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Editor-in-Chief

Ryan D. Schroeder
Cjas.editor@gmail.com

Managing Editor

Thomas J. Mowen
Cjas.assistant@gmail.com

Associate Editors

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Email</i>
Andrea Abrams	Centre College	andrea.abrams@centre.edu
Lillian Daughaday	Murray State University	lillian.daughaday@murraystate.edu
Douglas William Hume	Northern Kentucky	humed1@nku.edu
Demetrius Semien	University of Cincinnati	demetirussemien@yahoo.com
Dan Shope	Shawnee State University	dan.shope@murraystate.edu

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EDITORIAL NOTES FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

August 22, 2014

Editorial Notes

I am proud to present the eighth issue of *Contemporary Journal of Anthropology and Sociology*. The topics addressed by the articles published in this address a wide range of sociological topics, including environmental degradation, demographic changes, cultural mortuary rites, and editorial decision-making in social science journals. *CJAS* continues to review a very diverse range of manuscripts from both anthropology and sociology, and I am encouraged by the topical diversity of the submissions and publications as well as the geographic expanse of the contributors to the journal.

This issue is also my last issue as editor-in-chief of *CJAS*. It has truly been a pleasure serving in this role for the past two years. The journal editorship will transition to Dr. Dan Phillips, prior editor-in-chief of *CJAS* and Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Lindsey Wilson College, and Dr. Demetrius Semien, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Springhill College, an ASK member for the past six years, and active participant in a number of roles with both *KJAS* and now *CJAS*. The journal is in good hands and is poised for stable and sustained growth.

The first article by Bradford and Stoner provides a comprehensive assessment of the connection between military strength, economic production, and the biological capacity of nations. Using yearly data derived from 142 countries between 1961 and 2007, the authors find support for both the “Treadmill of Destruction” and “Ecologically Unequal Exchange” hypotheses.

In the second article, Tewksbury and Mustaine offer a very valuable investigation of the factors that journal editors in the social sciences consider important in making publication decisions. The findings indicate that the degree to which a manuscript fits with the journal, quality of the methods, and clarity of the findings are most important to the editors surveyed in making the decision to publish an article. Differences in the importance of various factors in publication decisions by anthropology, sociology, and criminal justice journal editors are discussed.

The third article by Zach and Hume uses ethnohistorical methods to assess changes in mortuary practices in Northern Belize. Focusing primarily on attempts by the Catholic Church to convert the population to Catholicism and the widespread outbreak of cholera in the 1850s, the authors detail the shift from traditional Maya burial practices in Northern Belize to modern Christian mortuary rites. The authors conclude that religious syncretism of Maya and Catholicism emerged, making the mortuary rituals in Northern Belize unique in Latin America.

The fourth article by Brooks, Ingram, and Rands draws on the function-based spatiality theory to identify predictors of county-level population change in Kentucky from 2000 to 2012. Drawing on data from the U.S. Census Bureau and Economic Research Service, the authors show a variety of social, economic, and geographic factors explain county-level population shifts.

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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