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## **SPECIAL SECTION: ADVANCING CULTURAL ANALYTIC SCIENCE**

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL SECTION**

In Volume 13, Number 2 of *Behavior and Social Issues*, Sigrid Glenn and Maria Malott published an important article designed to advance the analysis of cultural systems and metacontingencies. A number of noted behavior analysts wrote commentaries on that paper in the same issue, accompanied by responses from Glenn and Malott. The discussion then moved to the 2005 Association for Behavior Analysis: International convention in Chicago with a panel discussion, and subsequently to an international "think tank" in Campinas, Brazil in August of 2005. The think tank was sponsored by the Associação Brasileira de Psicoterapia e Medicina Comportamental (ABPMC, ABA-Brazil) and Instituto Brasileiro de Análise do Comportamento (IBAC), with the collaboration of the Universidade Católica de Goiás and the Association for Behavior Analysis: International. Participants in the Think Tank have prepared commentaries based on discussions there, which are published in this issue. The commentaries in this issue range from brief notes raising important questions to full-length articles, as those attending the Think Tank were simply invited to submit whatever verbal behavior was evoked by the meeting. (One participant, Jorge Oliveira-Castro, with colleagues, chose instead to submit a related paper on environmental conservation, which is also included in this issue.)

Continued efforts to expand this subdiscipline are important, as an adequate science of cultural analysis (including applied work) is critical to scientific contribution and pragmatic solidarity with the most vulnerable in addressing issues of social justice and human rights. A number of those working in this area again presented their current thinking and work at the 2006 Association for Behavior Analysis: International convention in Atlanta, advancing this process one step further.