



KALFOU

A JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE AND
RELATIONAL ETHNIC STUDIES

Call for Papers: Special Issue

BANKING WITHOUT BORDERS? CULTURE AND CREDIT IN THE NEW FINANCIAL WORLD

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In 1980, Jimmy Carter's Treasury Secretary G. William Miller greeted the passage of the Depository Institution Deregulatory and Monetary Control Act (DIDMCA) with the promise that it would create a "new world" for American finance. DIDMCA was one of the key pieces of legislation that overturned the regulatory framework for American banking created by the New Deal. Miller and other neo-liberal advocates of deregulation argued that a "new world" of fewer constraints on financial institutions would create new opportunities not just for banks, but also for individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole.

Much of the pro-deregulation rhetoric was focused on removing or breaking down what can be seen as two kinds of "borders." The first kind were structural borders within the system that regulated what different financial institutions could and could not do. The second kind were borders between individuals and the financial system that – in the eyes of deregulation's supporters – prevented ordinary citizens from gaining access to mortgages, credit, and financial services in general. By eliminating these borders, deregulation would create not just a new set of rules for American banks, but a whole new culture of credit in American society.

From the perspective of 2009, it is clear that deregulation did produce lasting economic and cultural changes in the United States. It is equally clear, however, that these changes were not as universally beneficial as supporters of deregulation had claimed or hoped. Not only that, but clear borders still existed in the "new world." These borders determined who would be included and excluded from the wealth created by the expansion of the financial sector, and some have arguably grown more impermeable since 1980. Overall, the re-shaped borders of the new financial world resulted in noticeably different outcomes and experiences for Americans of different racial, social, and economic backgrounds.

For this special edition of *Kalfou*, guest editors Devin Fergus and Tim Boyd seek articles that explore the way the new financial world was created and how and why its borders were shaped as well as the cultural and economic legacies of these decisions for different communities by addressing some of the following questions: How was this new world created and whom was it intended to benefit? Which groups and individuals have and have not been able to exercise influence over the new world and why? What roles in particular have NGOs — the AARP, immigrant groups, trade associations, consumer advocates, religious organizations, feminist and gay rights groups — played in either creating or challenging the borders of the new financial world? What has been the cultural and economic impact of the new financial world across different races, classes, and genders? Possible topics of interest include: race and access to credit; consumer movements/consumer culture since the 1970s; neo-liberalism as an economic and cultural phenomenon; civil rights groups and financial reform; and the origins, culture, and impact of subprime lending.

Manuscript Submission Guidelines

Submissions should be in the range of 5,000 to 10,000 words, including notes, and conform to the Chicago Manual of Style. Authors' names should appear on a separate title page so that manuscripts can be evaluated anonymously. A short biography with organizational affiliation and contact information should also be included. Submit manuscripts via e-mail to banking.kalfou@gmail.com; manuscripts should be sent as attached documents in Word format. Submission deadline: December 11, 2009.