A Note from the Editors

Volume 45 of *Perspectives* explores the limits and contours of rights and identity, issues that dominate our current cultural landscape. There are the attempts to reverse immigration rights and redefine who may claim membership in the American community. The #MeToo movement confronts people using positions of power for sexual aggression and exploitation. Gun violence fuels debates over how to balance public safety with the Second Amendment; police violence against people of color has galvanized the citizenry to respond by organizing into groups like Black Lives Matter. School shootings have resulted in March For Our Lives. Our authors explore mechanisms and strategies that challenge and re align the boundaries of rights and identity in the past through historical case studies, ranging from antiquity to the twenty-first century. Together, they deepen our contemporary efforts to renegotiate these frameworks and rekindle successful past strategies that can be leveraged in the future.

Our survey begins in Sparta, where Micheal Duchesne demonstrates that Spartan helotry was not a rigid and unchanging system of slavery, but instead offered elasticity that granted and withdrew rights and privileges for helots over time. Advancing to the twentieth century, Katie Mishler explores the different ways American newspapers presented working women during the First World War, and how published concerns over women's safety in factories intersected with broader ideas of regulating the workplace. Print media helped shape female identity through its portrayals of American working women, yet conflicting images reveal disagreements over acceptable forms of womanhood.

While U.S. newspapers were drawing the boundaries of identity, women in Revolutionary Russia were frustrated with their exclusion from the national narrative. Some navigated the regulations that limited their rights to their advantage, while others pursued unconventional methods like terrorism. Jessica De La O investigates which strategies were most effective, and how some women successfully became the architects of their own lives. Similarly, in 1975 Mexican American women fought for their reproductive rights when they sued the Los Angeles County General Hospital after doctors performed sterilization procedures

on them without their informed consent. Karina Cardenas uses her analysis of the court case *Madrigal v. Quilligan* (1978) to explore public health issues in 1970s Los Angeles.

Hana Villafaña traces a movement sparked by indigenous Mexicans fighting for food justice in the 1990s that grew into a national debate over sovereignty, and later a global defense of biodiversity. By successfully forming alliances in Mexico and beyond, people rejected the influence of global markets and agribusiness constraining their rights and eroding their identity.

Perspectives Volume 45 includes two special features that are offered exclusively online. "The Other Voices of October: The Russian Revolution of 1917" studies the revolution, nation-states in transition and ways that important voices can be drowned out by dominant narratives. The second special feature turns analysis inward to the history of the Eta Xi chapter of Phi Alpha Theta at Cal State LA. Beyond celebrating the people who have been a part of the chapter, this feature highlights Eta Xi's role in shaping historical inquiry on campus and cultivating future generations of historians since 1960. Visit the special features at www.calstatela.edu/centers/perspectives.

Our volume concludes with book and film reviews written by the editorial team that also address themes of rights and identity. Examples include media representations of women in horror films over time, a book that explores an upper-class woman's journey to define her place in post-Revolutionary France, the exploitation of wage workers and slaves in nineteenth-century Baltimore, and the 1968 Mexican Student movement's broader impact on the state. *The Post* is a timely film that reaffirms the importance of the Fourth Estate and its role protecting the people's rights by holding the government accountable. *LA 92* examines the 1992 Los Angeles uprising through the lens of media coverage and demonstrates how television framed the identity of the participants. At a time when political leaders are disparaging the integrity of journalists and challenging the contributions made by people of color, our reviewers explore how these films participate in this discourse.

Perspectives is an award-winning journal produced by the undergraduate and graduate students of Cal State LA's History Department enrolled in History 4970. The Editorial Board of

Volume 45 would like to thank Dr. Birte Pfleger for her steadfast guidance, support, and mentorship. She has helped us navigate this often stressful but highly rewarding journey with patience, humor, and understanding. The scholars who contributed to Volume 45 address diverse times and topics, and they demonstrate that while historians spend much of their time looking backwards, the purpose of History is to offer clarity when looking forward.

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