

From the Editor



Dear colleagues and friends,

I am elated to present to you the first issue of 2019, where we publish the works of authors based in Germany, Japan, France, and the U.S. The four papers presented herein showcase research work carried out on Yogyakarta (Indonesia), Fukushima (Japan), comparisons across European countries, and U.S.-Chinese relations.

Thomas Stodulka from Freie University, Berlin, shares his take on the role and importance of affect and emotions in the course of ethnographic fieldwork. He makes a case for how emotion diaries as a part of methodology can be incorporated into research that deals with the researcher's own emotions and affective experiences as a pertinent component of ethnography.

In the second paper on Fukushima, Andrew Mitchell, adjunct professor at Kumamoto University deploys Luhmann's social systems theory to evaluate Japan's nuclear power policy in the wake of the Fukushima disaster. By using the concept of resonance, Mitchell contends that Japan continues its nuclear route given that several resonances within the political subsystem make it difficult to change nuclear power policy in the country.

Carlo Barone from the Observatoire Sociologique du Changement of Sciences Po explains in the third paper, how modernisation and social reproduction theories fall short of accounting for inequalities in educational opportunities. The author proposes that alternative interpretations of the Inequality of Educational Opportunity (IEO) are required in concurrently addressing micro and macro factors alongside economic issues.

The final paper is submitted by Jack Fong, who is based at the California State Polytechnic University. The core argument of his paper notes that despite maintaining a semblance of fairness and objectivity, the U.S. mass media is complicit in contributing to factors that would prompt conflict between China and America. Basing his analyses on data in the form of 201 news headlines collated from *Yahoo!* and using *Wordle*, a metadata software, Fong demonstrates anti-China narratives have been produced vis-à-vis negative headlines. In effect, Sinophobic online news media in part shape the United States' antagonistic foreign policy towards China.

As always, I extend a warm invitation to all who would like to contribute their papers for future issues and also welcome feedback on these articles. Please do email me if you have ideas, suggestions or queries about the eSymposium.

Thank you all very much for your committed support and endorsement of the ISA eSymposium.

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