

July 2019

Happy Summer!

I am so pleased to present the ninth issue of *NJ Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. As you can see from our table of contents, it is another dynamic and thought-provoking issue, chronologically sweeping the arc of NJ's story, from Matthew Knoblauch's "The First Gardeners: Native Americans and New Jersey's Environment at First Contact" to Tara Crowell, et al's "Examining Opioid Overdose Data in Atlantic County: A Descriptive Case Study."

I am also happy to report that a recent computer analysis shows that *NJ Studies'* readership continues to grow. The number of articles downloaded has swelled since we were included in Ebsco's databases, and the *Journal* is being accessed from places such as the UK, China, Russia, Belarus, Poland, Australia, Germany, Japan, Italy, Kazakhstan, Slovenia, Croatia, India, Mexico, Palau, Brazil, Columbia, Sweden, Ukraine, France, Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Switzerland, Georgia, Luxembourg, Singapore, and more! I am sure I speak on behalf of the whole *NJ Studies* team when I say that we are delighted to provide this platform for our authors. Please help us continue to spread the word by sharing *NJ Studies* with your networks. If you are a [Facebook](#) user, we hope you will engage with our page to help to spread the word even farther than we already have.

Though I am pleased with where the *Journal* stands today, I always want us to improve. If you'd care to share any feedback anonymously, please visit the brief survey located [here](#). Let us know what's working, and (perhaps especially) what's not!

As always, it has been my honor to work with all of our contributors. I thank them for entrusting *NJ Studies* with their work. Of course, this issue would not have been possible without our blind peer reviewers. I regret that I cannot thank them by name, but they generously shared their time and talents to ensure that every article presented to you here represents the highest levels of scholarship. In many cases, our authors made important revisions to their work thanks to suggestions made by the anonymous reviewers. Many articles are still out for revisions, and I am so excited about the work in the pipeline that I hope to bring to you in future issues.

I am grateful to Sara Cureton, Richard Veit, and Maxine Lurie of the New Jersey Historical Commission for their invaluable support, along with Jeffery Triggs at our co-sponsor, Rutgers University Libraries.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank Monmouth University for supporting my participation in the *Journal*, specifically Dr. Chris DeRosa, Chair of the Department of History and Anthropology; and Dr. Kenneth Womack, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

We are currently accepting submissions on a rolling basis. Please be sure to adhere to the submission guidelines posted [here](#). Don't have a submission, but want to get involved? Email me to sign up as a peer reviewer. *NJ Studies* is truly a team effort!

Happy Reading!

v/r,

[Melissa Ziobro](#)

Editor

*New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*