

Winter 2013

Letter from the Editors

Ruth Mikal Garza

Craig E. Price

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.utrgv.edu/jostes>

Recommended Citation

Garza, R. M., Price C. E. (2013). Letter from the Editors. *Jostes: The Journal of South Texas English Studies*, 4(1).

This Editorial is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Journal of South Texas English Studies* by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. For more information, please contact justin.white@utrgv.edu, william.flores01@utrgv.edu.

The Politics of...
(Winter 2013; Volume 4, Issue 1)

To our readers,

Welcome to our winter 2013 issue (Volume 4, Issue 1). Contributors to *The Journal of South Texas English Studies* have explored and formed interpretations in scholarly and creative work to the meaning behind the ellipses in this issue's theme: "The Politics of..."

Thomas Mann, the German social critic and Nobel laureate once memorably said, "There is nothing that is not political. Everything is politics." Politics is also one of those words that have a stable instability of meaning, dependent on context and connotation. Like definitions of "race" or "love", everyone thinks they know what they are talking about when they talk about politics. In the broad definitional sense, the term generally applies to running governmental or state affairs, including behavior and policy associated within governments, but politics also applies to institutions, fields, and special interest groups such as the corporate, academic, and religious segments of society. In ordinary conversations, the word "politics" may be less literal and refer to struggles for power or justice among individuals or groups; the types of regimes governing people; the election of representatives, passage of laws, and issues of free speech and public opinion in democratic societies; and any number of issues associated with international relations. In recent years, the area of politics and culture has merged to formulate definitions of people's politics by aspects of their identity through race, class, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. Following from Mann's statement, politics is all-pervasive: public and personal, ideological and specific, literal and metaphorical, theoretical and practical.

With that in mind, this issue comprises a wealth of poetry and creative short fiction. The pieces we have received are impacting in their genius and simplicity, so that the ellipses are completed by melancholic patriotism, the comic relief in a writer's life, and fallen tongues. The winter 2013 issue of JOSTES also includes one fascinating scholarly article, which we have read not only for editing purposes but also for pleasure.

The editors of JOSTES have implemented changes recently to its the publication. Starting with this issue, our journal will now publish a winter and summer issue as opposed to the previous spring and fall issues. We believe this change will prove more convenient to our contributors and result in a greater influx of submissions.

We hope that you enjoy this issue as much as we have and that you will let us know any comments in regard to the winter 2013 pieces collected in this publication.

Ruth Mikal Garza and Craig E. Price
Co-Editors
The Journal of South Texas English Studies