

Editor's Introduction

Throughout my tenure as Editor-in-Chief and assistant editor of *The Graduate History Review*, I have found myself reflecting on the nature of graduate-level journals. I can think of no better way to introduce this issue than to contextualize the articles that follow within some of my reflections.

For starters, I have reflected on the value *for authors* to publish in a graduate journal. It is tempting to assume that graduate journals are somehow less scholarly or less rigorous, and therefore easier to be published in. Yet, as our contributing authors this year know well, this is not necessarily the case. Submissions are peer-reviewed by expert faculty just as with any journal (in addition to student reviewers), and many rounds of revision were carried out before the following papers took their present form. From my perspective, rather than ease of publication, the value of publishing in a graduate journal is in the dedication of such journals to assisting first-time authors and providing a clear and transparent understanding of the publication process that will serve them well in their future academic careers. With publication being such a crucial aspect of a historian's career, having a first-time experience that is not only positive but also informative is important in a historian's professional development. *The Graduate History Review* strives to fulfill this role, and hopes that this year's authors take as much away from publishing their papers as readers will take away from reading them.

From a different angle, I have reflected on the value *for departments* to publish a graduate journal. Again, it is tempting to assume that graduate journals are used specifically to showcase the work of a department's own students. This is not at all the case. *The Graduate History Review* acceptance process is entirely blind, and while each issue does typically include some papers from University of Victoria students, this is only because University of Victoria students have greater exposure to *The Graduate History Review* and so submit a greater proportion of papers. Rather, from my perspective, one of the greatest benefits of publishing *The Graduate History Review* to this department is the experience and training that is provided to the array of peer-reviewers, board members, revision managers, copy-editors, and more who make these issues possible. Just as publication is central to an academic career, skills like peer-reviewing and copy-editing are critical for professional historians

yet are seldom taught in normal coursework. Parallel to our dedication to assisting authors with an introduction to the publication process, the *GHR* also strives to instill in our volunteers with the willingness and ability to perform these behind-the-scenes tasks which are part of the foundation of the historical profession.

These reflections are only partly intended to motivate future graduate journal staff members to treat their publications with the respect and dedication they deserve. More importantly, these reflections are meant to remind readers of the significance of the papers that follow. These papers represent not just the original scholarly research that they explicate. They also represent the beginnings of the next generation of historians, a generation of authors, reviewers, board members, and editors. As Editor-in-Chief, it has been extremely rewarding to observe and contribute to these rising stars, and I wish my successor Dave Lang the best of luck in the year to come.

Sincerely,

Darren Reid
Editor-in-Chief
The Graduate History Review