



Editorial

Martin Bulmer

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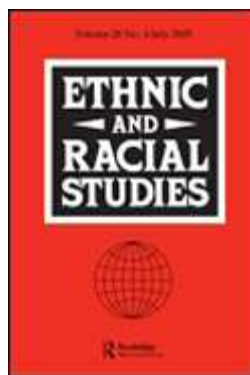
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Editorial

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Academic journals such as ETHNIC AND RACIAL STUDIES evolve over time. Apart from changes in cover design, however, they may appear to the reader to go on from one year to the next in a relatively timeless manner. This is not quite the case, and ETHNIC AND RACIAL STUDIES is no exception. Keen-eyed readers will have noticed the recent disappearance of the name of Guida Crowley as Managing Editor. Guida retired during 2008 having rendered sterling service to the journal over 17 years in this key position, previously having been Managing Editor under Sheila Patterson of the journal NEW COMMUNITY [now the JOURNAL OF ETHNIC AND MIGRATION STUDIES]. All involved with the journal, and the Editors in particular, are enormously indebted to Guida for her contribution and keen editorial eye. Our appreciation was marked by a dinner in central London in September 2008 at which a presentation was made by Jane Oakley, our editor at Routledge.

In recognition of her unique role, there is no replacement of Guida as Managing Editor, so the title lapses, but her place is taken by Amanda Eastell-Bleakley as Journal Manager. At the same time, John Solomos has joined Martin Bulmer as joint Editor of the journal. Recently there have also been a number of retirements from our Editorial Board and the appointment of a number of new international scholars to the team which advises the editors.

The opportunity has been taken to appoint a number of younger members in the UK and North America, and to add members from the Netherlands, Spain,

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Turkey, Brazil, Japan, Australia and South-East Asia to extend even further our regional expertise. Their names appear on the inside back cover.

ETHNIC AND RACIAL STUDIES is now managed via the software package Manuscript Central from ScholarOne, with which authors and referees will be familiar from their dealings with the journal. We have been using this now for three years and find it well suited to our international reach and the very wide range of contributions we receive from all over the world. Little postal mail now arrives in the ERS office, as communications are handled centrally by email and by Manuscript Central, ably managed by Amanda who is an expert in these operations and able to advise authors and referees who sometimes find it takes a little time to get used to.

Manuscript Central is an innovative, web-based, database-driven peer review and online submission management system for scholarly publishers.

Manuscript Central automates manuscript submission to journals and allows for easy administrative, editing and reviewing capabilities. It now also handles our book review function. It is run by Scholar One, a division of Thomson Reuters, and has been widely adopted by over 280 societies and publishers, encompassing 2800 books and journals. There is more information at

<http://scholarone.com/products/manuscript/>

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This is part of the revolution which has taken place in scholarly journal publishing in recent years, encompassing electronic production processes, for example sending proofs to authors electronically as pdf files, and of course on publication the availability of electronic copies of journals which is transforming academic libraries.

Use of Manuscript Central has enabled ERS to significantly reduce turn [around](#) times for articles. Such figures are averages, and do not account for the relatively rare cases where referees are difficult to secure, and it takes too long to complete the review process. The average time we take to review an article from submission to communicating the decision to the author continues to decrease - 115 days in 2007 to 73 days currently. ERS relies very heavily upon its specialist referees to maintain the high quality of the journal, and we are greatly in debt to the hard and serious work which they perform. In the November 2009 issue we shall be publishing a list of those who have acted as referees during the previous twelve months in acknowledgement of this contribution.

Last year, the frequency of ETHNIC AND RACIAL STUDIES was eight issues per year. This year, 2009, this has increased to nine issues per year, and in 2010 it will increase to ten issues per year. The field of ethnic and racial studies is buoyant, and there are other indications of expansion such as the health of book publishing in the area. The flow of good articles internationally shows no sign of slowing, indeed the number of submissions is rising quite rapidly. Our refereeing system, which is rigorous, is the principal guarantee of

the quality of the journal, though it has a downside for the disappointed authors whose work is not accepted for publication. We attempt to provide reasoned critiques of all work submitted to us, and suggestions for alternative journals where we are unable to accept an article.

We shall continue to publish special issues, and the new special issues to appear, scheduled for 2010, *Migrants and Minorities' Mobilisation: Exclusion and Forms of Engagement*, guest edited by Davide Peró and John Solomos and *Racial Missions of Contemporary Policing*, guest edited by Paul Amar. During 2009 we are publishing a series of Themed Issues on *Migration: Policies, Practice, Activism*; *Gender, Race and Religion: Intersections and Challenges*; *Nationalism and National Identities*; *Latino Identities*; *Diaspora*.

Acceptance of an article in ERS now leads quite quickly to the article being typeset, proof read, and appearing online in iFirst. iFirst is Taylor & Francis' proprietary early-online-publication system, which makes new knowledge available to the academic community in the shortest possible time, reducing submission-to-publication times by many months.

The articles are identical to the print edition in every way except that they lack page spans. These "forthcoming articles" are later assigned to a particular issue of the journal, given page numbers, and published in final form. All iFirst articles carry a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) which facilitate indexation in search engines such as Google, so that appearance there constitutes publication. On appearing / assigning in print in a printed issue, the iFirst copy is removed, but the whole of each issue of the journal is published electronically on the web.

In 2008, in the Institute of Scientific Information impact factor scores, ETHNIC AND RACIAL STUDIES moved into first place in the Ethnic Studies category [nine journals] and moved up to 14th out of 92 in the Sociology journals

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category. These data, based on 2007 articles, give us confidence that we are publishing good quality material, which is coming to us in increasing quantities. Being published in ERS is a competitive process, both in producing very good work and competing against a high international standard. To that extent it is somewhat Darwinian, but we hope that readers are finding the material which we publish advances scholarship in the area of ethnic and racial studies.

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