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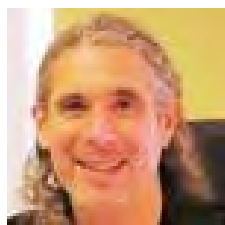
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The National Association for Ethnic Studies was founded in 1972. It provides an interdisciplinary forum for scholars and activists concerned with the national and international dimensions of ethnicity.

President's Message



Dear Members and Colleagues,

It is with a genuine sense of excitement and enthusiasm that I write these remarks for our newsletter. In the short time that I have been president of the Association (first as interim president, and now newly elected to a full term), much has happened.

Perhaps most symbolic and significant, we celebrated our 40th Anniversary Conference in New Orleans. Given the unplanned resignation of our previous president, and relocation of our national office to Colorado State University at Fort Collins—all in quick succession—it is somewhat amazing that the Conference Committee and the Board of Directors managed not only to hold a conference but to put together a wonderful and engaging program, including honoring founding and long-time members of NAES, and presenting a panel of founding members the covered much of the history of Ethnic Studies and NAES (more about the Anniversary Conference inside).

Since the conference, the Board of Directors has followed through on the promise of establishing a meaningful and achievable strategic plan. As you may have notice, we have resumed the publication of our journal, *Ethnic Studies Review*. It has a new look and a new editorial board, of which I now have the honor of serving as editor. The editorial board is currently hard at work putting together the next issue, and has already begun work on the one after that. Once published, these new volumes will get us current. The quality and variety of the articles are fantastic—it is our goal to make *Ethnic Studies Review* “the” journal for Ethnic Studies. We are also busy reaching out to new reviewers to participate in the peer review process (if you are interested, please contact Ravi Perry

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or David Aliano, our Associate Editors, and for book reviews, please contact Emily Drew our new Book Review Editor).

The Board has also initiated a major fundraising campaign of which you will hear more about over the next few months—we want to gain a financial security that will allow us to expand what NAES offers to members and non-members alike. We are introducing some new awards of recognition in Ethnic Studies: in journalism, film, books (both scholarly and trade); we will also give these awards of recognition for excellence to individuals and institutions and organizations. This is in addition to our existing awards. If NAES is, as we all know it is, the preeminent Ethnic Studies organization, then it is time that we put our imprimatur on the good work achieved by others, and let more of the world know who we are by doing so!

We are also at work establishing a forum (on line) for members to comment on current events and to post positions on issues that matter to Ethnic Studies, NAES and the general membership—we hope to have this up soon. NAES will be revamping its Facebook page and, like the rest of the world, start “tweeting.” Social networking and NAES are about to begin a dynamic relationship—allowing our members and colleagues all over the world to be more connected, more frequently.

The Board is moving forward with an outreach program to connect and collaborate with a number of groups, institutions and organizations. Where this takes us, we are not sure. But, we are convinced that in order to secure a larger role for NAES and its membership, it is time we establish key partnerships to work toward the advancement of Ethnic Studies.

Members and friends are invited to share with the Media Committee your ideas on which issues the association may want to consider to publish position statements and policy advocacy memos concerning the national and international dimensions of ethnicity. You may email your suggestions to rperry@ethnicstudies.org. Once your suggestions are received, the Media Committee will meet to discuss the various suggested topics for engagement and will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee for adoption. Once the Executive Committee approves the statement/advocacy memo, NAES will distribute a press release announcing the advocacy. An archive of releases will be available on the association's website. To date, NAES asked for a federal investigation into the death of an openly gay Black candidate for mayor of Clarksdale, MS; and supported the work of Idle No More, a Canada-based organization that urges the government of Canada to repeal all legislation which violates Treaties, Indigenous sovereignty and subsequently environmental protections of land and water. Additional members of NAES have supported efforts to save ethnic studies as states have sought to limit ethnic curriculum. NAES members wrote op-eds and sponsored legislation such as ACR 34 in California, that sought to assert the importance of ethnic studies in post-secondary and higher education.

The Executive Committee of the Board has been transforming our leadership model and we now have a leadership team, working together and helping us gain greater efficiency and transparency. The results includes delegation of duties and responsibilities but coupled with the authority and accountability. Our more collaborative model has yielded better work and more productivity—including establishing a “rotating-system” for our annual conferences. By establishing a 3 to 4 year rotation with the same hotel in the same city (for example, San Francisco, New Orleans, Chicago...) we get better rates, less logistical headaches, which means less stress for the Conference Committee and members can actually plan ahead where they will be traveling: Right now we intend to return to San Francisco for 2014 and back to New Orleans in 2015. We are

also trying to establish better relationships with local organizations and media to help promote our conferences and to participate and cover them. This is some of what has been going on and what is at the heart of our strategic plan: growth, stability, visibility and vitality. The entire Board of Directors deserves a well-deserved thank you for their good work and renewed commitment to NAES. We also have some new members who have jumped right in and have taken on important roles with the kind of energy and skill that ensure more good things to come (so, make sure you check out the Board in this issue of ER). Dear Members, I am so excited about what the future looks like for NAES; we are on our way to accomplishing much important work for our association and for the field of Ethnic Studies. I do so hope you feel

the same and are encouraged to participate in new and different ways. I look forward to seeing all of you in Fort Collins in April, which Irene Vernon, our Conference Chair, has been doing a great job organizing on overseeing (see her comments below). In the meantime, thank you for your support and membership.

In Solidarity,
Ron

LOOKING AHEAD . . . NAES 2014 Conference San Francisco, CA

FORum Blog Launch

NAES is launching a new blog, entitled the FORum!

The impetus for the FORum germinates from the Association's name. Whereas many academic-based associations are associations “of” a particular field of study, we were founded in 1972 with the additional explicit charge to be “FOR” ethnic studies. Hence, the name: the National Association FOR Ethnic Studies. As such, the Association is increasing its advocacy work in creating the FORum.

The FORum invites your blog posts, entries and commentaries as it relates to the national and international dimensions of ethnicity. We invite submissions that discuss current events, controversial issues in the media, on-campus expressions at various institutions and your opinions on policy debates regarding ethnicity. The FORum is also your venue to propose what issues NAES should publicly support with aggressive advocacy.

To access the FORum and to post your entries, visit ethnicstudies.org.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ETHNIC STUDIES, INC.

41st Annual Conference, April 12 and 13, 2013

Fort Collins, CO

The National Association for Ethnic Studies is proud to announce its Annual Conference *We Are All Ethnic Studies: Building Communities, Challenging Racism, Sexism & Heteronormativities in the 21st Century* to be held at CSU in Fort Collins, Colorado. The conference will focus on scholarly and community activities in the field of Ethnic Studies regionally, nationally and internationally with an emphasis on race, gender, and sexuality. This conference will provide a strong mentoring opportunity by creating a professional and social opportunity for Ethnic Studies scholars and activists to discuss contemporary issues in the field and engage in collaborations. In light of the

legal banning of Ethnic Studies curriculum in Arizona and textbook revisions in Texas, a broad conversation on issues of academic/intellectual freedom and self-determination is needed. The field of Ethnic Studies is at a pivotal moment for growth and proliferation as are group specific departments and programs (*i.e. Africana, Asian Chican@, and Native Studies*) to meet student demands and offer diverse curriculum. Yet, there are backlashes, attempts to co-opt our academic spaces and to shrink programs and departments. The umbrella theme of the 2013 NAES conference is how to grow our disciplines from research and college settings, as well as k-12 schools and community settings.

"We Are All Ethnic Studies"
**Building Communities,
Challenging Racism, Sexism and
Heteronormativities in the 21st Century**



To view the conference program, volunteer to help with conference activities, registration fees, membership dues, hotel accommodations and travel arrangements, please visit the NAES website (<http://www.ethnicstudies.org>). For questions and assistance please, contact the NAES office by email (naes@ethnicstudies.org) or phone/voicemail (970-491-3927).

Regional organizers assisting the NAES Conference Committee include Ethnic Studies departments and programs from Colorado State University; the University of Colorado, Boulder; Metropolitan State University of Denver; the University of Colorado, Denver; and the University of Wyoming.

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Board of Directors 2013 Elections

It's that time again!! During the month of March 2013, the National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) is soliciting your nominations for our four (4) open seats as a member of our Board of Directors.

A 'working' board, our members of the Board of Directors serve staggered four-year terms, except for the graduate student representative, who serves a two-year term. Board members must attend two meetings a year: one at the annual conference in the Spring and one in the Fall.

Joining the Board is a great opportunity to engage in the work of fulfilling the mission of Ethnic Studies throughout the year. In 2013, the Board seeks to increase the association's public profile and its institutional outreach to ensure a lasting legacy for Ethnic Studies. We also seek to improve upon our conference programming and are working hard to increase the impact of our flagship journal in the field of ethnic studies and related disciplines.

Candidates for the Board must have been NAES members for at least one year prior to serving. We encourage anyone interested in serving to self-nominate or recommend others to the chair of the Nominations Committee: Vice-President of NAES, Ravi K. Perry.

Nominations should be sent via email to rperry@ethnicstudies.org by March 20th. Online voting for eligible members will begin on March 21st and continue through April 4th. Additional details about how to cast your vote online will be sent to you on March 20th. The elected members of the Board will be announced at the annual business meeting at the 41st annual conference in Fort Collins, CO, April 12-13, 2013.

Timothy J. Fair Editor Ethnic Reporter

The Media Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of Timothy J. Fair as Editor of the newly reinvigorated Ethnic Reporter! Mr. Fair is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Mississippi State University where his research focuses on African-American male achievement in higher education.

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40th Anniversary Conference

In 2012, NAES celebrated its 40th anniversary with a dynamic conference in New Orleans, LA. The theme for the conference was: "Ethnic Studies Then, Ethnic Studies Now: Educating for 21st Century Glocal Realities." While the conference was a success in many ways, significantly, the conference was unique in that it honored the founding scholars and activists of the field of ethnic studies and of the association. NAES convened a panel entitled "A History of the Discipline and Association Plenary Session." Moderated by Secretary Emily Drew, the invited panelists discussed from their point of view the development of ethnic studies over 40 years. Speaking to a very engaged audience, many invited scholars described the memories of the association's first meetings. Invoking the experiences they each had at their respective institutions to develop ethnic studies curriculum, programs, and departments, the scholars shared the genesis of the student-led movement that resulted in the field of ethnic studies. The panelists included Molefi Asante, Robert Johnson, Otis Scott, Robert Perry, Joseph Scott, and others.

Below are selected photos from the 40th anniversary conference. Additional photos can be found on the association's website.

