

EDITOR'S NOTE

The University of Victoria stands on the unceded and unsundered land of the Lekwungen peoples as well as the WSÁNEĆ, Esquimalt and Songhees people, whose relationships to the land are both historic and continuing. A large portion of the work presented in this journal was conducted on these same lands. We invite readers to remember and reflect upon the ongoing processes of settler-colonialism that exist within academia, and in particular the historical discipline, as you read this journal.

As part of our commitment to be consciously anti-racist in our work we, along with several other undergraduate journals at UVic led by On Politics, have sought to centre non-traditional narratives of history through our chosen selections. These papers feature a diverse range of accounts outside of the all too prevalent histories of Western white cis-gendered males, while also upholding the goal of the journal to publish the best scholarship produced by UVic History undergraduates.

We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many people who have helped us create this edition of the journal. The final product of a project of this magnitude relies on the work and dedication of many members of the UVic History community. Thank you to every student who submitted a paper for consideration. Thank you to our peer reviewers and our editors, Wren Shaman, Tylor Mathers, Susanna Fong, Jordan Strate, and Ireland Good. Additionally, we would like to thank our professor advisors, Drs. Martin Bunton, Peter Cook and Mitchell Hammond, as well as Dr. Jason Colby, the Chair of the History Department, who has provided the opening statement to this edition of the journal.

We have immensely enjoyed the process of creating this edition of *The Ascendant Historian*, and we hope that you will get as much enjoyment out of reading it as we did in putting it together.

Sophia Anderson, Alec Lazenby, Charlotte Clar

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

It is my great pleasure to introduce this issue of the History Department's undergraduate research journal, *The Ascendant Historian*. This longstanding publication (formerly named *The Corvette*) is an expression of the vibrant scholarship and tightknit community that undergraduate history students have consistently cultivated at the University of Victoria. Indeed, the energy and enthusiasm of our students play a major role in making the UVic History Department such a wonderful place to work, for faculty and staff alike. Over the past lonely year, we have badly missed seeing you in our classrooms and the halls of Clearihue. In that time span, I think we have all learned a hard truth: It is one thing to study history; it is quite another to live through historic times.

The past year was indeed extraordinary. It witnessed the spread of a frightening and disruptive pandemic as well as a range of climatic shocks and weather anomalies. But it also brought massive and inspiring mobilizations for racial and social justice as well as struggles to protect and extend democracy. In this context, what makes me particularly proud is how our students, through their learning, actions, and scholarship, have engaged deeply with the questions and issues that are reshaping our world. And that engagement is particularly in evidence in the work published here.

In this volume, we have a marvelous representation of the range of research undertaken by our history students. Topics include food culture in the convents of colonial Latin America, gendered aspects of colonial encounters on the Columbian Plateau, Islamist resistance in Sadat's Egypt, and portrayals of women in the films of G.W. Pabst, among many others. This variety highlights not only the range of courses available in our program but also the passion and creativity that drives our students to explore their own research questions. You have done wonderful work, and it shows in the pages that follow.

On behalf of my colleagues, I salute the authors for their original research and compelling arguments, as well as the editors and peer reviewers, for all the work that went into publishing this journal.

Congratulations to everyone who made this issue of *The Ascendant Historian* possible.

Jason Colby, Department Chair, 2020-