

Dear Readers,

In popular understandings of disciplinary history, World War II appears as the paramount subject of historical research. Moving through a series of stable associations—Nazi Germany, Pearl Harbor, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and so on—established by canonical historical narratives, we all too easily arrive at an understanding of the immensely complicated and consequential event that feels secure and sufficiently complete. In this issue of the *Chicago Journal of History*, however, three of our authors view World War II from the perspective of overlooked historical actors—for Carlo Mole, a British special agent; for Shirin Sadjadpour, Jews in Japan; and for Emily Xiao, teachers in Japanese internment camps—in order to illuminate its underexplored dimensions. Through sensitive reading and analysis, they explore the plurality of memories from which World War II as a historical object emerged, discovering complexities that extend beyond any simplistic binary between the evil Axis and morally incorruptible Allies.

The two remaining pieces in this issue explore other memories that are often forgotten—whether wilfully or unintentionally—in post-war America. While Mikaela Gerwin demonstrates that the vigor of black female civic life predated the Civil Rights Movement, Lydia Maher reveals the centrality of former waves of migration in the formation of American immigration policy. The persistence of structural racism in America today, directed both at subjugated peoples with centuries-long histories on American soil and at refugees compelled to flee their homeland in decades past, reveals the ways in which the past presses urgently upon the present. We urge you, then, to read these pieces as a collective call for historical remembering, foregrounding historical continuity in a bid to make sense of a violently troubled present and its precarious future.

This issue would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our featured authors; the *Chicago Journal of History* editorial board; and our hardworking designers. In winter of 2018, *Chicago Journal of History* hosted literary scholar Adrienne Brown who presented her lecture "The Black Skyscraper: Architecture and Perception of Race." We also organized a panel with Adrian Johns, Brian Brusokas, Lawrence Rothfield, Morag Kersel, and Jane Jacob entitled "Framed! A Panel on History, Art, and Law," moderated by Alice Goff. We'd like to use this space to formally thank Dr. Brown, Dr. Johns, Special Agent Brusokas, Dr. Rothfield, Dr. Kersel, Ms. Jacob, and Dr. Alice Goff for their time and talents as well.

We'd also like to welcome the incoming editor-in-chief, Sam Winikow, and our incoming editorial board members for the academic year 2018-19: Nadine Faisal, Lindsay Nicholas, Alexandra Price, Eric Wang, Madeline de Figueiredo, Jennifer Wang, Sam Mellins, Aaron Stockel, Ella Hester, and Wen-Li Teng.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

Sincerely,
Colin Garon and Darren Wan
Editors-in-Chief