



## *Critical Questions in Education: Volume 8, Issue 1*

The Academy for Educational Studies

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Colleagues and Friends of the Academy:

It may be inappropriate to wax political in such a venue as this; suffice it to say, we have for the last couple of months been waking up wondering if this year's election outcome is maybe just a dream. Alas, it is not. This brave new political era certainly brings questions—questions for educational policy specifically and questions about the state of our democracy more generally. If nothing else, it will certainly be an interesting ride.

Fortunately, the Academy has a partial cure: New Orleans in March! Academy Director, Steve Jones, is putting the finishing touches on what he says will be our biggest conference to date including a return visit from educational philosopher Nel Noddings. We are very excited to have Nel back and especially so on the heels of her latest book co-written with Laurie Brooks (who will also be joining us in New Orleans). We hope to see you there. Conference information and registration can be found at our web site.

We have noted in past issues how serendipitously articles have come together under common themes. This issue has more of a cornucopia feel to it—a cornucopia of interesting ideas. Our first article by Gabriel Serna and Rebecca Woulf consists of an older journey in a contemporary context: social reproduction theory applied to college access. This review of social production theory in light of the contemporary college context raises important issues of concern as we continue to beat the everyone-must-go-to-college drum. Our second piece dovetails nicely from the first: an examination of attitudes and aptitudes toward math among latino/a students. James Martinez's quantitative study and ensuing suggestions provide much food for thought as we endeavor to make schools successful for all students.

Our third article takes quite a departure from the first two. Anna Soter and Sean Connors lay out their theory of "Language as a Field of Energy." Soter and Connors' argument is not without its detractors and we very much look forward to reader reactions to it. We end this issue's regular manuscripts with a return to a matter near and dear to our hearts: readying teachers to deal with our embarrassing levels of student homelessness and housing instability. Karla Morstad-Smart, Sara Triggs, and Teri Langlie describe the ways in which they work with preservice teachers on the issue of homelessness in their social foundations course at Concordia College in Moorhead Minnesota.

We close Volume 8, Issue 1 of CQIE with two book reviews: Leslee Grey reviews essayist Jarrett Neal's collection, *What Color is Your Hoodie: Essays on Black Gay Identity* and Burk Scarbrough reviews *Elite Schools: Multiple Geographies of Privilege* edited by Aaron Koh and Jane Kenway.

As always, happy reading!

PAX,

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