

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I am thrilled to introduce the 2022 issue of the UVic History Department's undergraduate journal, *The Ascendant Historian*. This publication represents an exemplary sample of the original research undertaken by undergraduate history students at the University of Victoria. Despite the challenges of the past academic year, including hybrid learning and shuttered archives, our students continued to prove themselves talented historians-in-the-making.

Over the past few months, we have been reminded of history's importance in understanding and effecting change in the present. In addition to the ongoing disruptions of Covid-19 and movements for social and environmental justice, we have witnessed the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has focused the attention of the world and raised comparisons to previous European and global conflicts. Now, as much as at any point in my lifetime, historians—particularly young historians—need to be involved in the debates and discussions that are redefining regional, national, and international values and priorities. And I am proud to say that we see such engagement in the original scholarship presented in this volume.

The articles published here exhibit an extraordinary chronological and thematic range. Topics include patterns of narrative and representation at the War Museum, Gaelic women's agency in early modern Ireland, the transformation of Scottish Highland farms circa. 1800, the connections between and divergence of Indigenous and Diasporic theories of liberation, Japanese understandings of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and the intersection of anti-Semitism and perceptions of disease in early twentieth-century Eastern Europe.

This variety of topics and questions is a testament to the creativity and commitment that our students bring to their study of history. My History Department colleagues and I celebrate the authors for their originality, tenacious research, and compelling insights. We also applaud the editors and peer reviews whose hard work produced this superb edition of *The Ascendant Historian*.

Jason Colby, Department Chair, March 2022