

Editor's Note:

It's Time for Action

By Tairan Qiu, The University of Georgia

First and foremost, I would like to extend my gratitude to the loyal readers of JoLLE's Scholars Speak Out (SSO) feature and our writers who have contributed and will contribute to SSO's pool of insightful voices.

As students, scholars, and educators in the field of education and social sciences, we most often work with people from various ages, orientations, ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, etc. As a result, we are often more eager to engage in discussions regarding social justice issues openly and passionately. Being surrounded by a community of like-minded people, we sometimes fail to take the sad reality of this diverse world into consideration. The racist and violent event in Charlottesville was a powerful reminder for us all, that we do not live in a colorblind society, and that white supremacy and conflict between various races, still very much exist in every aspect of our lives.

In response to the incident in Charlottesville, the JoLLE editorial board has decided to dedicate the SSO section of JoLLE during the 2017 – 2018 academic year to discussions on racial issues in the modern society and in education. As the atmosphere of crisis prevails, voices for advocacy are needed now more than ever! We aim to showcase voices from scholars from various communities (e.g., age, race, gender, orientation, education, ethnicity, etc.). We want the unique perspectives of scholars on racism and social justice issues in education and society (in America and anywhere else around the world) to be heard.

Among the publications of SSO this year, you will read about merits of discussing politics in classrooms, our false sense of a post-racial society, white supremacy in education practices, reforming teacher education into social justice practices rather than theoretical exercises, how this society is still haunted by the history of racial violence, the growing white nationalist movement, and many other provocative topics.

Each month, as you read the SSO publications during this academic year, I hope you feel that your current beliefs of racism and social justice in

the community you live in are challenged or affirmed, and that you need to take action. We are the people who are having major influences on the shaping of the next generation. Let us mold them into more responsible, critical, and sensible citizens who are willing to bravely take on their social responsibilities in building a truly post-racial society.

Thank you, and I hope you have a wonderful academic year!

Sincerely,



Tairan Qiu

Scholars Speak Out Editor

Journal of Language and Literacy Education

Tairan Qiu is a first-year Ph.D. Student in the Department of Language and Literacy Education in the College of Education at the University of Georgia. Her current research interests include biliteracy education for new Chinese immigrants and the effects of digital tools on academic literacy for emergent bilinguals in content area classrooms.

