

EDITORIAL NOTE

This journal, as with active/activist history, can only survive with the continuing dedication, insight, and hard work of a group of people committed to engaging with critical thinking. The editors would like to take the time to thank some particular groups and individuals who have committed themselves to Left History. First, we would like to thank our outgoing editor, Dan Horner, for his years of service to the journal. While we will miss his presence here, we wish him good luck with his future endeavors.

Secondly, we would like to thank all of those who have contributed financially and intellectually to the maintenance of this journal. Left History is of course not immune to the changes in fiscal policy targeted at higher education and learning across the globe, and therefore we are grateful for the contributions that we receive. The York University History Department continues to provide us with a home and financial support to run the journal. The department's commitment to learning and debate continues to keep the journal solvent and relevant.

We also want to thank the York University Graduate History Department for providing us with both financial and intellectual support. Their support and contributions to all of their graduate students' endeavors are invaluable. Finally, we would also like to thank the Graduate History Students' Association for their bursary to Left History this year. Recognizing our invaluable relationship with our fellow graduate students here at York, we are pleased that the journal and the student's association can work together on continuing the drive for excellence in historical study and debate.

This theme issue grows out of another York University project, ActiveHistory.ca, which grew out of the September 2008 Active History: History for the Future conference. The conference brought together historians, activists, and journalists, among others, to discuss the concept of Active History. It was a fruitful gathering, and from it came the idea that there should be a public forum through which to discuss, disseminate, and further explore many of the great ideas that were raised at the Glendon conference. One avenue of this was ActiveHistory.ca, which continues to publish papers and a lively academic blog. In November 2010, ActiveHistory.ca saw 4,752 distinct individual visitors to the website.

Yet the editors of ActiveHistory.ca believe that there is a role for print publishing, bringing engaged peer-reviewed scholarship to a diverse readership base. We are thus very happy to present this special theme issue of Left History on Active

History.

But what is Active History? We decided to ask the original organizers of the Active History conference what they thought, and three of them (Jim Clifford, Victoria Freeman, and Tom Peace) shared their diverse views on the subject. Further reflections on what it means to be an Active Historian came from Stuart Henderson, Craig Heron, Karen Dearlove, and a Historical Plaques project.

Peer-reviewed articles make up the lions' share of this issue. Nick Witham, Ian Hesketh, the authors of the People's Guide to Los Angeles (Wendy Cheng, Laura Barraclough, and Laura Pulido), Joel Helfridge, and Geoffrey Reaume all demonstrate that engaged scholarship and the scholarly article complement each other expertly. While their topics of inquiry and periods are diverse, their shared belief in the continued relevancy of historians and history is hopefully inspiring and certainly engaging. As with all issues, we also have review essays – one by Bryan Palmer addressing recent scholarship making the case for Lenin, and another by Michelle Hamilton reviewing the Canadians and their Pasts project. Book reviews round out this issue.

CORRECTIONS

A copy-editors note accidentally appeared in Kathy McKay's review of Belshaw's *Becoming BC* in our last issue of *Left History* (Vol. 14, No. 2). Our sincere apologies.