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## The LatCrit E-Letter

Summer 2008

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### Co-Chairs' Corner

Happy end-of-the semester to all of you. LatCrit has had some ups and downs since our last Co-Chairs Corner. The South-North Exchange (SNX), originally scheduled for May, 2008, had to be postponed, but our Board Retreat in Denver in April was a huge success.

The planning of the SNX, on "The Global Politics of Food: Sustainability and Subordination," encountered some problems at the local site in Mexico City. Our collaborator in Mexico, economist Alejandro Nadal, did everything he could to try to resolve those problems, but in the end it seemed wiser to postpone the conference. We're currently exploring other site options, and hope to re-schedule the conference for either this December or the following May. Hugo Rojas and Beth Lyon recently worked together in Mexico City and Chiapas to scout locations for the Critical Global Classroom and also, with Alejandro, to finalize plans for the SNX. Recent news coverage has made it clear that the issues of food sovereignty and global trade are relevant now more than ever, and we fully expect this event to be an important contribution to our understanding of those issues.

The Board Retreat, which took place immediately following the annual gathering of the Conference of Asian Pacific American Law Faculty (CAPALF) and the Western Law Professor of Color conference at the University of Denver, was attended by approximately 15 people. For a day and a half, we worked hard on planning for the next annual LatCrit conference (to take place October 2-4 at Seattle University) and associated Junior Faculty Development Workshop and law review symposium; conceptualizing the April 30 to May 2, 2009, South-North Exchange in Santiago, Chile on Legal/Political Progressivism and Public Policies in the Americas; transitioning and expanding our technology-based outreach; and developing our new, formalized budgeting system. This work not only tied up important loose ends in these ongoing activities, but also laid the groundwork for a successful full board meeting in October.

We wish all of you LatCritters out there a productive and restful summer.

Happy grading!  
Steven Bender, Nancy Ehrenreich, & Beth Lyon



## Digital Memories: LatCrit's Oral History Project

Responding to repeated requests for historical and background information, the LatCrit community inaugurated an Oral Histories Project (OHP) during the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual LatCrit Conference, held in Miami in October 2007. The basic purpose of this project is to begin recording impressions, recollections and aspirations regarding the history, present status and future prospects of LatCrit theory specifically, and of critical outsider jurisprudence more generally. In addition to recording and preserving diverse perspectives while they are still relatively fresh, we hope this kind of historical and substantive information also will be helpful as a research or pedagogical tool to teachers, students and researchers in law and other disciplines studying areas germane to critical (legal) theory and outsider jurisprudence. To do so, these interviews can take many forms, including informal individual ruminations, small-group conversations, one-on-one interviews, etc. The material is posted, unedited, to the LatCrit website to make it accessible for these multiple purposes. From time to time, we will conduct additional interviews to accumulate an informational resource with diverse viewpoints that will grow organically with time, and are helpful to different folks with different needs or objectives.

Following is a listing of interviews with a diverse group of LatCrit scholars conducted in October 2007 during the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual LatCrit Conference in Miami: Mario Barnes, Steve Bender, Roberto Corrada, Olympia Duhart, Carmen Gonzalez, Christian Halliburton, Eileen Kaufman, Adele Morrison, Hugo Rojas, Darren Rosenblum, Catherine Smith, Belkys Torres, Frank Valdes, Charles Venator and Robert Westley.

Each of these interviews points to some of the many lessons we have learned, some of which remain unwritten or unspoken otherwise. The scholars interviewed here thus help to illustrate the democratic knowledge-production experiment of the LatCrit community in action. The casual eloquence of the interviewees underscores the theoretical points that LatCrit scholars have collectively and individually prioritized during the past dozen years or so. The multi-vocal format of this Oral Histories Project, we hope and intend, will reflect, and give expression to, the principled openness that characterizes the LatCrit project in democratic knowledge-production.

# *Save the Date!*

**LatCrit XIII**  
**Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington**  
**October 2 - 4, 2008**  
<http://www.law.du.edu/latCrit/ACXIII.htm>



**LatCrit Student Scholar Program  
2008  
Final Selection**

**Vinay Harpalani**

*vh386@nyu.edu*

*New York University School of Law*

**“Formal, Material, and Symbolic Modes of Racialization: Examining South Asian Americans’ Access to ‘Whiteness’”**

In this article, Harpalani builds on the literature of racialization by conceptualizing whiteness as a form of capital to which various groups may seek access. Using South Asians in the United States as a case study, Harpalani argues that a group achieves access to “formal” whiteness through state action; to “material” whiteness through physiognomy; and to “symbolic” whiteness through social achievements already marked “white,” such as education, accent, and class status. South Asians in the United States have struggled to gain the privileges of whiteness along each of these dimensions. Harpalani’s study makes important contributions to whiteness studies, to the history of racialization in the United States, to Asian American jurisprudence, and to the emerging “race as performance” literature within critical race theory.

Harpalani expects to receive his J.D. from NYU Law School in 2009. He has a Ph.D. in education from the University of Pennsylvania and has written extensively in the area of race and education. His goal is to become a law professor and to pursue scholarship in the public interest: “Specifically, I would like to examine the intersection between law and social science, focusing on racial justice and education law. I would also like to have a role in impact litigation,

by helping public interest organizations understand, apply, and critique social science research that is relevant to the particular legal and policy issues they are working on.”

**Sustainable Development  
& LatCrit NGO**

In Spring 2008, the LatCrit NGO submitted a report for consideration during the United Nations’ Economic and Social Council’s Annual Ministerial Review [AMR] and Development Cooperation Forum [DCF], which will focus on sustainable development. Based upon the extraordinary and urgent scholarship of Professor Carmen Gonzalez of Seattle University School of Law, the report identifies and proposes reconstructive alternatives to the structural inequalities of transnational agricultural markets and international trade liberalization regimes, which exacerbate but ignore historical practices of colonial exploitation.

Other reports initiated in the process of developing our submission for the AMR and DCF will address: deforestation and human rights law in Colombia; the impact of prison expansion and industries on labor and the environment in California; and collective lands claims by Afro-Brazilians seeking official title in traditionally occupied lands. For more information, visit [www.laterit.org](http://www.laterit.org).



# Call for Papers

## **Special Issue of Theorizing Race, Class, Gender & Sexuality in Critical Race Studies in Education Research**

Editor: Darrell Cleveland, Stockton College

Guest Editors:

Theodora R. Berry,

American College of Education

Michelle Jay, University of South Carolina

Marvin Lynn, University of Illinois at Chicago

Critical race studies in education research has called for an in-depth examination of the processes, structures, practices, and policies that create and promote persistent racist, classist, and gendered inequalities in education. While this work is significant, it has become increasingly important to address the educational inequalities and disparities for those whose identities place them in a double or tertiary bind with intersecting identities of race, class, gender and/or sexuality. This requires a multiplicative intersectional analysis that examines the ways in which race, gender, class, sexuality and other axes of domination cohere to create a unique set of experiences, understandings, practices and constructs that help to better define the conditions of folks at the intersections (Wing, 1997). This special

issue is designed to provide multiple critical race conceptual analyses of the educational processes, strategies, structures, and policies for those whose identities and experiences exist at such intersections. Critical race education scholars with backgrounds in Lat-Crit Theory, Critical Race Pedagogy, Critical Race Feminism, and other genres of Critical Race Theory are invited to submit papers that define and explain their research and the ways in which it illuminates the links between race, class, gender, and/or sexuality within the context of education.

Papers should be theoretical as well as researched-based and should engage educational practice and/or policy. We encourage article-length manuscripts of no more than 30 pages, including references. All manuscripts will be peer-reviewed.

Manuscripts should be received by June 30, 2008 for a themed issue planned for 2009. Contributors should adhere closely to the "Information for Authors" at the back of the most recent issue of *Educational Foundations*. Pre-submission inquiries can be directed to Dr. Theodora R. Berry at [crfscholar1913@gmail.com](mailto:crfscholar1913@gmail.com). Papers presented at the Second Annual Critical Race Studies in Education Conference will receive special consideration.



**AN INTRODUCTION AND INVITATION:  
SNX 2009**

**The South-North Exchange on  
Theory, Culture and Law**

[WWW.LATCRIT.ORG](http://WWW.LATCRIT.ORG)



[LATCRIT@LAW.MIAMI.EDU](mailto:LATCRIT@LAW.MIAMI.EDU)

***Progresismo Jurídico-Político y  
Políticas Públicas  
en las Américas***  
*Legal/Political Progressivism and Public  
Policies in the Americas*

Sponsored by:

Latina and Latino Critical Legal Theory,  
Inc.,  
Georgia State University College of Law  
Universidad de Talca

at the Universidad de Talca  
Santiago, Chile \* 30 de abril - 2 de mayo  
de 2009/ April 30-May 2, 2009

The South-North Exchange on Theory, Culture and Law (“SNX”) met for the first time in 2003 to foster and sustain a trans-national, cross-disciplinary and inter-cultural dialogue on current issues in law, theory and culture that are of common interest across the Americas. This Exchange consists of two parts: an annual encounter and, afterward, a scholarly publication based on the live

proceedings. Both the “live” and published versions of the Exchange aim to bring to bear on a contemporary issue or topic the combined specialties of the Exchange participants. Ideally, this annual Exchange will help to build networks of knowledge that, over time, will help to foster social justice awareness and activism, and help to inform public discourse and policymaking nationally, hemispherically and globally regarding current affairs in law and society. To do so, each year the Exchange examines a topical general theme, and participants “exchange” views, experiences, proposals and work through a series of interactive plenary sessions spanning several days.

Throughout the Americas and the Caribbean, left and center-left governments have, in recent years been elected to lead their countries. Even in the notable exceptions to this trend (e.g. Canada, Colombia, the United States), progressive voices have gained popular support and increased visibility. To be sure, there are huge differences in the rhetoric and policies of the governments that have come to power in the region. In Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela, the rhetoric of the progressive governments is more self-consciously socialist and radical in tone and initiative (favoring state control and aggressive land reform, for instance), while elsewhere in the region (e.g. Argentina and Chile), the policies and political rhetoric of progressive governments is more moderate. Still elsewhere (Brazil, the Dominican Republic), progressive governments have undertaken – or been accused of adopting – policies more neoliberal than progressive. Nonetheless, despite these differences, it merits asking (1) what accounts for this leftward shift throughout the Americas



and the Caribbean, (2) what new governments have in common and how they are different and, finally (3) to examine the legal and policy challenges facing progressive governments throughout the region as they seek to implement their visions after years of largely neoliberal governments and reforms. This exchange invites scholars, policy makers, activists and senior graduate students to address these and related questions.

**The 2009 Exchange organizing committee invites paper proposals addressing the:**

- 1 – Phenomenon of progressive governance in the Americas and the Caribbean;**
- 2 –Differences among progressive governments; and**
- 3 –What are the legal and policy changes facing theoretical considerations of the challenges and benefits of governing from a politically progressive perspective.**

**Papers might focus on individual cases or compare two or several national or regional cases, or be entirely theoretical and/or philosophical in scope. Proposals from scholars and senior graduate students in diverse disciplines are encouraged.**

**Program Coordinators:**

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**Paper Proposals and Abstracts  
Should Be Sent To:**

Hugo Rojas, Santiago, Chile  
[hugorojascorral@gmail.com](mailto:hugorojascorral@gmail.com)

**Practical Information/  
Questions on Chile Exchange Site:**

Gonzalo Aguilar, Santiago, Chile  
[gaguilar@utalca.cl](mailto:gaguilar@utalca.cl)

**Practical Information/  
Questions about getting to Chile**

(e.g. housing, transportation):  
Colin Crawford, Atlanta, USA,  
[ccrawford@gsu.edu](mailto:ccrawford@gsu.edu)



## LatCrit Syllabi Bank

At the annual LatCrit conference in Miami ("LC XII"), we called for the establishment of an online "syllabi bank" – to help ensure that courses in critical race theory, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, dis/ability and the like continue to be incorporated into the formal law school curriculum and to help new generations of teachers and scholars enter the academy without having to "re-invent the wheel" of course design.

While law school courses regarding identity and equality in law and society have established a foothold in some law schools' curricula, as you know, these courses are relatively new and vulnerable to being marginalized in the formal curriculum. We hope your participation in this project will help not only to solidify the gains of the last decade or two, but also support the continual improvement, vitality and growth of these courses.

If you are interested in contributing to this syllabi bank, please send an email to Frank Valdes at [fvaldes@law.miami.edu](mailto:fvaldes@law.miami.edu) with "Syllabi Bank" in the subject line, your current syllabi attached and stating, "I give you permission to post the attached syllabus to the LatCrit website as part of the Syllabi Bank."

Once we have received your responses and syllabi, we will post the syllabi to the LatCrit website, making these resources accessible to teachers across and beyond the U.S. and facilitating the discussion of critical sociolegal pedagogy among you and your colleagues.

## Upcoming Events

### Thirteenth Annual LatCrit Conference

Seattle University School of Law  
Seattle, Washington  
**October 2 - 4, 2008.**

### NLLSA Conference

RADISSON HOTEL--  
ALBUQUERQUE  
2500 Carlisle Boulevard NE  
Albuquerque NM 87110  
**October 16-18, 2008**

### SSP 2008-08 LatCrit Student Scholar Program

Race and Ethnicity in Law and Society: A Cross-Disciplinary Call for Student Papers  
Application Packet Due Date:  
**January 25, 2009**

#### Contact/Information:

Angela P. Harris,  
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### The South-North Exchange on Theory, Culture and Law

Universidad de Talca  
Santiago, Chile  
**April 30-May 2, 2009**

### CLAVE: A CROSS DISCIPLINARY JOURNAL

Counter-disciplinary Notes on Race, Power & the State.  
Publication submissions invited and accepted year-round.

#### Contact/Information:

Tucker Culbertson,  
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[www.clave.org](http://www.clave.org).

To review and download the full Calls & Program Materials for these and other LatCrit Projects, please visit the LatCrit website: [www.latercrit.org](http://www.latercrit.org)