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Welcome to the 19th issue of *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*! As the only peer-reviewed publication dedicated to the study of New Jersey's history, I'm pleased to share new articles that connect us to our state's past.

This issue marks the start of a new editorship and new decade. I follow in the footsteps of inaugural editor Melissa Ziobro. During her ten years at the helm, she guided over 300 submissions to publication and helped to reimagine what constitutes a scholarly journal. Her work ensured *New Jersey Studies* features research notes, presentations, gallery reviews, and student papers that help give a voice to many history enthusiasts and experts that have often been excluded from more traditional publications. I personally want to thank Melissa Ziobro for her support during this transition and wish her great success as Curator for the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music.

I come into the journal editorship with experience in both academic and public history realms. During my nine years as an interpreter at Morristown National Historical Park, I developed a deep interest in the revolutionary origins of the state, an interest which continued through my graduate studies at Rutgers-Newark and Temple University, and into my academic career. I have been fortunate to teach history at several NJ community colleges, and, since 2017, at Rutgers-Newark. My local history courses have proven to be some of the most popular classes among students, and of course, are my favorites to teach. Incidentally, several articles from *New Jersey Studies* have featured prominently on my syllabi, testifying to the journal's importance as a scholarly source.

In this issue, we wave goodbye to summer with a gallery review of an ice cream exhibit. In time for the upcoming election, our core article provides an insider's view of the state government during the 1970s. Also with civic spirit, the journal features undergraduate prize papers highlighting the political activism of women and African Americans.

Politics will also be the subject of this year's New Jersey History Conference, "Imperfectly Civil: History of Politics & Civis in New Jersey," to be held on December 3 on the Rutgers New Brunswick Campus. Visit the [webpage](#) for more details. I hope to meet many of our readers there!

I would be remiss not to mention *New Jersey Studies* remains completely open-access thanks to the ongoing support of the New Jersey Historical Commission, Rutgers University Libraries, and our newest partner, the Middlesex County Division of History and Historic Preservation. I also thank our reviews editor, Dr. Jonathan Mercantini of Kean University, and our copy editor, Heather Holt, for their hard work on this issue.

As pleased as I am with this edition, I'd like to think the next one will be even better. To achieve that, we accept submissions on a rolling basis. Follow the submission guidelines posted [here](#). Also importantly, this work cannot be done without our anonymous reviewers. We always welcome new contributors to become peer and book reviewers. Please reach out to add your name to our rosters.

Thank you for welcoming me into your community!

Steven Elliott, Editor, *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*