

Editorial

One step at a time

Slowly but surely, the *Journal of Critical Southern Studies* is inching forward in the world of academic publishing. Our first issue came out in the summer of 2013 and as planned, our second issue is coming out according to schedule in Spring 2014. It has not been an easy journey, not for lack of submissions, but for the fact that our external reviewers find most of the articles submitted needed substantial revision before publication in a scholarly journal.

Since our first issue, the JCSS's editorial team has worked closely together not only in reviewing submissions, but in finding a way of making us a viable journal. Early this year, faced with a paucity of publishable articles, we engaged in a comprehensive discussion of the best way forward for the JCSS. The majority of the editorial team members supported a suggestion by Jay Carney, our religion editor that we publish the journal on an annual rolling basis as opposed to the initial planned bi-annual basis. This was considered to be a feasible option that will allow us to publish good articles as they come in without scrambling to meet arbitrary deadlines. For that reason and beginning with 2014, the JCSS will be published on an annual rolling basis. In the 2014 volume, we start with three important studies and two book reviews.

In "Of Doctors and Wires: ICTs, Healthcare, and India's Telemedicine Venture into Africa" Vincent Duclos examines the increasing presence of Indian businesses in Africa as suggestive of growing Indo-African engagement in recent years. Duclos argues that "ICTs and healthcare occupy a strategic position in both Indo-African discursive practices and the creation of new market opportunities for an Indian industry eager to flex its economic muscle in the global arena. In critically engaging these concomitant processes, this paper touches the core of India's distinctive desire to become a major economic power." While most recent discourses of Asia's engagement with Africa focuses mainly on China, Duclos's study suggests that attention needs to be paid to the increasing role India is playing in Africa as a potential major economic power. In effect, Duclos suggests, Indo-African commercial relations are a win-win situation.

In "Points of Departure: Shifting Traditionalist Caymanian Understandings of Jamaica and Jamaicans" Christopher Williams focuses on the "positive Caymanian traditionalist interpretations of Jamaicans and Jamaica throughout the early to mid-20th century" and "traces the historical junctures at which these interpretations were negatively reworked to the point where Jamaicans in the Cayman Islands, and in general, are now being viewed derogatorily by many Caymanians." Williams argues that "the putative alteration of once-positive expressions of Jamaicans was inevitable, given the existence of a stark yet benign Caymanian/Jamaican differentiation in earlier, largely positive

Caymanian understandings of Jamaica and Jamaicans.” This differentiation, Williams suggests, was bound “in its later inversion, to highlight independent Jamaica’s decline into various social, political, and economic hardships, while highlighting the economic rise of the politically-stable Cayman Islands.”

In “Aspects in the construction of Brazil’s transcontinental lusofonia” Ana Ribeiro argues that “through a marriage between academia and the Quadros-Goulart presidencies, Brazil underwent a gradual change in discourse starting in the early 1960’s towards the idea that the country, like its African “brethren,” had been a victim rather than an extension of its former colonizer Portugal, in a turnaround of Freyrean ideology.” Ribeiro argues that this new discourse “meant a move away from traditional alignments and towards a more autonomous foreign policy involving diversifying partnerships in the South.”

While the going has been tough, the JCSS is determined to overcome its teething difficulties and eventually claim its place among the most highly respected academic journals in global academia. We have no illusions that this is a formidable challenge; nor are we in any doubt that our editorial team is more than equal to the task. We hope you find the studies in this issue useful.