

The Pleasures, Pressures and Perils of Editing and Authorship

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This issue brings together a series of articles with an overarching theme of Systems Change. The authors have been patient, professional, and highly collaborative—waiting with me (let's not say how long) for sufficient, quality submissions to put another issue together.

Meanwhile, I have co-edited another journal and two books. The other journal went through a change of editor and editorial staff, halfway through the Special Issue my fellow guest editors and I were developing. The newly appointed editor of the other journal castigated one of the guest editors, based upon a misinterpreted email; and I was left as sole communicator through the end of the project, because they were no longer speaking to each other.

One book editing experience was, like *Social Advocacy and Systems Change*, a pleasure to complete. The authors communicated with us, and with each other, and meticulously revised their chapters as directed. One book editing experience was (in hindsight) a bit like a sitcom, with the other two editors exchanging *!\$##&%, and a couple of authors sending %\$#@&& back and forth as well. Even so, all three projects turned out, in the end, to be what the authors and editors intended them to be—relevant, professional, timely, and promising catalysts for meaningful change.

My point is this: the goal of *Social Advocacy and Systems Change* is to provide a place and space for the meaningful transformation of entrenched attitudes, ideas, and oppressive practices. Our authors and editors share the responsibility for achieving this goal. However difficult, the process of writing and publishing is a process of deep collaboration that should be mutually respectful, and negotiated with equitable effort and integrity. Politics aside (i.e., a journal's acceptance rate, prestige or lack thereof, academic publish or perish mandates), writing, editing and publishing are a sacred trust that should not be overshadowed by the perils and pressures inherent in the considerable effort it takes to write and publish.

To my valued contributors—faculty scholars, activists, and student authors—your voice, your passions, and your efforts are welcome and deeply respected here. And so—back to business.

In this issue, Brian Barrett exposes the inequitable distribution of social capital in the schools and society of his hometown of Buffalo, New York. C. J. Campbell grapples with his own apathy toward “Other” people with visible disabilities, as an individual who lives with a physical disability himself. Mona Ivey-Soto examines the

importance of exploring dimensions of race and racism within early childhood teacher education courses. Andrew and Jane Hall Fitz-Gibbon, with over thirty years of caring for children who have been victims of violence, share the research and development of their model of Loving, Non-Violent Reparenting.™ Daniel Baker, Robert Nicholas, and Deborah Spitalnik of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, discuss the history, and the future, of generic community supports for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. And finally, with the Japanese dolphin slaughter once again in the news due to its unprecedented scope, Amber E. George revisits two related films—*The Cove* and *Blackfish*—with new insights gained from her continued dedication to the rights of nonhuman animals.

*I am pleased to welcome Amber E. George, Ph.D. as our new Associate Editor. Dr. George is an educator, social justice advocate, and artist currently teaching courses in ethics and social philosophy at the State University of New York-Cortland. Her work focuses on challenging the systemic nature of oppression as it materializes in cultural situations. Dr. George has presented her work at several Eco-Ablity and Critical Animal Studies conferences, and has published a book chapter, "Disney's Little "Freak" Show of Animals in the Environment: A Dis-Ability Pedagogical Perspective on the Disney Industrial Complex," in *Earth, Animal, and Disability Liberation: The Rise of Eco-Ability* (Nocella, Bentley, & Duncan, 2012). Her work celebrates belonging for all beings, with the hopes of achieving social justice.*