

Introduction: Education, Militarism, and Community

Editors

THIS ISSUE OF *SOCIAL JUSTICE* REVOLVES LARGELY AROUND PROMINENT INFLUENCES on public education, including corporatization, militarism, and communities mobilizing in defense of their own interests. Adalberto Aguirre, Jr., and Jennifer K. Simmers warn that neoliberalism has become the guiding strategy of the DREAM Act, with the aim of transitioning immigrant youth into productive roles within a homogenous culture and a corporate order that will guarantee their unequal status. Among the strongest proponents of the act, they state, is the U.S. Department of Defense, because it will make some 825,000 students between 18 and 24 years of age eligible for military enlistment. In her pursuit of engaged scholarship with a community organization, ethnographer Gloria H. Cuadraz also became keenly aware of the neoliberal promotion of efficiency, increased productivity, and greater accountability in public education. She discusses how one community-based project—an attempt to capture oral histories of the predominantly Mexican workers and their families at a Goodyear Tire & Rubber subsidiary in Arizona’s Salt River Valley—confronted the culture and opposition of the corporate university.

The following commentary, by anthropological field researcher Janet Page-Reeves, stresses the importance of analyzing structural forces to recognize how poverty, hunger, and homelessness are constantly generated and reproduced in New Mexico. Research for the next piece, an ethnographic account by Ethan Johnson and Andraé Brown, took place in Northern California. The authors examine the structural causes leading to poor, segregated communities in the Bay Area—racially biased real estate practices, deindustrialization, and urban renewal projects—that depleted their social capital and resulted in deteriorating school performance. The article concentrates on how the practices and processes of a high school youth organization worked creatively to develop social capital again and successfully addressed interracial violence.

“Negotiating Treacherous Terrain: Disciplinary Power, Security Cultures, and Affective Ties in a Local Antiwar Movement,” by Elizabeth Currans, Mark Schuller, and Tiffany Willougby-Herard, is set in Santa Barbara, California, during the buildup to the March 20, 2003, invasion and occupation of Iraq. The article outlines the organizing strategies of three organizations—Veterans for Peace, a network of queer-identified graduate students (Queergrad), and ARISE, a collective modeled on global justice organizing—and addresses government surveillance, the neoliberal

constriction of public space, and the geographical dimensions of social activism. Josh R. Klein's "Toward a Cultural Criminology of War" shifts the focus from the interactions of protesters with law enforcement to the broader issue of aggressive war as a form of state-corporate crime. Klein's topic is the elite legitimization of criminal military policies as well as the mechanisms by which members of the public are enlisted in support of militarist ventures.

The final section revisits several recurrent conversations in the pages of *Social Justice*: environmental racism and efforts to control the reproductive functions of women, especially those in poor and minority communities. Michael J. Lynch and Paul B. Stretesky focus on the inequalities in exposure to toxic waste and pollution experienced by Native American communities. For them, the associated health and medical concerns have emerged as a social and environmental justice issue; moreover, they build on arguments that the environmental hazards are so pervasive for Native Americans that they have become a "new form of genocide." Erika Derkas examines how a nonprofit organization, CRACK, has attempted to regulate the sexuality and reproductive capabilities of drug-addicted mothers through a combination of sterilizations and long-term contraceptives. This privatized population control policy, which according to Derkas criminalizes the behavior of pregnant drug users, also represents a new chapter in the history of eugenics. Finally, in their review of Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's *Half the Sky*, Deborah White and Janice Du Mont argue the case for building a worldwide movement to end the oppression of women, which they believe is the most profound moral issue of our generation.

—G.S.