# Editor's Introduction

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## Roads to Reconciliation

The inspiration for this special issue came from our first reading of "Race, Memory, and Historical Responsibility" – which appears as the first article of the issue. Griffin and Hargis's central thesis, that the need for processes for reconciliation in the American South are similar in important ways to international examples of reconciliation efforts, sparked a call for papers that investigated the idea of reconciliation across fields and applications. As we reached out to the *Catalyst* community through social media, direct invitation and word of mouth, we were overwhelmed with the richness and diversity of responses. In this, our second issue, we have invite interdisciplinary dialogues by presenting a range of perspectives on the same central concept: *roads to reconciliation*.

In "Race, Memory and Historical Responsibility," Griffin and Hargis describe examples of reconciliation cast in the terms of restorative and transitional justice usually applied to sovereign nations and ask, what next? What more? By recasting familiar versions of U.S. history in terms related to national reconciliation efforts, they present compelling evidence that America's racial past is not simply the past, but is part of our present. In this piece, as in each of the others, there is fuel for a passionate belief that that the moment for apology, reparation and restoration is not gone and the history we share is our own, whether or not we feel personally "culpable," "responsible," or implicated.

The collection of articles in this issue continues with a chronicle of one country's attempt at reconciliation and its implications for education, two people's journey through personal histories and across international borders, and a review of available evidence supporting the strategy of intergroup dialogue. Thus from the first to last article, the scope ranges from international, to national, personal, strategic, and finally, theoretical. The issue closes with a review of *On Critique*, which presents a French sociologist's view on the possibility of reconciling competing critical approaches to sociology, arguing instead that they must be interdependent.

We had no idea that the very wording of our chosen theme, "Roads to Reconciliation," would invite pieces that span the globe and describe temporal, geographical and personal journeys along a variety of "roads." The voices of this issue are varied, but share a common, determined focus on the possibility of reconciliation among ideas, people, communities, races and nations. They echo with hopefulness that is sharpened, rather than deflated, by realistic analyses of previous efforts and current struggles.

We are thrilled to be able to share these with an audience, and look forward to engaging with that audience through comments, feedback, rejoinders, responses and future submissions. As always, we encourage readers leave comments on the site or email authors directly. We also invite you to submit responses in any format you choose (audio, visual, textual, link) through the submission system – (please identify them as a response in the cover letter, and we will post them for further comments and dialogue).

This second issue of *Catalyst: A Social Justice Forum*, highlights several aspects of our mission. It presents the voices of scholars and activists from all corners of our country, with perspectives on periods of history and countries that span centuries and oceans. In future issues we are excited to move towards incremental publishing – with small issues being posted at smaller time increments. This will allow us to take full advantage of our versatile and nimble online format to provide short turn-around times required to be a venue for art, music, film, and texts about timely issues and current events. We hope you enjoy this collaborative investigation of *Roads to Reconciliation* and we look forward to welcoming you again and again as readers and contributors to *Catalyst: A Social Justice Forum*.