

Call for Papers:

***Humanity & Society* Special Issue: “Beyond Representation: Production, Distribution, and Consumption of Racialized Media”**

Guest Editors: Emma Gonzalez-Lesser, Carol Ann Jackson, Rhys Hall, and Matthew W. Hughey (University of Connecticut)

This Call for Papers (CFP) seeks original scholarship (empirical and theoretical) on racialized media that challenges “common-sense” understandings of, and *goes beyond, racial representations*. Papers will carefully consider the uses, gratifications, direct and in-direct effects, framing, and cultivations of media at the intersection of race and racism. A now well-established body of work has mapped the varied racial and racist representations that regularly traffic in the media. However, research at the nexus of race and the media has proceeded rather unevenly; scholars often neglect the varied outcomes, mechanisms, and processes of racialized media that could move our analyses beyond immediate visual or discursive forms. Such one-sidedness led Stuart Hall to state “I really cannot read another cultural-studies analysis of Madonna or *The Sopranos*” (in MacCabe 2008). While the extant focus on representations has provided useful material for critiquing media worlds, only focusing on representations is too narrow a lens through which to see and understand the complex and variegated roots of both historical and contemporary media. This special issue seeks to remedy that gap. The underlying goal of this proposed issue is to highlight research grounded in social scientific theories that respond to Hall’s plea to better consider aspects of the production, distribution, and consumption of media—what Hall called the “circuit of meaning”: Papers may focus on how the political economy and/or the symbolic elements of culture are shaped by the systems in which they function; may demonstrate how mediated cultural objects reverberate within larger society due to their cultural “aura,” and; may analyze audience receptions of a media text through attention to the variability and heterogeneity of responsive de-codings as they align with categories of social difference (like race, class, and gender), as well as the patterns of interpretation that cut across conventional social distinctions. The scholarship we seek to include will examine various relationships among race, ethnicity, media, and social inequality. These themes could include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Global racial populations beyond “black and white” and the U.S. (while acknowledging the dominance of the Black/White binary and U.S. racial order)
- (In)visibility of racial conflict (how certain events do/do not become spectacles)
- How media shapes racial activism (and vice versa)
- Political economies of race (e.g., media centralization, monopolization, interests, etc.)
- Racial media voyeurism (e.g., uses of media to satisfy racialized and intersectional desires)
- Racial and ethnic humor through and in the media (e.g., how and why audiences find particular media funny, offensive, satirical, etc.)
- Roles of mediators and gatekeepers (critics, editors, etc.)
- Social media (industrial or corporate dynamics that produce Instagram, Twitter, Yik Yak, etc., as well as how they are understood, used, and/of contested)
- Uses of media by marginalized groups
- Virtual media communities (4chan, Stormfront, etc.)

Submit abstracts (preferably as Microsoft Word documents), no longer than 500 words, to lead editor Emma Gonzalez-Lesser (emma.lesser@uconn.edu) by **1 August 2017**. Authors will be notified of the editors’ decisions no later than **1 September 2017**. Invited papers will be due by **1 January 2018**. Papers accepted for consideration of inclusion in this special issue will go through peer review. Submitted papers must be based on original material not under consideration by any other journal or publication outlet. This special issue of *Humanity & Society* is slated to appear in early 2019.