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to Change the World*

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Asia Pacific: Perspectives is a peer-reviewed journal published at least once a year, usually in April/May. It welcomes submissions from all fields of the social sciences and the humanities with relevance to the Asia Pacific region.* In keeping with the Jesuit traditions of the University of San Francisco, *Asia Pacific: Perspectives* commits itself to the highest standards of learning and scholarship.

Our task is to inform public opinion by a broad hospitality to divergent views and ideas that promote cross-cultural understanding, tolerance, and the dissemination of knowledge unreservedly. Papers adopting a comparative, interdisciplinary approach will be especially welcome. **Graduate students are strongly encouraged to submit their work for consideration.**

* 'Asia Pacific region' as used here includes East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Oceania, and the Russian Far East.

Introduction

Welcome to a special issue of *Asia Pacific: Perspectives*, devoted to analysis of media coverage of the terror attacks on Mumbai (Bombay), India in November 2008. The three days of attacks began on November 26th and targeted ten key locations across Mumbai, including the main railway station, two luxury hotels, a religious center, and sites popular with tourists and business people. At least 175 people, including 26 foreign nationals and nine attackers from the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba group, were killed by the time Indian forces ended the siege.

One year is an insufficient time to fully comprehend the consequences of and causes for such a violent and horrific event, yet the analysis provided here contributes to understanding on a number of levels. Both authors, Mr. **Kevin Mack** and Professor **Vamsee Juluri**, direct our attention first to the ways in which media organizations from India and the U.S. reported on and interpreted the attacks. Through the authors' discussion of complex and historically-situated frames employed by both broadcast and print media, readers will also gain insight about the reasons for the attacks and the biases employed in media reporting. Mack's article draws upon comparative data drawn from a variety of U.S. media organizations while Juluri's commentary (published originally in the Huffington Post and used here by permission) and interview constructs an overview for the attacks that positions them within regional and international geopolitical contexts.

We are also fortunate to be able to publish here two graphic works by **Shalinee Kumari**, a young artist from the Indian state of Bihar. Displayed as part of an exhibition of her work at the Frey-Norris Gallery in San Francisco in 2008, the images represent some of the strong emotional and visual themes that were part of the attacks and their aftermath.

Through this special issue and the topics it raises, we hope readers will again consider the role of the media in shaping public perceptions of violent conflict, whether between nations, ethnic groups, or religious organizations. There is always more than meets the eye in these situations, and so an understanding of complex socio-cultural, historical, and ethnic factors seems to be the starting point for assessing issues that have been activated through political violence directed against innocent people. If we are to learn anything from the first violent decade of the 21st century, surely it is that we must do better at addressing and solving the root problems leading self-righteous individuals to injure and kill their fellow human beings.

John Nelson, Co-Editor