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EDITORIAL NOTES FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

August 13, 2015

Editorial Notes

As the newly elected Editor-in-Chief, I am proud to present the ninth issue of *Contemporary Journal of Anthropology and Sociology*. The articles in this issue while diverse, navigate towards a religious theme. Equally cogent arguments are made for the importance of religion and the growing emergence of secularism.

The CJAS continues its mission of publishing a diverse array of manuscripts from both anthropology and sociology. As Editor-in-Chief, it is my mission to continue to expand this journal's state, regional, and national reputation.

The first article by Stickle and Tewksbury examines various themes in genres of music. Genres studied include rap, country, pop, and Christian. The evaluate messages within the music genres through a social learning paradigm. Their findings further research on how music influences criminal, deviant, and pro-social behaviors.

In the second article, Thomas expands the literature of African-American family networks into voting. By using data from the 2008 Voting and Registration Supplement of the Current Population Survey; he found the inclusion of family structure in addition to demographic variables strengthen the voting effects of family structure for blacks, but weaken the voting effects of family structure among whites.

The third article by Nash, Jude and Breschel examine the growing emergence of African-American non-theists and religious skeptics. A novelty of the article is its break from the monolithic view of African-Americans as devout religious congregants. This article serves to remember readers about the growing diversity of religious skepticism in African-American community. The authors use a historical framework from which to discuss contemporary African-American secularism.

The fourth article by Semien perfectly juxtaposes the previous article. The article examines how religion is used by African-Americans to help make sense of their experiences. Both this article and the previous article examine African-American religious experience during the Civil Rights Movement. However, Semien draws a different conclusion. Again using a historical framework, Semien demonstrates how religious commitments of love, especially for the African-American race, are used by African-Americans to negotiate and contend with and confront racism.

The fifth article, by Eliason explores the scarcity of information about taxidermists and job satisfaction. The article finds that most Montana taxidermists find their work enjoyable. The uniqueness of the article how taxidermists view the best parts and the worst aspects of the occupation.

Regards,

Leonard D. Thomas

Editor, *Contemporary Journal of Anthropology and Sociology*

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