

## Editor's Note and Acknowledgements

Noor Iqbal

This issue of *Constellations* once again offers readers a glimpse of undergraduate scholarship within the History and Classics Department at the University of Alberta. One of the primary functions of this journal is to provide a platform for undergraduate students to share their passion for historical and classical topics through the publication of quality research papers. The hours of research, reading, and writing that go into historical work at the undergraduate level are usually distilled into essays that are read only by individual instructors and professors for the purposes of assessment. Peer-reviewing allows students to read and comment on essays written by other undergraduates, while online publication offers free access to students, faculty, and the public.

This issue explores a wide range of topics. In chronological order, the historical papers examine biographical research on a second-century early Christian philosopher, sumptuary legislation in Tudor England, the role of translation in colonial power relations during the British conquest of Bengal, changes in house construction among Ukrainian settlers in Canada, attitudes and policy about gender in Nazi Germany, and the impact of 'shock therapy' in post-Soviet Russia. Two papers deal with more historiographical topics, focusing respectively on the interpretation of the causes of the collapse of the Soviet Union and popular depictions of the Inquisition. Classics papers focus on methodology when dealing with sources constrained by the political events of fascism or historical obscurity of sources in ancient Roman times. A book review delves into ecology in classical times. This issue also continues our series of interviews with professors in the department, featuring Dr. Beverly Lemire.

As students, we learn to recognize that the past is never gone, but rather continues to impact the present in the choices made by people at every instant. Learning to read history, then, takes on an urgent significance in helping us understand the world around us. This journal can be an excellent way to introduce members of the public to historical and classical topics and methodologies. *Constellations* has now entered its third year and its readership has greatly expanded. Professors are beginning to recommend the journal as a publication opportunity for outstanding undergraduate essays, and articles from the journal have even appeared on course syllabi at the UofA. Please share articles of interest with other students, friends, and family. I encourage you to read *Constellations*, and also use to it as a source and springboard for further research.

The circle of students who make this journal possible continues to grow and widen. The editorial team this year includes Leah Brochu (Classics editor), Philip Stachnik (assistant Classics editor), and Lily Climenhaga (assistant History editor). Many thanks for all your reviewing and editorial work. Thank you to all the students who submitted papers and reviewed for *Constellations*. Thanks as well to Melanie Marvin at the History and Classics Department, who continues to provide technical and web support. I have been honoured to work with all of you to bring a new issue of *Constellations* to publication.

Noor Iqbal

Editor