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LETTER FROM THE SOCIAL SCIENCES ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Exciting changes at *Great Plains Research* (GPR) are occurring. As the new Associate Editor for the social sciences, I will be encouraging and handling submissions relevant to the social sciences, including anthropology, cultural science, economics, ethnography, family science, psychology, and sociology. Our aim is to expand the scope of high quality submissions to GPR in several ways. First, we are working to add major abstract and indexing services in the social sciences. We understand the importance of promoting the impact of our published work. Second, we are soliciting synthesis and thoughtful reviews of major social issues for the Great Plains region as well as inviting feature articles from prominent scholars in both the social and natural sciences. These articles should be of broad interest and enhance the prominence of GPR and, hopefully, they will spur more research in and knowledge of social sciences relevant to the plains. Nominations for these features are always welcome! And third, authors of social science articles in GPR should be aware that they are eligible to receive the Leslie Hewes Award for best article in each volume. The winner of this award will be invited to the annual Fellow's lunch to receive a certificate and a modest cash award to recognize and help support their endeavors.

In Fall 2000, we plan to publish a special issue: The Latino Experience in the Great Plains. Dr. Miguel Carranza, a prominent scholar in sociology who is currently editor of *Ethnic Studies Review* and a founding member of the Midwest Consortium of Latino Research, will co-edit this special issue with me. We invite submission of manuscripts from both the natural and social sciences to be considered for this special issue. The issue will cover key scientific developments in the plains relevant to the increasing number of Latinos and Latinas in the Great Plains. This demographic change is bringing new challenges and opportunities never before seen in this region. Issues we would like to include:

1. Impact of Latinos on regional economies and the labor force;
2. Educational, communication, and language challenges for various organizations including schools;
3. Safety and health needs (e.g., skin cancer, water quality, nutrition) for migrant field and factory workers;
4. Access to mental health services for Latinos;
5. Accelerated community planning and development due to Latino population changes.

In addition to the changes in the social sciences, I would like to reiterate our goal of increasing the national and international prominence of GPR. We believe that many of the concerns and issues relevant to the Great Plains have important implications for theory, methods, and application beyond our geographic boundaries, and vice versa. As a consequence, manuscripts that substantially improve our understanding of the natural and social sciences generally are now welcomed, as long as their application to the Great Plains is made evident. These will include theoretical and methodological essays, research reports, and reviews of the literature. If you have an idea for a manuscript that might be appropriate for GPR, please contact us directly. I look forward to working together on promoting the future of science in the Great Plains.

Gustavo Carlo, Ph.D.
Associate Editor