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## Editor's Note

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

I can hardly believe I am already wrapping up my third year as JIASS Senior Editor and publishing my third volume, Volume 16 (2013)! We continue this year as in the previous two years to feature the very finest social science research and commentary available anywhere. I am pleased to report that because of the high number of submissions of quality work accepted for publication, Volume 16 (2013) has for the first time been published as two issues: Number 1 (Spring–Summer) and Number 2 (Fall–Winter).

Although much of the research presented in this volume is produced by Indiana scholars, there are exceptions as we have begun to attract submissions from authors not only from states outside Indiana but also from outside the United States, including Canada, Brazil, Europe, and the Middle East. Likewise, the range of research topics certainly include surveying aspects of Indiana's social, cultural, historical, and economic life but, just as importantly, also includes topics that have a research focus outside Indiana and, in some cases, outside the United States. This is a positive development, as we continue to live in a rapidly developing and changing global world and a local context and habitat.

As of my tenure as editor beginning with Volume 14, submission of papers to JIASS are no longer limited to papers presented at the annual meeting and conference. Although the majority of submissions I receive still originate from our annual meeting, that has become a little less the case with each volume I have published. Accordingly, Volume 16 includes the most papers to date not presented at the IASS annual meeting. To ensure quality and fairness, each and every article submission is subject to a double-blind peer-review process that involves at least two referees. As a result of our new emphasis on quality first, the acceptance rate for JIASS has become 20 percent of papers submitted (the student acceptance rate is even lower).

As is evident from an inspection of the table of contents, the Journal no longer endeavors to publish at least one paper from each or most of the disciplines represented by the IASS in every volume. Some disciplines may have more than one paper represented, while others may have none. For this reason, Volume 16 no longer identifies papers by a disciplinary subject heading. I continue with the practice of publishing exceptional undergraduate and/or graduate student papers; in this case, two graduate papers. I have also continued the practice of publishing papers under the rubric of Teaching/Pedagogy. A new innovation for Volume 16 is the introduction of a book review, something I would like to see become a regular feature of the Journal.

Volume 16 continues to be published simultaneously online ([www.iass1.org](http://www.iass1.org)) and in an attractive 8.5" X 11" print edition. We no longer mail print copies but instead have copies available for members to pick up at the annual meeting (print copies may be requested for an additional mailing and handling charge of \$10). Volume 16 will continue to be indexed and available through EBSCO. JIASS is also listed in *Cabell's Directory* (of special interest for scholars in business, economics, and finance). All of these

developments represent important milestones for both the Journal and the Academy and will ensure their successful transition to the 21<sup>st</sup> century of scholarly communication.

Once again, I want to publicly thank and recognize my Deputy Editors, Jaishankar Raman and Dulce Maria Scott, for their assistance, insight, and guidance throughout the editorial review process. And I especially want to thank the many reviewers who served as referees of papers; the authors, IASS, and I owe you many thanks for helping to preserve the high-quality reputation of JIASS.

JASS and I have been very fortunate to have Stephanie Seifert Stringham serve as our Copy Editor. She has been with the journal and me since Volume 14, and quite frankly, it is difficult for me to praise enough the wonderful job she has done pulling our rough copy together into the finished product we all admire.

Finally, I would like to thank Jay Howard, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Butler University, for his wholehearted support of IASS and of my work as JIASS Editor—I could not imagine a better or more committed friend of IASS than Jay has been. I also greatly appreciate the support of the Department of Sociology and Criminology.

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