
A Note From the Editors

This year's *Perspectives* sheds light on how narratives of the past inform our present. In their exploration of recent U.S. history, the articles in this issue offer revealing perspectives on distinct groups of people, places, and topics relevant to Cal State LA students and the Los Angeles community. It is an election year, and we are inundated with political messages and promises to "make America great again," a viewpoint that, arguably, seeks to homogenize us rather than celebrate our differences. Here, global issues manifest locally and national headlines are read through the lens of Angelenos.

Created by undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in HIST 497, *Perspectives* is an award-winning journal that celebrates the talents of student writers, researchers, and editors. The journal is sponsored by the Eta Xi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta. Student editors select the publications through a rigorous and anonymous vetting process. Chosen from a competitive pool, we are pleased to present a collection of articles that recognize the local diversity of LA as read across time and place.

Amalia Castañeda explores ethnic identity and conservatism through the autobiographies, speeches and writings of two Latina Republicans—the highest ranking woman of Reagan's Administration and Fox News analyst, Linda Chavez, and former U.S. Treasurer and Mayor of the southeast Los Angeles city of Huntington Park, Rosario Marin. In a time where the GOP actively works to capture the Latino vote, this study challenges the presumed homogeneity of the Latino conservative electorate. In doing so, it highlights how generational differences informed Chavez and Marin's policy positions on controversial issues like Affirmative Action and California Proposition 187.

April Del Cid analyzes the experiences of young Japanese American women who worked as household servants during the Second World War. Del Cid draws on oral histories compiled by the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles to demonstrate how these women's domestic work and the relationships with their employers affected *Nisei* acculturation. LA claims a demographic connection to this legacy, as Torrance, in the South Bay region of LA County, has the second largest population of ethnic Japanese people of any U.S. city.

Ricardo Huete compares New York and Los Angeles media depictions of Major League Baseball's Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley during the team's highly contentious move to Los Angeles in 1957. The discussion that was relegated to history is once more making headlines as the National Football League announced the Rams' return to Los Angeles in 2016. The new football facility in Inglewood is expected to become the world's most expensive sports arena, making the themes addressed in Huete's research timely as LA grapples with debates centered around community development, corporate profitability and gentrification.

Joann Medrano reexamines the legacy of Ruben Salazar, one of the most renowned Mexican American reporters in the U.S. who was killed on 29 August, 1970 following a Chicano Moratorium protest in East LA. Medrano reflects on how individuals in the East LA and greater Chicano community created and then used Salazar's legacy to support their own objectives in the

decades since his death. As a result, a complex narrative of remembrance has been created, one that highlights Salazar's continued relevance to the people of East LA.

Mikhail Pronilover analyzes the Black Panther Party and the League of Revolutionary Black Workers during the 1960s. Utilizing newspapers and newsletters, the study compares organizational ideologies and the relationship of blacks to capitalism and social class in the United States. It hones in on the tensions and distinctions between black workers, the black middle class, and the Democratic Party. Pronilover references the Black Lives Matter Movement as a way to understand the social impact of the Panthers and the League in the current struggle for social and economic justice.

This year we also present two special features, one highlighting the Cal State LA Department of Special Collections and Archives and another evaluating the state of the History major. Our Department of Special Collections and Archives houses an assortment of records that showcase LA activism and community. The analysis of the state of the History major, at Cal State LA, throughout California and the nation asks: Why study history, who studies history, and what can one do with a history degree? Both studies show that Cal State LA is working to prepare students for real-world opportunities while industries are beginning to recognize the need for the skills fostered in a History degree program—intellectual independence, critical thinking, and the ability to write well and concisely.

Volume 43 ends with editor-written book reviews covering a wide regional and temporal scope. The reviews feature recent scholarship ranging from early American histories, including slavery and the Atlantic crossing, to modernization efforts in early twentieth century Mexico and Chile, from Nazi Germany to Soviet Russia. These monographs utilize a spectrum of methodologies and frameworks, and appeal to not only academics but the general public as well.

In what has been an academically challenging and rewarding experience, each member of the team gained invaluable editing skills. Thank you to Dr. Pflieger who has guided us from start to finish with patience and humor. Writing is a challenging process and publication of this issue reminds us that the production of scholarship requires focus, discipline, and constant reevaluation. Most importantly, the themes of this year's articles call attention to the research of historians, that, along with scholars of other disciplines, work to explain the nation's rapid political and social change. Race and social movements once again enter the national dialogue, but to Los Angeles, diversity is nothing new. People from many economic, ethnic, cultural and racial backgrounds have lived and shaped the city since its founding and this issue of *Perspectives* celebrates this history.