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I am so pleased to introduce the 12th issue of *NJ Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, the only peer-reviewed, completely open-access publication dedicated to the study of the Garden State. As we launch this new issue, we are also sharing an updated “Focus and Scope” statement. To date, that statement has read, simply, “NJS publishes original scholarship on all aspects of NJ History.” We are tweaking that slightly to say, “The Journal publishes original scholarship on all aspects of NJ studies, grounded in historical context. We strongly encourage submissions that help to tell the stories of people, groups, places, and events commonly excluded from dominant historical narratives; or that give new perspectives on familiar stories.” While we are incredibly proud of the broad range of scholarship we have published to date, we wanted to more clearly articulate our commitment to actively seeking out and publishing scholarship on diverse topics, by diverse voices.

This was another difficult issue to produce, as our world continues to be in tumult due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am grateful to everyone who came together to make this issue happen during a time of tremendous upheaval, especially our peer reviewers, who give so much and get so little in return. 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, and our entire [editorial board](#).

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.

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 or inquire about service on our editorial board. *NJ Studies* is truly a team effort!

Happy Reading!

[Melissa Ziobro](#)

Editor

New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal