

CPI Welcomes Jennifer Eiserman's Special Issue

Cecille DePass and Ali A. Abdi (Editors)

In **Us-Them-Us**, several artists affiliated with the University of Calgary, and an invited poet, adopt perspectives, usually associated with that of being agents provocateur. Key themes, issues, images, symbols, and slogans associated with postcoloniality and postmodernity are well illustrated in particularly, vivid ways. The works selected for inclusion by Eiserman, serve several functions. In different ways, each one strips away and reveals with precision, some key societal themes, concerning past and present patterns of interactions between dominance and oppression.

Thank you Jennifer Eiserman, for working closely with the contributors, in order to, produce a special issue which highlights well established traditions of the arts and humanities. This CPI Special Issue holds up for scrutiny, central aspects of our troubling contemporary and historical life worlds.

CPI continues to flourish as a result of the passionate interests and demonstrated commitments of J. Eiserman (in the Summer 2017 issue) and as importantly, the future guest editors (for issues in Fall 2017 through to Summer 2020) who plan to create and produce the following CPI special issues:

- **Carol Lee's (Fall 2017):** anthology, **"No Return"**, is a refugee story graphically depicted in a series of poems. The anthology incorporates rich metaphors to exemplify the lived experiences of many refugees and immigrants. "No Return" brings a particularly, poignant dimension to illuminate the contemporary human conditions of many people who have been forced to flee their homes and have come to live in Canada. In interesting ways, Carol Lee's work complements Hilary Burke's docu-play in CPI, Fall 2016, as well as, John Samuel's and Nand Tandon's (2005), research conducted in major Canadian urban centres. (Extracts from Samuel's and Tandon's research which examines systemic and structural barriers encountered by immigrants, in the workplace, to be published in a future CPI issue).
- **Kathleen Sitter (Summer 2018):** will develop a special issue, **"Creating our Canvas: Blending Visual Art and Storytelling into the Curriculum Palette"**. See Call for Proposals, CPI, Fall 2016, for details.
- **Tiffany Prete, Celia Haig Brown, Loretta Loon, Cecille DePass (Early Fall 2018):** will co-create an international, intergenerational, special issue, **"My spirit and heart soar" (Chief Dan George)** which is grounded in Indigenous peoples' world views and lived experiences in Canada and overseas. The special issue will include selected articles, artwork, photographs, poetry and music. See Call for Proposals, in this issue, for details.
- **Paul A. Crutcher (Summer 2019):** will produce a special issue, **"The Politics of Contemporary Education"**. The special issue will explicate selected academic and educators' responses to attempt to control the literature curricula and texts in some North American academies. See Call for Proposals, in this issue, for details.

- **Carol Campbell (Fall 2019):** is working with several Caribbean artists to develop a special issue, **“Caribbean Peleau”** which showcases new directions of the visual and performing arts in the Caribbean region. Describing the evolving, thought provoking, and inspirational works to be included, C. Campbell states that the issue “speaks to cultural infusion... a melange of sometimes exotic, often explosive flavours built around and evolved from our blend of European, African and Eastern heritages... that’s as Caribbean, as you can get!”. A few examples of Carol Campbell’s work in Jamaica, are included in the CPI Special Issue, Fall 2016.
- **Cecille DePass, Enid Lee, Sonia Aujla Bhullar and Alleson Mason (Summer 2020):** will produce a special issue, **“I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” (Maya Angelou)**. Another collaborative venture associated with the CIESC Preconference, University of Calgary, May 2016, the international CPI special issue will explore collective, familial and individual strategies of resistance and resiliency of immigrants/visible minorities in the diaspora. The issue will develop some key themes identified in the 2016 CIESC Preconference, as well as, in three subsequent, CPI publications: (i) Maria Wallis and Cecille DePass’ Special Issue, Fall 2016, “Still I Rise” (Maya Angelou); (ii) Carol Lee’s anthology, “No Return”, Fall 2017; (iii) The international, Indigenous, special issue, “My spirit and heart soar” (Chief Dan George), early Fall 2018.

Invitations and caveats: As an independent, voluntary, academic online journal, hosted by the University of Alberta Libraries, CPI welcomes contributions which expand our conceptual and theoretical horizons, and demonstrate ways in which equity, fairness, and justice are conceptualized and/or practiced in education.

CPI welcomes proposals to contribute to any of the special issues identified (above) for: Fall 2018, Summer and Fall 2019, and Summer 2020.

Although CPI publishes some contributions which are critical of the existing status quo, it is committed to publishing works which portray hope for a better future for all and not for a few of us. As importantly, CPI promotes the vision of a fairer, more equitable, and a just world as documented in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and espoused and practiced by Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, Paulo Freire, bell hooks, Maya Angelou, Vandana Shiva, to name a few.

Contributions published in CPI, do not necessarily express the perspectives and considered opinions of the CPI Editorial Board, its editors, reviewers and production team.

Reminders:

- (i) CPI invites its Editorial Board, readers and contributors to share information, regarding fairly recent, research, publications and accomplishments.
- (ii) CPI continues to welcome contributions from/by the south and north in literature, humanities, social sciences, arts, and of course, in education.

- (iii) CPI requests that any future publication, exhibition, or performance of specific work published in the Journal, kindly acknowledges its prior publication in CPI.

Real and potential spin-offs (intended and unintended) of CPI publications, include:

- Cyril Dabydeen, Ottawa, Poet Laureate (See CPI, Summer 2016 and Fall 2016), has volunteered to promote CPI within larger academic, professional and community circles.
- Maria Wallis, Co-Editor, CPI Special Issue, Fall 2016, conceptualized and organized a successful Round Table, for the recent Social Sciences and Humanities (SSHRC) Congress, Ryerson University, Spring 2017. Sonia Aujla Bhullar (CPI, Fall 2016) was one of the presenters. In the near future, Wallis intends to produce an edited book to include some of the articles published in CPI, Fall 2016, and presentations from the 2017 Round Table.
- Hilary Burke, Author: “The Woman and Her Prize” (Fall 2016), intends to produce a play based on her CPI publication. Between April and May 2017, Burke states that she has sent “... letters to over 150 members of Parliament and to members of the Ontario Legislative Council. I made reference to CPI in all my letters. [Hilary further indicates] ...I plan to post my CPI docu-play on the ISSUU website, very soon” (Email to DePass, June 21, 2017).
- At least one academic, Martin Cannon, has included his CPI article: “Changing the subject in teacher education: Centering Indigenous, diasporic and settler colonial relations”, Volume 4, Number 2, 2012, pp. 21-37, as part of his book to be published by a major international publisher. Permission granted by CPI to include the article in Cannon’s proposed book (Winter 2017).
- At present, Kim Koh, writing with Sean Steel and Cecille DePass, will produce a book on assessment and evaluation in international contexts, to be published by Sense Publishers. On completion of the book, Kim Koh will revamp the call for proposals (published in Fall 2015), and invite proposals for an international CPI Special Issue, on current trends in assessment and evaluation.

Commendations and recognition:

In early 2017, Paul R. Carr and Gina Thesee, established a UNESCO Chair in Democracy, Global Citizenship and Transformative Education, at the Universite du Quebec a Montreal, Montreal, Canada.

In March 2017, Cree Elder Doreen Spence, Saddle Lake Cree Nations, Alberta, received an Inspire Award for significant contributions in the field of culture, heritage and spirituality. The Hon. Senator and Judge Murray Sinclair of the Peguis First Nation, Manitoba, was the sole recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award. At least one of Elder Spence’s poems will be published in the proposed international, Indigenous, intergenerational, CPI Special Issue: **‘My spirit and heart soar’ (Chief Dan George)**.

In Summer 2017, Yvonne Brown, CPI Editorial Board Member, independent scholar, archival historian and author of “Dead Woman Pickney” (2010), was awarded the prestigious Gold Medal by The Mico University College Alumni Association (MOSA), Kingston, Jamaica for: sustained professional excellence, contributions to the academy, public and community service, and demonstrated abilities to practice the ideals of Mico (See CPI, Fall 2016, for one of Brown’s articles and also, see Brown’s dissertation for full discussion of her educational experiences).

A few recent publications of interest to CPI readers include:

Graham Reynolds’ (2016), Viola Desmond’s Canada: A History of Blacks and Racial Segregation in the Promised Land (with Wanda Robson. Foreword by George Elliot Clarke). Halifax & Winnipeg: Fernwood Publishing.

Suzette Mayr’s (2017), Dr. Edith Vane and the Hares of Crawley Hall. Toronto: Coach House Books.

Toni Morrison (2015), recipient, Nobel Prize in Literature (1993), has recently published a novel, **God Help the Child**. New York/Toronto: Alfred A. Knopf.

Departures:

Sir Derek Walcott, a St. Lucian poet and playwright; recipient, Nobel Prize in Literature (1992), passed away in March 2017. A graduate of the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, Sir Derek will be remembered for his astute, critical, insightful analyses of legacies of colonization; his visionary works, and for putting the Caribbean, at the centre-stage, in postcolonial literature and the performing arts.

Austin Clark, from Barbados originally, passed away in June 2016. Clark was the recipient of at least two major awards in literature, namely, the regional Commonwealth Writers Prize for Canada and the Caribbean, as well as, the Scotia Bank Giller Award.

Both Walcott and Clark have contributed to the field in ways which cannot be easily silenced, erased, or forgotten.

References

Brown, Y. (2005). Bodies, memories and empire: Life stories of growing up in Jamaica (1943-1965). Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation. Vancouver: University of British Columbia.

Brown, Y. (2010). *Dead Woman Pickney: A Memoir of Childhood in Jamaica*. Wilfrid Laurier Press.

Samuel, J. & Tandon, N. (2005). Engagement Strategy for a Racism Free Workplace. Unpublished empirical research. Ottawa.