

A NOTE FROM THE GUEST EDITOR

Readers of this special issue will note that capitalizing the words “Black” and “White” varies in the articles and reviews. Simmering below the surface of the standard grammatical conventions utilized in journals published in the United States, opinions differ, sometimes strongly, concerning the issue of whether or not the words “Black” and/or “White” require recognition as proper nouns and therefore should be capitalized. Historically, use of the lower case in spelling the word “Negro” as “negro” in late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was considered by some as an integral aspect of the social construction of inferiority imposed upon African Americans. W.E.B. DuBois, in fact, publicly campaigned in a famous 1916 *Crisis* editorial, “That Capital ‘N’,” that the refusal to capitalize Negro was an “insult.” In recognition of the sensitive political history and the ongoing differing opinions on this matter, this special issue allows authors to follow their personal preference. We ask our readers to respect whatever conventions or preferences the authors choose to follow.

Michael Fultz
Guest Editor