

Introduction to Poroi 12.2

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Poroi 12,2 (February 2017)

POROI 12.2 features a symposium on engaged rhetoric of science, technology, engineering, and medicine (RSTEM). Engagement means directly collaborating with scientists, engineers, and medical professionals in a variety of ways. It does not comment from an external epistemic position.

The symposium has been guest-edited by Caroline Gottschalk Druschke (University of Rhode Island, Kingston). It contains reflections on experience-based interventions by Carl G. Herndl (University of South Florida, Tampa); Lauren E. Cagle (University of Kentucky); Kenneth Walker (University of Texas, San Antonio); Sara Beth Parks (Iowa State University); and Caroline Druschke.

The symposium presents itself as building on calls issued in [Poroi 9.1](#) (2013), a special issue of the journal on the future of the rhetoric of science, technology, engineering and medicine. Readers are referred to that issue, which is available through the *Poroi* homepage (<http://ir.uiowa.edu/poroi/>), and to the homepage of the Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Medicine (ARST, <http://www.arstonline.org/>).

Poroi 12.2 also presents two detailed essays in rhetorical criticism directed at particular claims to knowledge.

Jennifer L. LeMesurier (Colgate University)'s "Uptaking Race: Genre, MSG, and Chinese Dinner," shows how racist tropes directed at Chinese immigrants in the 19th century re-surface in treatments of MSG. Appearing first as a "humorous playground" in letters to the editor of medical journals, these tropes resume their virulent racism when they are taken up and re-circulated in popular news outlets.

LeMesurier's detailed essay is a contribution to the rhetorical study of "genre uptake." It resonates with the essays in the "Forum on the Rhetoric of Food" in [Poroi 11.1](#) (2015). Readers may wish to refer to that issue.

John T. Gagnon (Michigan State University, East Lansing)'s "How Cultural Rhetorics Can Change the Conversation Towards New Communication Spaces for Addressing Human Trafficking" critiques objectivistic and bureaucratized approaches to this tragic practice by urging listening to the voices of those directly affected by it.

The editors are grateful to the authors of the contributions in this issue, to Professor Druschke for guest editing, and to the reviewers who helped all of them make their work even more informative and persuasive.

POROI: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Rhetorical Analysis and Invention focuses on rhetorical aspects of knowledge production and on the role of various media, old and new, in this process. The journal invites your submissions through the portal on its homepage.