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### Look Away: How the **Social** Constructionist Approach to **Social** Problems Channels Attention Away from the Marginalized

Christensen, Tony  
The American Sociologist, 2019, Vol.50(2), pp.271-289

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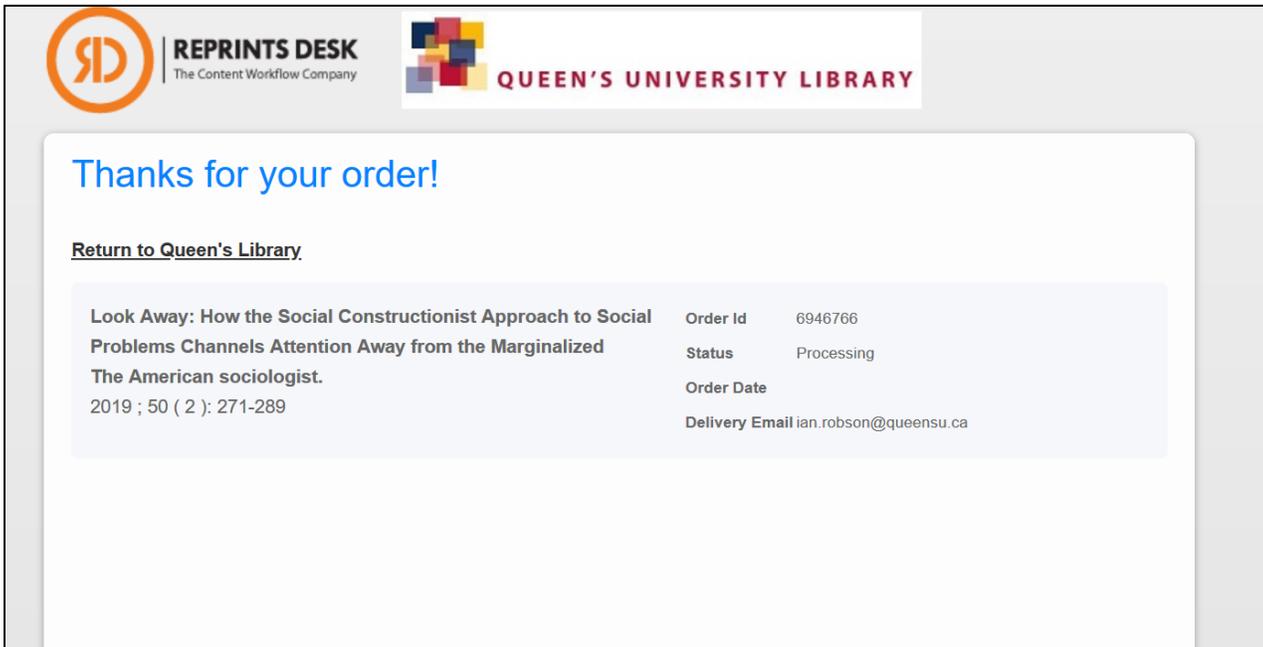
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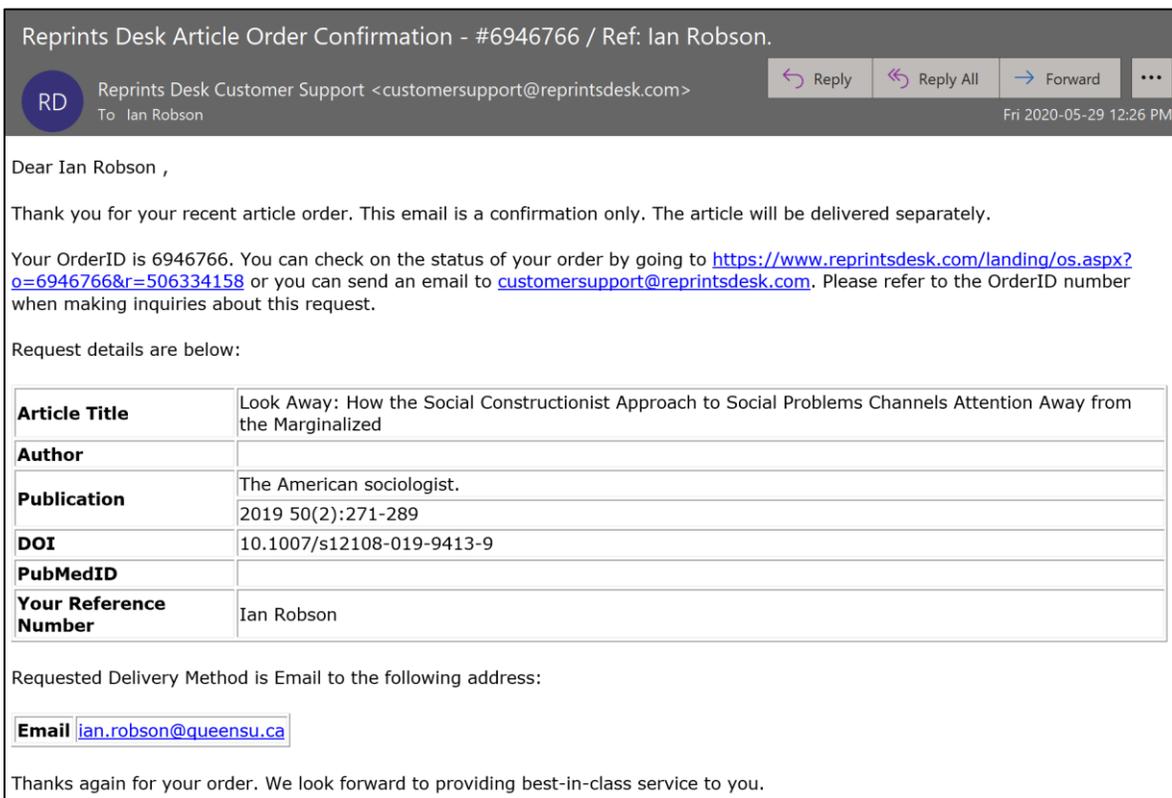
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## Look Away: How the Social Constructionist Approach to Social Problems Channels Attention Away from the Marginalized

Tony Christensen<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract**  
This paper's thesis is that the constructionist approach to social problems unintentionally directs its practitioners' analytic attention toward "top-dog" claimsmakers while neglecting the claimsmaking of the marginalized. This neglect is the result of several common-sense assumptions about what social problems claims will look like and who