



July 2020

Here we are with the 11<sup>th</sup> issue of *NJ Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. It seems like ages since the last issue. So much has changed in the world, in the nation, in our state – first, as the result of COVID-19, and then, as a wave of protests swept the nation demanding social justice. I sincerely hope that all of our readers and their loved ones are healthy and well, physically and mentally. I send my deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones. My heart breaks, too, for those struggling economically and emotionally.

On a brighter note, I applaud those members of our historical community who have mobilized to do what they can to support the broader public in this time of crisis and pain, like the good folks at the InfoAge Science History Learning Center in Wall Township, who donated over 1,000 N-95 masks to healthcare workers back in March. It has been inspiring to see organizations like the Monmouth County Historical Association in Freehold and the Newark Public Library immediately begin collecting COVID-19 recollections for posterity. And the many statements put out by cultural organizations in support of equality and justice is, hopefully, a harbinger of action to follow. In the words of the NJ Historical Commission, “We can all look to the past, look inward, and do better. The NJ Historical Commission recognizes the deep historical roots of violence against America’s Black communities and stands firmly with those fighting for racial justice. We will work to better amplify both historical and contemporary Black voices. Black Lives Matter.”

At times, working on this issue was surreal. It seemed odd to try to go about life while so many were hurting in different ways. I moved my classes at Monmouth University online and worked on other projects like this, all while homeschooling my children. I often wondered if it was even appropriate to work? To nudge my students about outstanding assignments, to press our peer reviewers and authors when deadlines came and went? With so much uncertainty and despair swirling? Many campuses even suspended the tenure clock for full-time faculty, a formal recognition of the difficulties of pursuing scholarship at this taxing time. I am incredibly grateful to the authors and peer reviewers who made time for this “extra” work when most of us were functioning in what was essentially triage mode.

As always, this issue would not have been possible without those blind peer reviewers I just mentioned. 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 revision, 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 NJ Historical Commission for their invaluable support, along with Jeffery Triggs at our co-sponsor, Rutgers University Libraries.

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.

Last, but certainly not least, I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Monmouth University graduate student Collin Dougherty. Collin volunteered to serve as assistant editor on this issue, deftly aiding in the formatting and copyediting of accepted manuscripts. He's a talented emerging scholar, and I am sure you will be hearing his name again in the future.

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

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