

## EDITORIAL NOTE

Yes, *Left History* lives. It might not have seemed that way, given the time that passed since our last publication. Nevertheless, the editors, who (tirelessly) worked to put this issue together, are excited to distribute this mix of articles, essays, and reviews, all of which extend the journal's tradition of progressive and critical scholarship. This project is as, or even more, important today than the last time we published.

What exactly happened for this statement to even make it into our editorial note? Last December, centrist and right-wing politics governed much of the industrial world's democracies. Even the most casual observer could identify the implications: rhetoric on economic inequality, gendered power, racialized injustice, and environmental catastrophe; neoliberal policy for the middle-class; and wealth redistribution for the ruling elites. The apparent salve was the culture industry's continued fascination with the computational analysis of online viewing patterns, which, until that point, yielded gritty and humanistic portraits of feudal lords, state assassins, and so on. The subsequent globalization of a novel infectious disease, and the unexpected quantity of deaths that accompanied it, brought about a more polarized variation of this vision. States regularly shutdown economies and borders, and quickly made industrialists, finance, and corporate commerce the prime beneficiary of social and economy policy and the solution for mass unemployment and health crises felt disproportionately by working and racialized people. And, right as states intervened into a fall surge in virus cases, the culture industry bequeathed another ten-part social parable as told by a facsimile of the late-twentieth century British royal family.

Against this disorder, the dispossessed and marginalized turned to existing collectivities and ideas. Anti-racist, labour, climate justice, and alter-globalization movements, which all predate the current catastrophes, garnered new meanings and new supports. It has been quite astonishing. Collective action and mass politics made previously inconceivable projects, like police abolition, universal basic income, debt relief, and sustainable economies, a fixture in lawmaker's agendas and cultural commentator's publications.

*Left History* exists to historicize these social, economic, and political struggles. It was founded in the 1990s, when capitalism truly globalized, neoliberalism pervaded democratic politics, and leftists struggled to draw a coherent theoretical project. The goal was dialogue, not only across academic disciplines, but among scholars, activists, and various publics. Such conversation and debate about the development of power and contours of resistance would provide the conceptual tools and tactics necessary to change the present and create a more just and democratic future. Ensuing crises in American empire and the global economy failed to bring about the projects and ideas so often hinted at in this journal's pages. The journal persists as a site of conversation and critical analysis because the continued concentration of social, political, and economic power makes it necessary.

The current issue highlights this intellectual project quite well. The essayists, Mack Penner and Ravi Malhotra, review recent publications on neoliberalism, and untangle the different components of this new political economy. The article writers, however, broaden the analytical scope. First, Adam Tomasi analyzes the effect of anarchist thought on the Students for a Democratic Society, a 1960s American student movement; for readers, the investigation not only challenges notions of a monolithic New Left, but also shows how older radical thought and new social upheavals animated a political project. Second, Hannah Anneliese Bailey examines the corporal consequences of different representations of girlhood in the early-twentieth century Midwestern United States, and shows how racialization made Black girls experience carceral reforms in amore pernicious way than white girls. Third, Donald Yacovone evaluates *The Education of Henry Adams* to reveal the cutting-edge of white supremacy in early-20<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-American culture. The journal is truly a team effort. This does not only mean the activities of the article and review editors, but also the writers and peer-reviewers whose work and comments contribute to this end result. The editors are grateful for everyone's involvement. In addition, the journal welcomes Taylor Starr, a feminist scholar of Canadian legal history, to the editorial team. Her expertise in the histories of Canadian law and twentieth-century state adds to the journal's analytical scope.

*The Editors*