
Public contexts provide a common thread for the articles included in this year’s issue of the South Shore Journal. Private lives lived in public spaces—actual terrestrial spaces and literary spaces—are explored in the essays by historian James Lane and literary scholar Craig Brewer. While memorialization is utilized as a strategy in post-conflict justice, as discussed by philosophers Anja Matwijkiw and Bronik Matwijkiw, memorialization in another context serves as a means to understanding social, economic, and political developments. Whether it be the American presidency, or a place such as post-war French society or Gary, Indiana, sociologist Charles Gallmeier, political scientist Jean Poulard (by way of his translation of Daniel Bodovillé's lecture), and history and English students Amalia Shanks-Meile and Elizabeth LaDuke invite us to consider how people and events are remembered, as well as why some people remain in public memory while others do not. Additionally, as the essays by photographer Gary Cialdella and psychology professors Cynthia O’Dell and Mark Hoyert remind us, within the realm of public memory, individual, social, and collective memory meet at the intersection of literary art, history, and psychology. In short, the theme “The Realm of Public Memory” allows for the promise and interdisciplinary richness of public memory as an analytical construct.

The journal concludes with a section entitled, “Beyond the Realm” of public memory. In this section, authors Ju Park, Judy Donovan, Glenn P. Lauzon, Rajan S. Selladurai, Subir Bandyopadhyay, and Charles Dayton take readers from notions of the past to the realities of the present in education, transportation, and marketing. Finally, in my Afterword I pay tribute to William Least Heat Moon, whose vision quest was a journey of discovery into the realm of public memory.

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