

Message from the Editor

Here at long last is the December 2019 issue of *Language, Discourse & Society*, the journal of the [Research Committee 25 \(RC 25\)](#) of the [International Sociological Association](#). It is the first issue published since I began serving in the role of editor. Its extreme lateness has occurred due to a cascading set of events including the hacking of the journal's website, the death of an author, and the global pandemic that we are all still suffering under. This issue, whose thematic focus "Political Discourse and Historical, Colonial and Neo-Colonial Regimes of Power" was developed by guest editors Gatitu Kiguru, and Phyllis Mwangi, both of Kenyatta University, Kenya. The research presented on this timely topic spans six nations and four continents.

The call for papers from Drs. Kiguru and Mwangi focused on a Foucauldian approach to the study of language and power. They noted from Foucault's (1991) *Discipline and Punish* that "power is everywhere,' diffused and embodied in discourse, knowledge and 'regimes of truth.' The papers in this issue apply a variety of analytical approaches including Foucauldian, critical discourse analysis (CDA), critical political discourse analysis (CPDA), and critical realism, among others. The researchers' object of analysis varied from speeches by government officials, to documents from a funding agency, to in-depth interviews, to graffiti in Washington, DC., to even a single word. For example, in "The Deconstruction of the Concept of Normalization within the Context of the Settler-Colonialism in Palestine: The Duality of Acceptance and Rejection," Albzour problematizes the use of the term *normalization* in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The collection of articles selected by Drs. Kiguru and Mwangi allows readers to examine histories of colonialism and provide for us an examination of several types of discursive practices and their relationship to power. These articles allow us to see how new nuanced social and political practices and procedures (or slight shifts in old one) maintain old hegemonic forces and/or allow new ones to arise that subvert cries for justice or sometimes challenge old regimes. For example, Zaluar's and Gonçalves' "Religious discourses and politics in Brazil: The conservative evangelical parliamentary front" unearths a process for how discursive inflections are created by Brazilian evangelical parliamentarians using existing norms in institutions as a framing device to hide the radical conservatism in their legislative goals.

In addition to the thematic pieces, the Varia section of this issue includes an article written in French about the ethnic identity of the Chinese in Paris. The issue also includes a tribute to the life of prominent Brazilian scholar Dr. Alba Zaluar. Dr. Zaluar, who co-authored an article in this issue, died at the end of last year.

Please also be on the lookout for upcoming Call for Papers for the June 2021, December 2021, and June 2022 issues. Some of our upcoming special issue topics will address the Covid-19 crisis and the uprising against racist policing across the globe.

Natalie Byfield, Editor in Chief
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