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Achille Mbembe reflects on what it means to be white in South Africa without the trappings of apartheid; Faisal Devji considers the recent crisis at the Red Mosque in Islamabad; George Chauncey examines the role of historical claims in debates over sodomy law and marriage reform in the United States; Claudio Lomnitz ponders the relations between historiography and public commentary based on his experience in Mexico’s “Kula ring” of editorialists; Neeladri Battacharya delves into the politics of secular history in India; Bain Attwood traces the rise of traumatic narrative in Australia; Miranda Johnson investigates indigenous claims to settler states; Deborah Posel explores the centrality of confession, and its relationship to victimhood, in South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission; Dipesh Chakrabarty analyses the “enthusiasm for history” sweeping Indian public life; and more...
Call for Contributions

**Miscellany:** A collection of various kinds, especially news clippings, literary extracts, postcards, and images. Includes media accounts of items relevant to public discourse and debate throughout the world. The section seeks to highlight not only the reported phenomena as such but also the mediated nature of media coverage. *Public Culture* especially seeks pieces that are witty or (unintentionally) ironic. Submissions should include all relevant facts of publication and should be no longer than three pages.

**Etymologies:** Investigates the contemporary uses and meanings of the terms *public, publicity,* and *public opinion.* Short essays (of approximately six to eight pages) that consider the semantics and pragmatics of one or more of these interrelated terms in the context of a particular language and a particular people are welcome. How do these terms compare across cultures and languages? Do their meanings “translate,” and what do their “mistranslations” bode for comparative social theory grounded in what may be hidden ontological statements about civil society?

**Arts in Circulation:** Reflections and reports on innovative critical cultural work and on the work of art in public. Includes pieces on new kinds of museums; alternative or oral history projects; the expansion of musical performance and recording into forgotten musical histories or the dissemination of a broader range of music; alternative publishing ventures or exhibition practices in film, theater, and dance; innovative cultural work with children; public art such as murals and graffiti; innovative uses of television, radio, or other mass media; and reports on past cultural work.

**Sites of Knowledge:** Reportage and deliberation on institutions that have made a signal mark on a world region. Research centers, journals, publishing ventures, or any other institution of knowledge production and dissemination can be selected for close attention and engagement through interviews with key participants, direct documentation, and critique. How do institutional sites define and engage their publics? How do they position themselves in global networks of knowledge production? What notable qualities and innovations are worth sharing? The aim of the section is to generate an archive of sites of knowledge through a set of informative and critical reflections.

**From the Field:** Briefly annotated single photographs for inclusion as a photo feature at the end of the issue. Submissions are not limited by style or content. Contact submissions@publicculture.org for art guidelines.

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