

# New Sociology: Journal of Critical Praxis

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## EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Our third issue, *Reverting the Gaze: Resisting Humanism and Hegemony in the West*, combines art and academic critique to resist, revert, and refuse western humanism, covering issues from disability justice and state violence to neoliberalism and healthcare. At its core, western humanism is the mythical norm that many of us must live and die by – it is the systematic abjection, erasure, and exploitation of some forms of life in service of others; it is the pervasive idea that who “counts” are those in closest proximity to, and for the rare few, occupation of, all the imperial traits that states like Canada have rendered into conditions for life: whiteness, wealth, Christianness, ability, western-ness, masculinity, coloniality, cisness, heterosexuality, sanity, thinness; power.

As our largest, and perhaps richest, issue to date, these introductory comments will be brief, as such words pale in comparison to the raw talent, vibrant art, and visceral insights of the pieces that follow. Thus, to begin, I will simply write that this is a magnificent collection, containing poems and prose; photography and visual art; local, international, and transnational geographies; humour and joy; mundaneness and grief; violence and dreams. This issue is a burst of both light and rage; a pulse felt in the bones and held in the soul. Truthfully, the best way I can think to capture the collection in its entirety is to scoff at academics who regard graduate journals, and authors, as *less than*. Our academic articles are more insightful, profound, and masterful than much of what you'll find in “high-ranking” journals. Our creators offer knowledge(s) and insight that moves beyond statistics, jargonistic analyses, and dry textbook rhetoric. These pages, and the wonderous souls

who constitute them, are unrivaled; this issue is movement, possibly, life.

This issue is divided into six sections: *Temporalities*, *Imperialisms*, *Decolonization*, *Neoliberalism*, *PostCOVID*, and *Posthumanism*. The first section, *Temporalities*, plays with the whimsies and power of time, while simultaneously navigating and resisting the west's colonialization and capitalization of temporal norms. Western hegemony has long linearized our worlding to the beat of western progress, yet, that said, time is also ours; it is ours to know, reclaim, refuse, embrace and grieve. Here, you'll find an adaption of a minifilm, a collection of poems, a short poem, and a piece of creative non-fiction. The next section, *Imperialisms*, brings together pieces that reveal, endure, and explore the insidious abuses of western hegemony and the white gaze from varied perspectives, including an academic analysis grounded in lived experience, a poem, and a cultural studies essay. Afterwards is *Decolonization*, which broadly embodies decolonized approaches to research and art, relocating knowledge mobilization within a realm beyond and in refusal of colonial legacies. These pages contain a visual essay (in which the cover art was drawn), a reflection piece with a striking glossary, and a drawing.

Next is *Neoliberalism*, which houses two academic articles that explicitly critique the neoliberalization of community, considering matters of geography and health, respectively, and a captioned photo that embodies an anti-neoliberal approach to life and living. Then, in *PostCOVID*, there are two academic articles and two poems, interspersed, all of which explore either how COVID-19 continues to directly plague the lives of the oppressed, or how it indirectly haunts Black life with the subsequent uptake (and cooptation) of Black Lives Matter. The last section is

*Posthumanism*, and it features two academic articles on posthumanism, futurity, and technology, and how these realities contradict western human codes. Then, we conclude the issue with a book review of Valerie Francisco-Menchavez's *The Labor of Care*.

Like all issues of *New Sociology*, this is an issue of radical love, of community, of those who live and speak truth to power in all they do to exist, dream, love, and grieve through the world.

We would like to thank the authors, creatives, and dreamers who contributed to the volume. A special thank you also goes to our peer reviewers, editorial team, advisory board, York Digital Journals, York University Printings Services, and the York University Sociology Department. As always, we especially acknowledge Audrey Tokiwa for her unconditional support. Thank you to all the people who make this journal a possibility and believe in the power of critical praxis; in the power of Disabled, Femme, Queer, and Trans/Black, Indigenous and People of colour students, organizers, and creatives.

Jade Crimson Rose Da Costa, NS Founder and Editor-In-Chief, with Beatrice Anane-Bediakoh, NS Chief-Deputy-Editor, and Ritika Tanotra. NS Chief-Deputy-Editor.