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## Introduction to the Special Issue

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## Introduction

*Special Issue of JPPS*

### **Georgia (and the New South) On My Mind: Southern Culture in the Peach State and Beyond**

We need no longer say “The South shall rise again!” It already has. If America is going to experience a renaissance, it is going to start here. As what has become the most vibrant section of the nation, this is the place where new ideas and energetic innovation have found a home. If we southerners—and that includes carpetbaggers—sing the blues, it is generally because we want to. Otherwise there are too many good things happening.

Nonetheless the South is not perfect. It has a long history of cultural and social clashes. How then are these being worked out? The current special issue of the JPPS invited contributors to fill in some of the blanks. In what follows they have provided a wide ranging overview of subjects near and dear to the sociological enterprise.

As might be expected, race is one of the author’s concerns. But so is gender orientation. And just as in the rest of the United States, divorce, crime, and poverty remain current problem areas. Lastly, the South has often been identified with a gun culture; hence it too has drawn attention.

All in all, this is a diverse set of papers that represent a diversity of opinions. We, the editors, trust that they will spark interest—and perhaps controversy. Yet isn’t this what sociology is about?

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