

UNiversitas: Journal of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

Volume 11
Number 1 *Forum Theme 1: Building a Culture of Academic Integrity & Forum Theme 2: Constitution Day 2015: The Voting Rights Act of 1965*

Article 1

3-2016

Editor's Introduction

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Recommended Citation

Swan, Jesse (2016) "Editor's Introduction," *UNiversitas: Journal of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity*: Vol. 11 : No. 1 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/universitas/vol11/iss1/1>

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Editor's Introduction

Jesse Swan, "Editor's Introduction"

1. Integrity and compassion drive the contributors to this volume. From promoting free and encompassing elections to maintaining and advancing knowledge of monstrous corruption and inhumanity, this volume presents practical reports and suggestions as well as theoretical criticisms and speculations by numerous people important to UNI.
2. In a hybrid piece, fascinating in its style and so very important in its substance, the contribution to the Essays, Studies, and Works section, "Nakba Day: The Ephemera of Martyrdom," presents, in an engagingly personal yet entirely academic manner, the facts and experiences of the author during 05-06 May 2014 in Israel and Palestine. This day is Yom Ha'atzmaut or Independence Day for Israelis and Nakba or Catastrophe for Palestinians. Comprehending the day in the fairest, most humane way is the aim of the author, and this piece certainly captures the challenge of doing so, for those both in and out of the area.
3. In what is cast as a review of *The Commandant of Lubizec: A Novel of the Holocaust and Operation Reinhard* by Patrick Hicks, the Director of UNI's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education provides an elaborate and knowing essay on the history and culture of Holocaust studies and education in academia and mainstream efforts, such as in speaker presentations, popular books, and commemorative museums. At this moment, when first-hand witness knowledge is rapidly becoming a matter of the historical record as the last survivors pass away, it becomes imperative to develop other means of providing a vital, living sense of the facts in order to continue to make sure that humanity lives up to the commitment to disallow another genocide such as the Holocaust.
4. Advancing a humane civilization is the surest way to safeguard against genocide and other atrocities. A major way Americans advance good government and conditions for a vibrant, healthy, and free civilization is through the the political franchise. Making the union more perfect in 1965, Congress passed and the president signed the Voting Rights Act, an act that meaningfully extended the franchise to African-Americans. The act has been credited with success over the decades, but it has also been attacked and, indeed, altered, some feel because of its success, others say because of unintended consequences or, more recently, because, some feel, it is no longer necessary. Exploring the act, notably as it continues to shape contemporary Iowa, one of our two forums, "Constitution Day 2015: The Voting Rights Act of 1965," presents several expert considerations.

5. Of more specifically campus interest, the other contribution to the Forum section and the other contribution to the section of Reviews and Responses together treat the challenges of dishonesty while fostering academic achievement. "Building a Culture of Academic Integrity" draws on the recent Ethics in Higher Education Conference, held at UNI, and details the facts of student cheating and several ways of thinking about the phenomenon and addressing it. "Cracks in the Cornerstone: Toward More Informed Decision-Making in Rhetorical Education" responds to the UNIVersitas Forum on the Cornerstone Program published in the last volume. By concentrating on the instruction in rhetoric in the forum on Cornerstone, this review advances alternatives in conception and administration, acknowledging that there are other features of the program, including instructional, that remain unaddressed by concentrating only on rhetoric.
6. Graduate faculty and students continue to provide vibrant and knowledgeable expertise and service to UNI and the state, as this volume richly demonstrates.

Jesse Swan
Professor and Editor



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