

Editorial

Introducing *Formations*

A mere year after we first started talking about such a venture, we are excited to present the inaugural issue of *Formations: The Graduate Center Journal of Social Research*. Whether you found the issue online, where we mainly publish, or got your hands on one of the rare paper copies, we are happy you are reading these words and participating in the community of writers and readers we hope will form around this new publication.

This journal is about the process of formation: the formation of our social worlds, and the formation of concepts we develop to understand and intervene in those worlds. We encourage submissions from scholars, artists, activists, or any combination of the above, toward the goal of furthering intellectual debate over the most contested of terrains: that which constitutes the social in our current era.

Based at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, *Formations* embraces interdisciplinary work across the social sciences and humanities. *Formations* is a peer-reviewed, graduate student-run journal committed to the spirit of open access. It is sponsored by the Sociology Students Association, which represents all doctoral students in sociology at the Graduate Center. In addition to publishing this journal, the SSA puts on an annual graduate student conference, and many of the contributors to this issue presented their work at our first annual conference in November 2009. The guest editorial by Patricia Ticineto Clough contains the text of her keynote address on the occasion of that conference. Her call to create “raw concepts” without guilt served as our unofficial motto as we were putting together this issue.

In these pages and in future issues, you will find the time-honored journal article alongside more exploratory contributions that test the boundaries of both method and disciplinarity, including multimedia pieces that our online format can accommodate. In this issue, we are also launching our commentary section, featuring short interventions on current public issues. In the future, we hope to publish book reviews, poetry, photography and more.

We are already at work on our second issue, slated for publication in spring 2011. To submit your work, simply visit our website and follow the instructions. We do not have a thematic focus for our second issue.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all who helped us make this issue a reality. We want to mention Patricia Clough, who contributed the guest editorial to this issue, and Ali Syed, a student in the doctoral program in sociology, who donated many hours of labor creating the beautiful product you are now seeing on your screen or holding in your hand.

The Formations Collective
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