



*Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion*

**The Next Step**

**Miguel A. De La Torre**

editor of *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion*

[mdelatorre@iliff.edu](mailto:mdelatorre@iliff.edu)

*“Nuestro vino de plátano, y si es agrio, es nuestro vino.”*<sup>1</sup> - José Martí

One of the joys as serving as the editor of the *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion* (JRER) is seeing this journal grow. At the start of our fourth year, we have had several hundred articles submitted, most of them top-notch. But only a few get published each year. The editorial board is committed to only bring you what they consider are the best articles which

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<sup>1</sup> Let us make our wine out of plantains, and if it comes out sour, it is still our wine.

meet at the crossroads of race, ethnicity, and religion. There is no doubt that the journal has met an important need that for far too long has remained unmet.

But having “our” own journal is not enough. We are in the process of starting our own society – the Society of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion (SRER). Although a space has been carved out for scholars of color, the scholarship taking place within that space continues to be ignored; and because there are numerous sessions and groups during most academic conferences, so many of our sessions are forced to conflict with each other, seldom providing the opportunity for scholars of color to cross-pollinate. We must ask if we inadvertently constructed impressive exclusive cul-de-sacs from which to master our particular disciplines. Like a four-leaf clover, our separate cul-de-sacs operate side-by-side with few of us ever venturing into the adjoining communities. Solidarity may occur from time to time, but it usually happens with little intellectual engagement. If we rile against most Euroamericans for not engaging our scholarship, then in all honesty, we must also hold ourselves accountable, for few of us, in our numerous books and articles, actually quote or dialogue with other communities of color.

Many of us are content to remain within our own academic niche. Others, because of the numerous sessions at academic conferences, are unable to ever visit the neighboring cul-de-sac. More disturbing is when scholars of color are oblivious to how they and their communities are locked into structures that cause oppression to other communities of color. Where do we explore how our separate marginalized communities remain complicit with disenfranchising other groups, whether those groups are marginalized due to darker skin pigmentation, language, gender, sexual orientation, economic class or different religious traditions?

To this end, Drs. Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Anthony Pinn, Miguel A. De La Torre proposed creating The Society of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion (SRER). The purpose of this multi-discipline Society is to create a space where communities of color can gather to discuss among themselves so as to advance their scholarship through the power of synergism – a space where we can engage, learn, and be challenged from communities of color other than our own. Please note we are not the leaders of the Society, just coordinating the first meeting. At our first meeting we hope a leadership council is established representing our diversity and setting the path for the future of the SRER.

**WHEN: April 26-28, 2013**

**WHERE: Chicago**

**SPEAKERS: James Cone, Shawn Copeland, Otto Maduro, Kwok Pui-lan, Fernando Segovia, George “Tink” Tinker**

For those wishing to join us – and I sincerely hope you all will for all are welcomed – please. You can find more information about the conference at our Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Society-of-Race-Ethnicity-and-Religion/181068971982277?ref=ts&fref=ts>

Or, you can send an email to [TheSRER@gmail.com](mailto:TheSRER@gmail.com) for the registration forms. Rather than complaining about being shut out from the discourse, now we have a space to have and expand the conversation! Looking forward to seeing all of you there!