

CPI Welcomes the Fall 2020 Special Issue

**“Living Stories of Migrancy: Exile, Unconditional Hospitality and Transnational Citizenship”
with Nicholas Ng-A-Fook, Carol Lee and Hembadoon Iyortyer Oguanobi, invited Guest Editors**

In the very big picture, given the current global milieu in terms of: significant socio-cultural-geopolitical-economic issues entangled with troubling health and climate change concerns, given the resultant individual and collective responses of uncertainties, anxieties, fears, even xenophobia, furthermore, given that due to the pandemic, some countries are grappling with reduced life expectancy and increased mortality rates of some of its citizens, given all of these factors, this special CPI issue produced by Nicholas Ng-A-Fook, Carol Lee and Hembadoon Iyortyer Oguanobi, at the University of Ottawa, addresses such serious issues with insights, sensitivity, and well considered argumentation. As importantly, the guest editors and contributors generally, pay meticulous attention to contemporary and historical factors that influence living and dying in our very troubled world.

When one considers that production of the CPI issue has occurred during the ravages of Covid-19 and the resurgence of social movements such as, Black Lives Matter and Me Too, the issue makes a timely entrance onto the current international stage. This issue consists of more than 20 thought-provoking essays, articles and poetry, very well complemented with some of Nicholas Ng-A-Fook’s lovely photographs of land and river vistas in Ottawa. For the most part, the contributors grapple fearlessly with systemic and individual issues which impact many of our lives in the north—especially true, if one is an immigrant or descended from immigrants from the south.

One of the many strengths of this issue is *the inclusion of first person narratives* in which the contributors explore in explicit ways the challenges associated with voluntary and enforced movements between home countries in order to live and work in other places with perceived opportunities. This overarching theme has been identified also, by some of the contributors to CPI’s Summer issue (Vol. 12, No. 1, 2020). The dilemmas, problems and triumphs of creating new homes whether as an immigrant or refugee are graphically documented in several of the pieces. As importantly, experiences of border crossings, colonization and its continuing impacts on life chances of Indigenous and formerly colonized people in the economically developed, north are explicated (explicitly and/or implicitly). In doing so, experiences of home, homelessness, community and/or lack of community, inclusion and exclusion are poignantly portrayed.

Through stories, internal dialogues, imaginary dialogues and rigorous scrutiny, the contributors explore key questions such as: “What are the dominant stories, ideologies, and myths? Whose stories and histories continue to be erased or silenced by the gatekeepers of knowledge?” An even more probing inquiry is: “How do I know this is so?” In their writings, the authors and poets challenge taken for granted assumptions and notions concerning for example, the land, nation-state, ownership and entitlement, sense of place, citizenship and belonging. In doing so, the contributors are actively involved in processes of critical inquiry in which “[they] have ongoing conversation[s] about experience[s] while simultaneously living in the moment[s]” (Hertz, 1997, p. viii). For the most part, each author and poet “actively constructs interpretations of his or her experiences... and then questions how these interpretations came about” (Hertz, 1997, p. viii).

Since 1996, much research has been published concerning involuntary and voluntary international migration. (For instance, see the research in the social sciences and education produced by the collaboration between Canada’s federal governments, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research

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Council (SSHRC) and Canadian universities', Centres of Excellence entitled: 'the Immigration and the Metropolis' initiative, as part of a far larger international venture). By comparison, in this CPI issue the essays, articles and poetry disrupt intentionally, much of the traditional and contemporary ways in which social sciences research tends to be undertaken and disseminated to the public.

Although concentrating on Indigenous research conducted in the past and present by many pakeha (white) researchers in Aotearoa (New Zealand), Linda Tuhiwai Smith's (2002) seminal work is a compelling reminder that research conducted by outsiders is usually a colonizing activity. Such research has a history "that still offends the deepest sense of our humanity" (Tuhiwai Smith, 2002, p. 1). This CPI issue deliberately does not fall into the Eurocentric traps that Tuhiwai Smith's (2002) book reveals.

The issue includes too, as a Research Report, a summary of the Canadian study conducted by John Samuel and Nand Tandon, John Samuel and Associates, Ottawa. Despite being conducted several years ago, the study has remained unpublished until its inclusion in this CPI issue. The qualitative research examines systemic issues and barriers encountered by members of the First Nations and visible minorities in the high education segment of the Canadian workplace. Unfortunately, as some of the contributors to this issue reveal such systemic discrimination remains in Canada.

Calls for Papers for CPI issues for the next few years are presented later in this issue.

Perhaps, this issue will make vital contributions to the CPI's readers' perspectives and their knowledge-making and research activities. Perhaps, too, the issue is sufficiently challenging that it encourages us to change the ways in which we think of and treat people labelled as 'the others'. Specifically, in terms of the artificial lines that we draw deliberately and/or unintentionally, to include and/or exclude how we interact and communicate with people who do not live inside our artificially delineated bubbles.

Admittedly, for everyone's safety with Covid-19, we are forced to stay home, to practice social distancing and isolation and wear masks in public places. Despite the major constraints on our lives, let us capture the spirits of promise, cheer, positive energy and unconditional welcoming of others that was evident in the December 15, 2020, Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) broadcast in which several performers paid tributes to Ella Fitzgerald (the queen of soul), by singing some of the holiday classics from her 1960s album. With the same positive spirits portrayed in the mid-December PBS concert, let us sing, swing and move into 2021, doing everything within our respective capacities and capabilities to care for others and to create a better future for all!

References

- Hertz, R. (1997). *Reflexivity & Voice*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications Inc.
- Public Broadcasting Station (PBS). (2020). Ella wishes you a swinging Christmas with Vanessa Williams. Retrieved from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uz_xhuTlQos
- Tuhiwai Smith, L. (2002). *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*. London & New York: Zed Books Ltd.

Future CPI Publications include the following:

In **Summer 2021** (Vol. 13, No. 1), **Kathleen Sitter** will produce a special issue entitled: “Multisensory Stories”. To date, Dr. Sitter has already received very strong statements of interest from several potential contributors who wish to submit their work. The Call for Submissions is published in this issue.

In **Winter 2022** (Vol. 13, No. 2), **Veronika Bohac Clarke** will produce an international issue entitled: “Beauty and the Beast: Using creative expressions to envision a just society amid post-truth politics, pandemic and climate change”. Dr. Bohac Clarke has invited and received strong interest to produce work for her issue from potential contributors. The Call for Submissions is published in this issue.

In **Summer 2022** (Vol. 14, No. 1), **Kay Sidebottom**, Leeds Beckett University, UK, Carol Lee, University of Ottawa, Canada, Nikki Fairchild, University of Portsmouth, UK will produce an international, Special Issue entitled: “Posthumanism: A Desire for a New Humanity”. The Call for Submissions is published in this issue.

In **Winter 2023** (Vol. 14, No. 2), **Kim Koh**, University of Calgary will lead an international, editorial team to produce a Special Issue entitled: “All that Glitters is not Gold: Culturally responsive online assessment and pedagogy in uncertain times”. The Call for Submissions is published in this issue.

Under discussion:

- (i) In **Summer 2023** (Vol. 15, No.1), **Tiffany Prete**, University of Alberta and a group of Indigenous academics will produce an international issue which will follow up some of the overarching themes presented in CPI, Vol 10, No. 2, 2018.
- (ii) In **Winter 2024** (Vol. 15, No. 2), **Carol Campbell**, retired from the Edna Manley School for the Fine and Performing Arts, Kingston, Jamaica, will produce an international issue concentrating on resistance and resiliency of the Maroons. Carol Campbell was the Guest Editor of CPI’s very successful issue, Vol. 11, No. 3, 2019 entitled: “Caribbean Pelau”.

CPI’s Book Reviews:

Due to a number of circumstances beyond our control, there are no Book Reviews published in this issue. Book Reviews will be published in the Summer issue, Vol. 13, No. 1, 2021. Individuals willing to review books for CPI should see the Call for Book Reviewers (CPI, Vol. 9, No. 2, 2017) and contact Dr. Kathy Sitter, University of Calgary, CPI Book Review Editor.

Invitations and Caveats:

CPI welcomes proposals to develop Special Issues, and to create additional e-Books in the **Legacy Series**, introduced in Winter 2019.

Although CPI publishes some works that tend to be critical of the existing status quo, the journal is committed to publishing pieces that portray hope for a better future for all and not for a few of us. To this end, CPI promotes the vision of a fairer, more equitable and a just-world documented in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Furthermore, CPI supports a dream that is/was espoused and

practised by, for example: Martin Luther King Jr., Paulo Freire, Kofi Anan, Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Mahatma Gandhi, Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, bell hooks, Vandana Shiva, Kamu Brathwaite, and Rosemary Brown, to name a few.

Contributions published in CPI do not necessarily express the perspectives and considered opinions of the CPI Editorial Board, its founding Editors, Reviewers and Production Team.

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Reminders:

- (i) CPI invites its Editorial Board, readers and contributors to share information regarding, recent research, publications and accomplishments.
- (ii) CPI continues to welcome contributions from/by academics in the south and north in the fields of: 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.

News from Enid Lee's desk in Santa Cruz, California: Zooming through 2020/Working for Racial Equality

COVID-19 has exposed the severe pre-existing, underlying condition of racial inequality that pervades learning spaces and the related settings of homes and workplaces. This pandemic has been the cause of devastating loss of life and livelihood. In the midst of this misery, I stumbled into unexpected opportunities for rebirth and reimagining my life as an antiracist professional development specialist. For the past 9 months, I have been engaged in a steep learning curve that enabled me to extend my anti-racist practice through computer technology, in particular, on the internet platform, Zoom. I reflect on this year with all of its hardships and physical isolation and I notice that I have learned from shared ideas, and stood in solidarity and interacted with many more people and perhaps, a wider range of individuals than I would have done in some of the 35 years that I have been on this justice-seeking journey.

In 2020, I produced: a six part Webinar series entitled: *Making Equity Work In Distance Teaching and Learning* for the Washington DC Teachers Union; a four part Webinar Series, *Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education* for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and an on-going *Anti-Racist Conversation with Enid Lee*, for the Educator's Preparation Programs, Santa Clara County Office of Education, California. Through the Webinar series and the materials produced, I have been joined by individuals and communities far and near in the struggle to dismantle this pre-existing underlying condition of racial inequality that limits the lives, liberty and the pursuit of happiness of so many human beings.

Very best seasonal wishes to the editors and readers of CPI.

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Arrivals and Departures:

By breaking new ground, specifically, in terms of exploring in far more depth, the world of digital technology, CPI looks forward to Kathleen Sitter's Special Issue "Multisensory Stories" to be published in CPI, Summer 2021.

Sonia Aujla-Bhullar, University of Calgary, who published an article in CPI, Vol. 12, No. 1, 2020, completed her PhD in early December 2020. The dissertation is entitled: "Crossing Borders in Schools: Racialized Experiences and Inclusive Education". CPI congratulates Dr. Aujla-Bhullar for her comprehensive, well written Dissertation. At the end of the oral defence, one of the examiners remarked that Sonia's was the strongest oral examination of a dissertation that he had ever seen.

Departures:

In the USA, **Supreme Court Associate Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933-2020)** passed away on September 18, 2020. A respected trailblazer, Judge Ginsburg was a law professor, travelled widely to participate in meetings with jurists in several countries, and the recipient of numerous distinguished awards and honours for her work. Justice Ginsburg was well known as an advocate for gender equity, women's interests, civil rights and liberties. Appointed by President Clinton, Ginsburg was the second woman to serve on the US Supreme Court. (See Ruth Bader Ginsburg with Mary Hartnett and Wendy W. Williams' (2016) book entitled: "My own words", New York: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, for a thoughtful and reflective discussion of Ginsburg's life and work).

The internationally known, Jamaican Psychiatrist, **Fred Hickling (1944-2020)** passed away in May 2020. Anne Hickling-Hudson's detailed Tribute to her brother is presented in this issue.

Acknowledgements:

We thank the Guest Editors, contributors, international and national External Reviewers, the Senior Journal Manager and the Desktop Publisher, for all of their voluntary work to produce the CPI Special Issue for Fall 2020.

Very best wishes to the CPI readers for the northern hemisphere winter and the southern hemisphere summer as we continue to live with the global pandemic, Covid-19 and its consequences.

Cecille DePass and Ali A. Abdi
CPI Editors and Founders