

The Journal of Public and Professional Sociology

Volume 4
Issue 2 *Faculty Development Abroad*

Article 1

September 2012

Letter from the Editors

Melvyn L. Fein
Kennesaw State University, mfein@kennesaw.edu

Linda A. Treiber
Kennesaw State University, ltreiber@kennesaw.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/jpps>

Recommended Citation

Fein, Melvyn L. and Treiber, Linda A. (2012) "Letter from the Editors," *The Journal of Public and Professional Sociology*. Vol. 4 : Iss. 2 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/jpps/vol4/iss2/1>

This Editor's Corner is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Journal of Public and Professional Sociology by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.

Special Issue:
Faculty Development Abroad

International Connections

Once Americans believed they were protected from international entanglements by two broad oceans. Those days, however, are gone forever. We today live in a global village where our economic and political welfare depend on our positive relationships with other nations. Thus, if we are to remain safe and prosper, we need to understand peoples very different from ourselves. An intellectual isolationism is out of the question.

As a consequence, our universities must be transnationally engaged. Students need to be encouraged to look beyond our shores and to overcome their ethnocentric inclinations. This fact is so well understood that numerous programs have already sprung up to foster the expanded social awareness that is required. Both students and faculty members have been provided with remarkable opportunities for study and travel abroad, as part of their educational experience. This has enabled them to interact with non-Americans in a manner that previous generations could not.

This special issue of the *JPPS* is dedicated to sharing the fruits of this development. A number of professors, mostly from sociology, but also from other disciplines, have been asked to reflect on their perceptions when traveling abroad. Taken *in toto*, these provide an instructive window on what can be learned from these journeys. They therefore constitute a practical guide to the evolving professionalism of the social sciences and of individual professors. We, the editors, believe that this can be a useful pedagogical tool.

Encompassed in the following special issue is a whirlwind tour of five continents, and consequently of multiple cultures. Furthermore, the European selections concentrate on Romania, which thus highlights important political changes. The interpretation of these events is, however, that of the authors. As such, these diverse articles provide food for thought.

Melvyn L Fein, Editor, *JPPS*

Linda A. Treiber, Editor, *JPPS* Special Issue, Faculty Development Abroad