

Dean's Message

It's always exciting to read the innovative and engaged work of graduate students. Some of our most powerful and critical research is given voice by these emerging scholars, who grapple with historical issues in fresh and energetic ways. These are the voices that will give shape and meaning to an always-evolving discipline, and I'm proud that *The Graduate History Review* emerges from our exceptional Department of History at the University of Victoria.

The articles selected for inclusion in this particular issue showcase the diversity, range, and relevance of this expansive field. Moving from the Medieval to the contemporary, from Europe to North America, and through issues of gender, media, and the environment, this issue collects the stimulating and accomplished work of graduate students from the USA and Canada. In this way, it represents not only a particular constellation of talent, but also a snapshot into the future of the field as a whole. The editorial team deserves our thanks and congratulations.

As the public perception of the role, value, and meaning of the Humanities in general and History in particular comes under increasing scrutiny, open-access initiatives like *The Graduate History Review* take on a new importance. They not only provide a valuable forum for junior scholars to make a contribution to their field, but they also perform a public service, making the concerns, methods, and provocations of the field visible to the wider reading-public.

It's a real testament to the dynamism of the Department at UVic and of the wider field of academic History that the *GHR* has been able to run for so successfully for so many years already; I wish it continued success in the years ahead.

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