

Social Thought & Research

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TABLE OF CONTENTS
Vol. 30, 2009

On the Cover

Bruce Carruthers, University of Kansas

Acknowledgments

**INVITED 2008 CARROLL D. CLARK LECTURER
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS**

Interview with Bruce Westen

Prepared by Ada Van Roekel-Hughes 3

Interview with Robert Jensen

Prepared by Pooya Naderi and Christy Craig 11

FEATURED ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS

Sarah Wittig Galgano, Carnegie Mellon University

Barriers to Reintegration: An Audit Study of the
Impact of Race and Offender Status on Employment
Opportunities for Women 21

Robert Hughes, University of Kansas

Equal Opportunity, Market Preference and Voter Turnout:
An Analysis of the 1996, 2000, and 2004 U.S
Presidential Elections 39

Ray Sin, University of Kansas

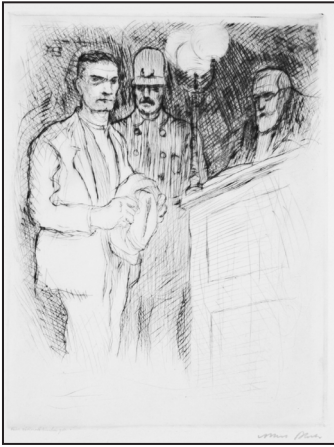
Emotionally Contentious Social Movements:
A Tri-Variate Framework 87

BOOK REVIEW

Ray Sin, University of Kansas

Queering the Political Economy of Migration: Identities,
Space and Borders

A Review Essay: *The Sexuality of Migration: Border
Crossings and Mexican Immigrant Men* (2009) by Lionel
Lionel Cantú Jr. and edited by Nancy A. Naples and
Salvador Vidal-Ortiz.....



The artwork for Volume 30 of *Social Thought and Research* is *Police Court* by Albert Bloch. Bloch was an artist, illustrator, political cartoonist, social critic, essayist, and poet. He was born in St. Louis on December 2, 1882 of parents who emigrated from Bohemia to the United States. Relatively little is known of Bloch's formative years since he declined to write about his background or art. He began his early career in New York and St. Louis as a caricaturist and

political cartoonist, settling eventually in St. Louis and working for the literary magazine the *Mirror*. The editor of the *Mirror* sponsored an extended stay for Bloch in Europe beginning in 1909 in the apparent hope he would pursue formal training. Bloch eschewed this training, but was greatly influenced by German modernism. He developed an abstract and experimental style that was not well received in the America.

Bloch returned to the United States in 1919, and became head of the department of Drawing and Painting at the University of Kansas in 1923, a position he retained until a heart attack forced him to retire in 1947. Bloch died in Lawrence on December 9, 1961. Although there is scant information on his work, *Police Court* is dated 1910 and must have been drawn during the early part of Bloch's stay in Europe. Many of his works during this period reflected social criticism, and one can speculate that *Police Court* was critical look the justice system. It meshes nicely with the theme of this volume: conflict and inequality. It is a pleasure to feature the work of an artist so closely associated with the University of Kansas, the home of this publication. —Bruce C. Carruthers

Permission to reprint *Police Court* was granted by the Spencer Museum of Art, Gift of Albert Bloch, 1939.0018

Note: Biographical information on Albert Bloch is taken from: Werner Mohr. 2003. *Albert Bloch: Artist, Social Critic, and Translator of Karl Kraus*. Riverside CA: Ariadne Press.

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—Bruce Carruthers, Rachel Craft, Brittany Morin-Mezzadri,
Ada Van Roekel-Hughes