



Spring Issue 2013

Letter from the Board

Welcome, and thank you for reading the Spring 2013 issue of the *Journal of Critical Thought and Praxis (JCTP)*, a graduate-student led journal aimed to engage and connect academicians, practitioners, and activists working toward social justice. Since the inaugural issue, *JCTP* has continued to fulfill, and expand the vision of its founding Editorial Board. It is the 2013 Editorial Board's hope that *JCTP* will continue to be an avenue for us to provide a critical counterspace for emerging scholars, educators, practitioners, and activists, with the goal of having conversations about social justice that lead to action, advocacy, and praxis (i.e. theory-informed practice).

Highlighting the theme *Examining Policy Formation & Practice: Who Really Benefits?*, the Spring 2013 issue features articles that critically examine how we think about policy from a social justice lens. The issue brings together theoretical essays, scholarly-practitioner reflections, policy analysis, and empirical research to address this question of “who really benefits?” from policy formation, implementation, and the application of policy. We are pleased to feature an essay from Dr. Ryan Evely Gildersleeve, *Policy, Reconfigured: Critical Policy Studies and the (false) Beneficence of Subjects*, and an interview with emerging higher education scholar Dr. Susana Muñoz. Dr. Gildersleeve outlines a core concern of educational policy research that often is left unattended – the hidden benefits of policy. Dr. Gildersleeve concludes by offering a reconfiguration of policy that “encourages a compassionate, reflexive, living interrogation of how discourse begets material reality.” Dr. Muñoz provides a reflexive interview where she argues that higher education policymakers and administrators could/should be doing more to influence federal and state policy regarding undocumented students.

The authors in this issue include masters and doctoral graduate students, practitioner-scholars, emerging scholars, and senior scholars. As editors, we provided the authors, along with the reviewers, developmental feedback to strengthen the goals they were trying to achieve with each piece. I extend my sincere thanks to the 2013 JCTP Editorial Board because you have supported the mission of the journal since day one and this issue would not be a reality without you. Also, thank you to the reviewers who took the time to offer developmental feedback to these authors. Reviewers play a key role in one of our values of developmental feedback. The editorial board has developed a comprehensive approach to providing feedback on all



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manuscript submissions to improve overall writing skills of authors. A special thank you to Dr. Nana-Osei-Kofi for her time, commitment, and support of JCTP. I hope that you find this issue helpful, insightful, and that it pushes you to critically think about the role of policy in the work that we do in striving for a more equitable society in which we live, work, and love.

Cameron Beatty

Editor of the Journal of Critical Thought & Praxis