Editorial Note

Future generations may remember 2023 as the year Artificial Intelligence began to replace human intelligence on an unprecedented level. From commercials and advertisements to the covers of our favorite psychedelic rap albums, AI has officially infiltrated our day-to-day experiences in vast ways. For creative people, especially those in the humanities, these developments, particularly Open AI's ChatGPT, have given rise to a host of anxieties. Are we as writers becoming obsolete? Is this the beginning of the end for creative professions? Are Elon Musk and Eliezer Yudkowsky justified in arguing for the temporary cessation of AI development so regulations can be put in place to prevent irreparable damage of our societal foundations (Musk)? Or should we completely abandon Artificial Intelligence development, given that regulations that could foresee future consequences would likely take decades, not months, of research (Yudkowsky)? We believe the cover of this year's edition provides a fitting metaphor for this moment in human history.

Starting as a fun way to see what a software might produce, our experiments with AI art generations proved tantalizingly close to what we wanted and envisioned, but not quite close enough. After many attempts entering keywords to little avail, it became clear that human intervention and creativity were needed to realize our vision. Image generations of globes, books, and collections gave us the idea for a photo shoot in the Special Collections of the Cal State LA John F. Kennedy Library to bring it to fruition. AI is a fascinating, unique tool available to us that will fundamentally change the boundaries of human possibilities. But it cannot be a replacement for our own intellect: especially when engaging with humanities or arts, a human eye and touch can never be supplanted.

Since 1973, Cal State LA has published articles by students of History and closely related fields in its student journal, *Perspectives*, highlighting voices of inquiry from its hillside campus. History offers perspectives into different worlds, other cultures, or new ways of understanding life. People across the

globe have markedly distinct outlooks, beliefs, and traditions. Throughout most of human history, we have met only those geographically near, but the last millennium has seen cultural exchanges and encounters on a level unprecedented. In this fiftieth volume of *Perspectives: A Journal of Historical Inquiry*, we present five articles authored by Cal State LA history students, illustrating cultural encounters, conquests, and exchanges between racial, ethnic, and social groups that give context to events up to our own present experience. Many subjects we may think we know well reveal upon further investigation new interpretations and novel ways of remembering. Cultural memory and History have a relationship that is still being reconciled and reconsidered, with new voices constantly prompting us to rethink what we "know."

The subject of Japanese-American internment during World War II is familiar to many of us, yet they were not the only group subjected to forced relocation. Leslie Perez tells us the story of the internment of German-Americans, and why this topic has been largely ignored. Labor unions ebbed and flowed in popularity throughout the twentieth-century, but in recent times the radical edge of these groups has taken on increased relevance; Cole Costello reveals how at the root of these radical labor unions, Irish nationalist politics often dictated ideology. Ecology and understanding the complex ecosystems of our natural environments is another topic of increasing importance, and Esmeralda Del Rio outlines how Spanish record keepers misunderstood native California plants and land practices. Spanish colonization affected vast swaths of the globe, yet in the case of the Philippines, scholarship has failed to grasp the particularities of how it affected life for those already there. Jose Pascual shows how this process unfolded and the manifold effects stemming from colonization. European cultures left many far-reaching ramifications on the societies surrounding them. Prior to the colonial era crusades from Christendom had vast effects on Middle Eastern peoples. Dominic Sheehan explores chivalry, and its evolution and solidification as a concept during the Fourth Crusade.

The scope of the book and film reviews contained in this volume span the breadth of historical interests from our diverse editorial team. Reviews of monographs range from new interpretations of fifteenth-century European explorers, to local histories of Los Angeles neighborhoods, to a timely study on Russian President Putin. Film reviews explore the dictatorial regime of Ríos Montt, Guatemala's twentieth-century convicted war criminal; as well as the Hulu docuseries based on the Pulitzer Prize winning publication *The 1619 Project*.

The presentations recorded at the second annual *Perspectives* conference addressed similarly diverse topics: oral histories of braceros, the Mexican treatment of Japanese Mexicans during the Second World War, and analyzing American war movies; each exemplary in their combinations of image and word.

In celebration of the fiftieth edition of *Perspectives*, we solicited lightning talks hosted by our peers' career-relevant insights into their journeys in education, military, academia, the world of museums and global corporations. The *Perspectives* editorial staff of Cal State LA's HIST 4970, under the guidance of advisor Dr. Birte Pfleger, are proud to present this fiftieth volume of *Perspectives: A Journal of Historical Inquiry*. In keeping with the spirit of historical research and study, we hope this edition continues to inspire future and current historians to expand their conception of what constitutes historical inquiry.

Sincerely,

Editors-in-Chief:

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Cole Costello
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