

The Contemporary Journal of Anthropology and Sociology (CJAS) is the official journal of the Anthropologists and Sociologists of Kentucky. CJAS is a multidisciplinary journal focusing on innovative research, pedagogy, media reviews, and invited editorials. While Anthropology and Sociology are the primary subject areas, original submissions from related areas (e.g., criminal justice and social work) are also welcome. CJAS encourages both historical and contemporary pieces as well as diverse uses of methodological and substantive tools, as such; quantitative and qualitative methodologies are acceptable. International submissions are welcome. The journal is made available exclusively on the internet at the Contemporary Journal of Anthropology and Sociology website (<http://ask.anthroniche.com>). Please direct any inquiry to the editor listed below:

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EDITORIAL NOTES FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

February 4, 2014

I am happy to present the seventh *Contemporary Journal of Anthropology and Sociology*. The topics addressed by the articles published in this issue are diverse, including poverty and education, environmental issues, labor unions, sexual identities, and generational differences in the workplace. The wide range of topics covered in each issue is one of the key strengths of *CJAS*, and I continue to be encouraged by the diversity of research topics and methodologies in the manuscripts submitted for review and published in the journal.

The first article by Blanchard, Bonhomme, Stokes, and Forsyth investigates the outcomes of a policy enacted in Louisiana to reduce poverty by increasing high school completion rates. Through an exploratory analysis using Census data from 1970 to 2000 for each of the 64 parishes in Louisiana. The findings indicate a strong connection between high school completion rates and poverty. The authors argue that policies to increase educational attainment are a promising strategy for reducing poverty in Louisiana.

The second article by Shrock examines the effect of state and workplace labor union strength on occupational safety and health enforcement. Using data from OSHA's Integrated Management and Information Systems combined with a variety of measures of unionized workforce participation and state-level political representation, the study finds that the combination of unionized workplaces and state political conditions are associated with higher fines for occupational health and safety violations. Overall, the research stresses that politicians who are sympathetic to organized labor are much more effective in health and safety regulation than organized labor at the workplace level.

The third article by Callis explores the construction of sexuality in Lexington, Kentucky from 1960 to 2013. Although sexuality has historically been viewed as a binary construction of heterosexual or homosexual, the article addresses the emergence and growing visibility of non-binary sexual identities in the city over time. Through months of participant observation, 80 interviews, and archival research, the article concludes that non-binary sexual identities have been both covertly and overtly visible in the city at various historical periods, but despite the growing visibility of such identities, binary sexual identities remain prominent in public discourse.

The fourth article by Hoskins and Sharp investigates the recycling attitudes and behaviors of college students at Eastern Kentucky University. Focusing on the demographic correlates of attitudes and behaviors, as well as the connection between attitudes and behaviors toward recycling, the research finds that a higher percentage of males, older students, and students from Western Kentucky report recycling behaviors. Interestingly, positive attitudes about recycling and recycling behaviors were not always clearly related. For example, females report more positive attitudes about recycling but tend to recycle less. The article concludes with recommendations for policymakers to increase recycling behaviors.

Lastly, Beaven contributes an article to our "Focus on Undergraduate Research" section with his research addressing generational differences in the workplace. Through in-depth interviews with organizational managers from various generations, the research shows that workplace communication styles, spurred by access to media, vary across generations. The article concludes

with a thoughtful exploration of variations in communication styles by generation, including a focus on age, maturity, and social responsibilities that tend to vary along with generational membership. Ultimately, this paper provides insights that can be used by leaders of multi-generational workplaces to better understand challenges faced by employees and create strategies to mitigate inter-generational conflicts.

As always, my work as editor would not be possible without the continued efforts of the Managing Editor, Thomas Mowen, and all of the Associate Editors and Editorial Board members. Also, Doug Hume, Ph.D. continues to serve in the invaluable role of Webmaster for the journal.

Ryan D. Schroeder
Editor, *Contemporary Journal of Anthropology and Sociology*

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