
Editorial

History in the Making Journal Collective:

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Welcome to the first ever issue of *History in the Making*, a brand new journal for history students in Australia!

History in the Making aims to provide a space for the showcasing of the best historical research being undertaken by history students across Australia. Importantly, *History in the Making* provides a unique space for the publication of work by undergraduate students, while also encouraging postgraduate submissions. By publishing quality academic research amongst students, we hope to encourage a culture of research excellence amongst aspiring historians enrolled at Australian universities. We believe that the current selection of articles already amply demonstrates this excellence at different levels – from undergraduate to honours and on to postgraduate studies.

At the same time, *History in the Making* strives to be different from many other academic journals by actively seeking to promote the involvement and engagement of students in the editorial process. We have had a wonderful team of thirty-one honours and postgraduate students from across Australia participate as reviewers and editors in this first issue, and we hope to involve many more for future issues. The Journal Collective itself is also made up of a mixture of postgraduate students and university alumni.

History in the Making had its origins as a collaborative project developed by a team of volunteers who had been involved in a journal project based at one university. Inspired by this experience, we conceived of the idea of a journal which was able to achieve the same high quality and rates of participation but extended to a national scale. We first began by approaching heads of history departments across the country to test the interest in our idea. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and we are grateful for the support of our partner universities. Since then, we have incorporated as a non-profit association, developed our website using the Open Journal System and started to prepare our first ever issue.

At *History in the Making*, our commitment to promoting student participation reflects our strong belief in the value of peer review. Some of the most memorable experiences we have had as stu-

dents involved learning from our peers, whether through tutorials and seminars, writing groups or more informal means. Through *History in the Making*, we hope to extend the opportunities for peer review outside the classroom. We firmly believe that students can make a valuable contribution to each others' work and that peer review needs to be fostered in our universities.

In practical terms, this means that the production of this first edition of *History in the Making* was very much a collective enterprise. All students who submitted their work underwent a peer review process which provided them with feedback from three reviewers. Those whose submissions were accepted were then guided by editors and changed their submission in response to this feedback. The involvement of both postgraduate and undergraduate students in the editorial process provided an opportunity to learn how to review and edit their peers' work, and we hope that our student editors emerged from this process with a more critical awareness of what contributes to a journal article. At the same time, involvement in the editorial team provided an opportunity for mentoring across different levels. We have actively encouraged our editorial team to work in an individual mentoring role with each author. Along with promoting student participation, we have sought to foster a sense of community and collaboration amongst history students of all levels and capabilities.

Finally, in time we hope that *History in the Making* will become an invaluable resource for current and future history students, as it becomes a catalogue of the most outstanding work undertaken in history departments across Australia. It will open students to new ideas being investigated by students in other parts of the country and encourage them to think beyond the frameworks in which they currently operate.

The First Issue

For this first ever issue, we received more than fifty submissions from eight different universities. These submissions encompassed all levels of students – undergraduates, honours, masters and PhD students. Each submission was read by three of our reviewers and we hope that all of our submitters got something out of the feedback that they received from our team.

Congratulations to then ten authors who finally made it to publication! The selection of articles in our first issue demonstrates the breadth and scope of the history curriculum being taught in Australian universities. We always aimed to showcase a diversity of themes and topics, and we feel that this issue has been enormously successful in this regard.

Our articles demonstrate a wide variety of historical approaches, from Peter Harney's essay on historical memory and public monuments to Julia Miller's environmental history of drought in New South Wales in the 1960s. Our essays are also geographically diverse, spanning from Chi Chi Huang's examination of Jesuit missionaries and British traders in seventeenth and eighteenth century China, to Aden Knaap's discussion of nineteenth century Russian imperialism and James Lesh's analysis of euthanasia and other forms of cultural genocide in Nazi Germany. Three of our essays sit in dialogue with one another over post World War II American political life – with Benjamin Brooks writing about the top-down articulation of American nationalism during the Cold War, Sabina Peck examining the role of women in the Civil Rights Movement, and Elaine Lay seeking to explain the rise of American Conservatism in the 1970s and 1980s. Cultural history is also

amply represented by Julia Bourke's depiction of comedy within Witch Hunts of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries and Timothy Blum's examination of the Cape Dutch movement and its promotion of Dutch culture in nineteenth century South Africa. We hope, in short, that there is something here for everyone.

Behind these outstanding articles lies a great deal of work by a large team of volunteers to whom we owe many thanks. First we must thank our team of reviewers and editors. Thirty-one individuals from eleven universities helped us review and edit these submissions, and their time and insights were invaluable to the project. We would also like to thank our partner institutions, whose donations helped us fund the cost of putting the journal together and who also helped immeasurably in spreading the word about this project amongst their students.

The main driving force behind *History in the Making* has been the Journal Collective. Our team has volunteered many hours of their time over the last year to make this project viable and sustainable. Each member has brought something unique to the team. Beyond the academic knowledge that goes into editing our submissions, our team has also demonstrated skills and talents in website and database development, design and layout, strategic planning, research and policy development, accounting and legal expertise. Without the hard work and dedication of each of the members of the Journal Collective, this project could never have happened.

A Call Out

Finally, we would like to end this editorial with a call out to all aspiring historians – we need you! If you have an essay that received a great mark, then why not submit it to our journal? Honours and postgraduate students can also apply to join our reviewing team and get a real insight into the work that goes into reviewing a journal article. History academics should take note of these opportunities and encourage their top students to get involved. The more our community thrives, the more our journal will grow to become an integral part of the history student experience in Australia.

Acknowledgments

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