# Editors' Note

We publish *Perspectives* Volume 52 amid geopolitical upheaval affecting long-standing democratic institutions and international alliances across the world. Although it seems we are always in the maelstrom of history, the inauguration of President Trump has unleashed dramatic changes in domestic policy at breakneck speed, sparking anxiety nationwide and among our diverse Los Angeles community. Many of Trump's policies echo earlier, darker eras in American history, from which we historians hoped our country had learned more lasting lessons. Globally, the neoliberal order that defined the post-Cold War alliances seems to be breaking down. As communities around the world struggle to find a workable path forward, we fear that the relative geopolitical and domestic stability we grew up with is fracturing irrevocably. Closer to home, the hot, dry, Santa Ana winds of January, after historically low rainfall in the preceding eight months, ushered in terrifying fires across Los Angeles, tragically reducing the historic communities of Altadena and Pacific Palisades to ash. The fires brought climate change's effects to our doorsteps and turned members of our campus community, including some in the History Department, into climate refugees.

The historical research in the fifty-second volume of *Perspectives* highlights dramatic moments of chaos and change. Whether in Los Angeles, Haiti, the eastern Mediterranean, or points in between, we are proud to present stories of those who, faced with deep societal divisions and anxieties, took action to shape their worlds. Much like the 1960s East Los Angeles band Thee Midniters, their voices are not forgotten. These articles demonstrate the constant interplay between the local and the global, those at the center and those at the margins, two millennia ago or in recent decades, in shaping the conditions that defined people's lives. From Chicanos in East Los Angeles to American businessmen in the mines of Mexico, from Vietnam draft resisters to early Christians displaced to Roman Antioch, our stories reveal that history is always border-crossing and always political.

The articles sweep geographically and thematically across the landscape of history, beginning in Mexico and ending in ancient Antioch (present-day Turkey). We start in early twentieth century northern Mexico. Examining the role of print media in the Cananea Mine Strikes of 1906, Anthony Sales-Hernandez reveals tensions between American businessmen and Mexican workers. Our next article heads north of the border to explore the politics of Thee Midniters, a local band of young musicians in 1960s East Los Angeles. Christian Banuelos argues that the band had a tangled relationship with the growing Chicano Movement.

We then switch focus to presidential pardons, where Jeanette Calderon investigates the commutation of activist Marcus Garvey by President Calvin Coolidge in 1927. Black and White communities responded very differently to Coolidge's decision and Garvey's subsequent

exile to Jamaica. Similarly, Lizbeth Mars examines why Presidents Ford and Carter issued pardons to Vietnam War draft deserters in the war's aftermath. She shows that while these presidential pardons were intended to heal national divisions, draft evaders often rejected the implication of guilt associated with the pardons.

Returning to the Caribbean, Peter Wassell examines nineteenth-century Haiti in the decades after the island's successful Black-led revolution. In doing so, he explains US congressional debates on granting political recognition to revolutionary Haiti. Finally, Lachlan Streeter analyzes the cross-regional movements of Early Christianity two millennia ago in the Eastern Mediterranean city of Antioch. Various aspects of Antioch's urban culture influenced the growth of Christianity into the city's most powerful religious movement.

Our editorial team's book and film reviews showcase a range of historical topics from the ancient world to the twenty-first century, exploring depictions of conflict and change from ancient North Africa to twenty-first century Europe. We also invite our readers to explore the four online Special Features that supplement this journal.

We begin with our fourth annual *Perspectives* conference, "Gender Across Time," which explores gender history from ancient Greece to the twentieth-century Americas. Marina Marquez Saban interrogates gender violence and femicide in twentieth century Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico. Trenten Hart explores Greek homosexuality through its depiction on Hellenistic vases. Finally, Emily Lovera analyzes women's changing roles and appearances in Hollywood movies from 1927 to 1972.

Our second Special Feature creates a community archive of the January 2025 Los Angeles fires. In the wake of this tragedy, these firsthand recollections preserve the history of the affected communities. We sent out a call to the community to collect personal stories and images of Altadena and Pacific Palisades before and after the fires. We have partnered with the John F. Kennedy Library's Special Collections and Archives to create a permanent digital record of these testimonies. This collection will be available in the University Library's digital archive later this year.

In this volume, we honor *Perspectives*' former member, Dr. John C. Chen, who passed away on September 14, 2024. Dr. Chen, retired psychiatrist, returned to the study of history late in life, completing his master's degree at Cal State LA. On his passing, he made an incredibly generous bequest to the Cal State LA History Department, naming it as the principal beneficiary of his estate. We express our condolences to his family and our deepest gratitude for his support of our department. We celebrate Dr. Chen's life and generosity with our "In Memoriam" section in the print journal and an expanded obituary online.

Finally, our new "History Teachers Directory" connects current history students with program alumni who are now educators. Based on scores of alumni from the past twenty-three years, this directory offers networking

opportunities to aspiring educators. It will facilitate career guidance, curriculum collaboration, teaching observation, and job networking for the history teachers of tomorrow.

Throughout the making of this volume, we all have learned to wear multiple hats thanks to the mentorship of our fearless and uncompromising professor, Dr. Birte Pfleger. The dedication of each member made this journal possible. *Perspectives* Volume 52 came together in another year of global chaos and uncertainty. We hope that the articles in this issue provide reference points for our readers to survive, and perhaps even thrive, amid the tumult.

# Scan this QR Code to view Volume 52's Special Features!



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