissions has past, I would like to remind everyone to participate in the 2009 ASA meetings in San Francisco and to attend the SREM business meeting.

Best wishes for a happy and productive 2009!

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The artwork showcased on this page is a work entitled "The Sociological Imagination" by artist and activist Turbado Marabou, designed in collaboration with Eduardo Bonilla-Silva for his upcoming book *Anything But Racism*. For more

New SREM Member Publications!

Articles

Fenelon, James V. and Thomas D. Hall. 2008. "Revitalization and Indigenous Resistance to Globalization and Neo-liberalism." *American Behavioral Scientist* 51:12(Aug):1867-1901.

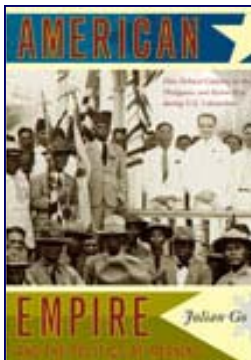
Hall, Thomas D. and James V. Fenelon. 2008. "Indigenous Movements and Globalization: What is Different? What is the Same?" *Globalizations* 5:1(March):1-11.

Lauderdale, Pat. 2008. "Indigenous Peoples in the Face of Globalization," *American Behavioral Scientist*, Vol. 51, No. 12, 1836-1843.

Rollins, Judith. 2007. "And the Last Shall Be First: The Master-Slave Dialectic in Hegel, Nietzsche and Fanon." *Human Architecture: Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge*. Volume V. Summer.

Ignacio, Emily Noelle 2008. "Pro(fits) of a future not our own: Neoliberal reframings of public discourse on social justice," pp. 159-179, in McCarthy, Cameron and Cathryn Teasley (eds.) *Transnational Perspectives on Culture, Policy, and Education: Redirecting Cultural Studies in Neoliberal Times*.

Books



Go, Julian. 2008.
American Empire and the Politics of Meaning: Elite Political Cultures in Puerto Rico and the Philippines during US Colonialism.
Duke University Press.

"Empire is rightly at the forefront of contemporary discussion, but the history of American empire is often neglected. In *American Empire and the Politics of Meaning*, Julian Go brings a rigorous comparison of Puerto Rico and the Philippines into the broader discussion. The book puts cultural sociology to work advancing knowledge of both colonialism and political elites and how these inform transformations in political culture. It deserves wide readership."

—Craig Calhoun, University Professor of the Social Sciences, New York University

Op-Eds from SREM Members

Transformative Moments: Election 2008 and the Continued Saliency of Race

Abigail A. Sewell

NSF/ Ford Foundation/ Ronald E. McNair Fellow

Indiana University, Department of Sociology

The willingness to believe in the possibilities of America is the social ideology underlying an Obama win. This is my generation's transformative moment—just as MLK and JFK assassinations were transformative for the generation of the 60s, the Harlem Renaissance and the Great Depression for the generation of the 20s, and the Civil War and the end of slavery for the generation of the 1860s. I take this moment to pay homage to my elders who uprooted their families from various parts of the Caribbean under the banner of this hope, to my father who since becoming an American citizen stood in a line for the first time to cast his vote in 2008, and to the generations of Americans—black, white, and in between—who have given their lives to the possibility my generation would see this moment. My deepest gratitude is owed to you.

Undoubtedly, America has taken a definitive step towards racial equality in politics. We stand at the brink of a new history—one whose name is more contested, whose identity is more ambiguous, and whose future has hardly been conceived. The symbolic implications of race are transforming with this election, just as the symbolic implications of race were transformed with the Civil Rights movement. Nonetheless, while the post-Civil-Rights era witnessed black as beautiful; black styles as cool and profitable; and black upward mobility as possible, seeds of both dreams and destruction were planted. Hip hop and crack cocaine hit the streets; affirmative action programs and the prison industrial complex blossomed; the size of the black middle class and the black "underclass" grew. Today, the symbolic meaning of race is changing again: some whites look beyond race (44% of whites voted for Obama), some blacks with human and cultural capital garner legitimacy (e.g., Thurgood Marshall, Oprah Winfrey, Colin Powell), and some Americans find hope in the new era. This transformative moment seems to be the embodiment of the much-heralded and often-scolded American Dream.

Possibly, forty or so years from now, a new generation of hopefuls will usher in the post-racial America many claim is here. However, even now at the height of our hope, the statistics do not lie. Blacks have higher levels of mortality than other racial/ethnic groups, send their children to less endowed schools, and confront lower reemployment rates at the end of recessions. Black men disproportionately trade paying income taxes for sitting behind the walls of jails on petty drug charges; black women bear the brunt of the spread of HIV/AIDS to previously-uninfected populations. Black children face foreclosure, neighborhood decline, and segregated spaces at higher rates than other children. Instead of outright violence, the subtle subtexts of inferiority are etched into attitudes regarding the disloyalty of blacks, the motivational roots of inequality, and the hypersensitivity of those who perceive discrimination. The micro and macro processes of racism remain deeply rooted in the American social system.

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As a land of immigrants, the "browning" of America has always been deeply American; thus, this "new" America is indeed the authentic perfect union. As much as Barack is a sign of change, he is the living and breathing embodiment of tokenism. We are still heirs to a society where civil liberties, opportunity structures, and social distresses are racialized. We must remember that a deepening economic crisis, wholesale disdain for anything Bush-related, and a near-perfectly organized political campaign has facilitated this moment. I challenge this new generation of scholars, activists, and ordinary citizens to find ways to organize for racial equality—not just by one act at one transformative moment, but by acknowledging the very essence of race in our everyday lives.



Community Corner

In an effort to emphasize the connection between the work that we do, as scholars of race and ethnicity, and the communities in which we do our work, Remarks will include a section which focuses on community. This section will highlight the work of public sociologists, engaged community activists, and community organizations that strive to create a more racially just society; in the United States and globally. This section will be managed by Dr. Joyce Bell, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia. If you have ideas for this section you can contact Dr. Bell at jmbell@uga.edu.

Juxtaposition Arts is a nonprofit visual arts and cultural center, founded in 1995 and located in the heart of North Minneapolis, which is one of the poorest neighborhoods in the state where there are high numbers of youth (as much as 50% of residents) and people of color (90% of population). In February 2004, Juxtaposition completed a three year construction and redevelopment project and opened the doors to North Minneapolis' only visual art studio and public gallery. Juxtaposition's year round programs support urban expression, independent livelihood, community development, and social equity through the arts. All youth programs are admission free. Participants are ages 8-21 years of age. They are risk takers, dreamers, and nonconformists.

The founders, Roger & DeAnna Cummings are organizers, artists, educators, creative community developers, and social entrepreneurs whose life's work has opened up pathways to success for thousands of youth and transformed forgotten public spaces into vibrant functional destinations that reflect the voices of the community. Out of their own life experience, they knew that for many youth from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, being good at art was sometimes the only academic success that kids could hang their hats on. With funding for arts being dramatically cut in inner city schools over the past decade, the co-founders stepped in to fill the gap.

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Currently, Roger and DeAnna are on sabbatical from Juxtaposition and living in Cambridge Massachusetts where they are attending graduate school at Harvard University. Following their one-year educational sabbaticals, Roger and DeAnna plan to return to North Minneapolis empowered with new ways to work with traditionally disconnected entities in comprehensive and creative community building. Their vision is that in aging mid-size urban cities, where joblessness, high crime, and other misery index statistics dominate the headlines, arts and culture can be a catalyst to turn things around bolstering the quality of its core building stock providing breathing room for expanding small business, creative housing options and live/work space for urban artists and entrepreneurs.

For further information on Juxtaposition's work and mission, to view or purchase artwork, or offer other forms of support, please contact Juxtaposition at (612) 588-1148 or visit them on the web at www.juxtaposition.org.



DeAnna and Roger Cummings



Above: Juxta Classroom: Art education in action.

Left: Juxtapositions Arts, Inc. Exterior.



2009 Call for Section Awards

2009 Oliver Cromwell Cox Book Award

The Racial and Ethnic Minorities Section of the ASA invites nominations for the 2009 Oliver Cromwell Cox Book Award. This annual award honors the memory of Oliver Cromwell Cox. The award recognizes sociologically related books published in the last two years that make a distinguished and significant contribution to the eradication of racism. Eligible books for consideration must be published in 2007 or 2008. The committee encourages self-nominations and nominations of work by others. Nominations should include a statement, no

longer than 3 pages, explaining the book's contribution to the eradication of racism.

Please send a nomination letter, four copies of the nominated book, and other supporting material to the 2009 Oliver Cromwell Cox Book Award Committee Chair, Professor Erica Chito-Childs, Hunter College
(erica.chitochilds@hunter.cuny.edu)

Cromwell Cox Book Award Committee Chair:

Erica Chito Childs

SREM Chair-Elect - 2009

Department of Sociology

Hunter College

695 Park Avenue

16th Floor Hunter West

New York, NY 10065

Email: erica.chitochilds@hunter.cuny.edu

2009 Oliver Cromwell Cox Article Award

The Racial and Ethnic Minorities Section of the ASA invites nominations for the 2009 Oliver Cromwell Cox Article Award. This award recognizes the author(s) of the best research article in the sociological study of race and ethnicity published in the past three years. Eligible articles for consideration must be published in 2006, 2007, or 2008. The nomination letter should be no more than 3 pages and should explain the scholarly significance and innovations of the research article. To nominate a journal article, please send the following: 1) a PDF file of the article or a functioning URL where it can be accessed, 2) a nomination letter, and (3) contact information for the nominee(s) (including email) to the chair of the selection committee.

Please send a nomination letter along with a copy of the paper and supporting material to the 2009 Oliver Cromwell Cox Article Award Committee Chair, Professor Nilda Flores-Gonzales, University of Illinois-Chicago (nilda@uic.edu)

2009 Cromwell Cox Article Award Committee Chair:

Department of Sociology (m/c 312)

4160 Behavioral Sciences Building

University of Illinois at Chicago

1007 West Harrison Street

Chicago, IL 60607-7140

Email: nilda@uic.edu

2008 James E. Blackwell Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award

This award recognizes the best graduate student paper (authored by one or more graduate students) that focuses on the relation between or issues relevant to socially divided racial and ethnic groups. Eligible papers should demonstrate an integrative race, class, gender analysis, and/or 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) submitted for this award must be entirely student-authored and written while the author was a graduate student.

Current graduate students and those who have completed their degree no earlier than January 2008 are eligible. Self-nominations and nominations by faculty advisors or other faculty members are welcome. Three copies of the paper should be submitted with a cover letter indicating 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 send a nomination letter along with a copy of the paper and supporting material to the 2009 James E. Blackwell Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award Committee Chair, Professor Joyce Bell, University of Georgia

Blackwell Award Committee Chair:
Joyce Bell, University of Georgia
Department of Sociology
119C Baldwin Hall
Athens, GA 30602-1611
Email: jmbell@uga.edu

2009 SREM Distinguished Early Career Award

The Racial and Ethnic Minorities Section's Distinguished Early Career Award recognizes exceptional achievement and scholarly contribution to research on the sociology of race and ethnicity. Nominations must include electronic copies of the following: 1) A letter of nomination outlining the nominee's accomplishments to date and anticipated future contributions in the area of race and ethnicity; 2) A copy of the nominee's current curriculum vitae; and 3) Two representative scholarly publications by the nominee. Nominees must be a member of the section and have received their PhD within ten calendar years of the nomination deadline. Self nominations are not accepted for this award.

Please send a nomination letter and other supporting material to the 2009 SREM Distinguished Early Career Award Committee Co-Chairs, Professor Yen Le Espiritu, University of California at San Diego (yespirit@ucsd.edu) and Professor Mary Romero, Arizona State University (MARY.ROMERO@asu.edu)

2009 Distinguished Early Career Award Committee Co-Chairs:

Professor Yen Le Espiritu
9500 Gilman Drive # 0522
La Jolla, CA 92093-0522
Email: yespirit@ucsd.edu

Professor Mary Romero
Wilson Hall 240 E. Orange Mall
Tempe, AZ 85281
Email: MARY.ROMERO@asu.edu

2009 Founder's Award for Scholarship & Service

SREM'S Founder's Award for Scholarship and Service was established in 2007 with a donation from Professor Charles Smith (one of the original founder's of the SREM section) to recognize career excellence in scholarship as well as in service. For this award, scholarship is defined in terms of substantive academic (theoretical, empirical, or applied) contributions, while service is defined as professional and/or community service. A plaque and a \$100 award will be presented at the 2009 Reception in San Francisco.

Nominations must include electronic copies of the following: 1) A letter of nomination outlining the nominee's accomplishments and contributions –scholarly and service oriented - in the area of race and ethnicity; 2) A copy of the nominee's current curriculum vitae; and 3) Two representative scholarly publications by the nominee. Nominees must be a member of the section. Self nominations are not accepted for this award.

Please send a nomination letter and other supporting material to the 2009 SREM Founder's Award Committee Chair, Professor Earl Wright, II, Texas Southern University
(wrighte@tsu.edu)

2009 Founder's Award Committee Chair:

Earl Wright II, Ph.D.

Chair & Associate Professor

Department of Sociology

Texas Southern University

Houston, Texas 77004

Email: wrighte@tsu.edu

Announcements:

- Thomas D. Hall was named to the Edward Myers Dolan Chair in Anthropology at DePauw University for 2007-2008 & 2008-2009.
- Judith Rollins is the 2008-09 President of the Association of Black Sociologists.
- Pat Lauderdale, a professor in the School of Justice and Social Inquiry at ASU, was recently appointed visiting scholar at the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity at Stanford University.

FROM THE EDITOR

In putting together this issue of Remarks I was reminded of how challenging it can be to do collaborative work with scholars across the country—particularly when we are all working hard to keep up with our own research and teaching agendas. Please forgive the lateness of the issue, which was largely due to that challenge, as well as the bumps and stumbles that come along with the yearly changes in administration of SREM and the processes involved in starting up the sections newsletter again. Along those lines, however, I hope that as we get our footing together in the production of the newsletter, I can encourage all of you to continue to be involved in sharing your own information in future issues and participating in the process of networking that the section affords us as scholars of race and ethnicity. Although it can be a challenge to work together and participate in the section, I believe that combining our efforts will make us individually more productive in the long run, and will certainly make the section stronger and more central to the field of Sociology, as I know we all believe it should be! With that in mind, and despite the lateness of this issue, we hope to have our next issue of Remarks out on schedule in March—so please do not hesitate to contact me if you have content to add, whether that is a relevant publication, an announcement, or an opinion editorial.

—Wendy Leo Moore

Remarks is edited by Wendy Leo Moore

If you have comments, concerns, or ideas for future issues, please contact Wendy at wlmoore@tamu.edu.

