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Happy New Year and welcome to the 18th issue of *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*—my last as editor! When we launched the journal in 2015, I never imagined I would stay on this long, but it has proven to be an immensely rewarding experience. I have met so many talented and inspiring people, and I am so proud of the work we have produced. Even throughout a global pandemic, we continued to create rigorous and dynamic scholarship about this state that I so adore. I hope that all this content remains open access in perpetuity, as it has been since the journal started.

I began the journey of resigning as editor this past summer, when in August I made an unexpected and exciting career move from my full-time faculty role with the Department of History and Anthropology at Monmouth University to the new position of Curator for the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music (BSACAM; also at Monmouth University). As we at the BSACAM prepare to open our new, 30,000 square foot museum and archive facility, I needed to pass the baton to someone who can give the journal the time and attention it deserves. I would have left immediately if a replacement could have been quickly found, but I agreed to stay on if needed so that there would be no disruption to the journal's production schedule. A thoughtful and deliberate search for my predecessor has been ongoing, and you should be hearing more about that very soon. I wish my replacement the best of luck and look forward to seeing any exciting changes they might make.

One of the trickiest parts of this role is finding qualified and generous folks who are willing to peer review submissions. I might speak to a dozen people before finding two reviewers for any given article. I am immensely grateful to those who have answered the call over the years. If you support *NJ Studies*, I implore you to reach out about joining our reviewer pool. I have long been advocating for stipends for peer reviewers, and while funding constraints have kept us from awarding these thus far, I sincerely hope that they will be a reality in the near future.

As I close, one last thank you to all our authors (and, again, those critical peer reviewers); our editorial board; reviews editor Dr. Jonathan Mercantini; my former Department Chairs Drs. Chris DeRosa and Richard Veit; Maxine Lurie, Sara Cureton, and all at the Historical Commission; the team at Rutgers University Libraries; and all with whom I've worked on this adventure. Thanks also to my family, as I somehow always managed to have to work on the journal during our July vacation.

This is a slim issue, given the transition period the journal finds itself in, but it's fitting that, as with more robust issues, the content still spans centuries and reaches into different corners of the state. As always, there's something for everyone with an interest in New Jersey studies here.

Happy reading!

[Melissa Ziobro](#), Editor, *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* (Summer 2015–Winter 2024)