

Culture, Society and Praxis

Volume 3 | Number 2

Article 1

January 2005

In this issue...

Culture, Society and Praxis
California State University, Monterey Bay

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/csp>

Recommended Citation

Praxis, Culture, Society and (2005) "In this issue...," *Culture, Society and Praxis*: Vol. 3 : No. 2 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/csp/vol3/iss2/1>

This In This Issue is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ CSUMB. It has been accepted for inclusion in Culture, Society and Praxis by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ CSUMB. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@csumb.edu.

IN THIS ISSUE...

The group editing this journal, *Anthropology and Praxis*, meets every week to explore ideas that have potential for local and global change, and to enact these ideas in participatory action at their own community. It seems only natural that the call for this issue was on forms of political participation. The reader will find this issue to be one that explores very dissimilar and even contrasting events and questions related to democracy. It goes from exploring the concept of Social Justice -as it relates to forms of community development and political action- to Gender power differentials as in the article by Hanna Daleo.

The essay from Lucas Salazar is a fascinating and sophisticated discussion on Social Justice. He explores the meaning of human rights as foundational to a theory of social justice. Such theory is seen in this article as necessarily grounded on a concept of human nature as well as on methodology. Social Justice requires a great deal of grassroots organization, a fundamental aspect that is explored by Philip Watkins in his article on the Salt March and Political Power. The author explores the vision of the participatory power of morality as articulated in the work and life of Gandhi. The leader of the independence movement in India taught his followers that rules couldn't have power over subjects without their consent, a phenomenon that subaltern studies have articulated in terms of Hegemony and Resistance.

Aurora Bravo takes the journal into exploring issues of culture, identity and political participation. In her article on the experience of Mexican-Americans, Bravo addresses the difficult questioning of the historical events that placed Mexican-

Americans as a subaltern group in US society, understanding this as a history that continues to determine the way people understand and conceptualize political participation and democracy. Christina Sierra adds to the concepts of Bravo with a personal reflection that brings a comparative perspective. Christina, of mixed cultural heritage herself, expresses the sentiment of disenfranchisement and the need to take action to address such inequity: *I am a minority vote, no matter how you look at it.* Adding to this line of reflection, Shanda Pemberton explores the Japanese-American contribution. Pemberton concludes that European-Americans have been slow or simply refused to acknowledge the contribution of the Japanese-American community.

Bradford Smallwood takes the attention of the readers towards fundamental structural conditions of political participation. His article explains how the basic workings of capitalism preclude large segments of societies from determining the way in which wealth is produced and distributed. While the critical approach to capitalism seems to be irrelevant after the demise of the largest political-economic block confronting capitalism, Smallwood reminds us that this economic system continues to step over basic rights of people. The theme of profiting at other's expense still categorizes capitalism as a system of domination.

Mexican Anthropologists Reyna Moguel and Blanca Gómez submitted the invited article in this issue. After being prominently displayed by the media as an area of interest, Chiapas has largely and once again slipped away from world attention. While it is reassuring to know that a generalized violent conflict is not taking place in this region of Mexico any longer, the main issues affecting people in Chiapas remain largely unresolved and the so-

lutions that have been implemented are still far from a substantial response to the plight that led the people of Chiapas to violent conflict in the past. The article explores labor culture and productive processes as manifestations of alternative strategies to cope with profound social and

economic causes that have disrupted political life in this southernmost state in Mexico.

