

# Historical Perspectives: Santa Clara University Undergraduate Journal of History, Series II

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Volume 23

Article 4

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2019

## Introduction

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### Recommended Citation

(2019) "Introduction," *Historical Perspectives: Santa Clara University Undergraduate Journal of History, Series II*: Vol. 23 , Article 4.  
Available at: <https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/historical-perspectives/vol23/iss1/4>

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## Introduction

Every year, the Phi Alpha Theta chapter at Santa Clara University publishes a selection of outstanding essays in the History Department's journal, *Historical Perspectives*. Written by students in advanced seminars and who have completed research projects, these essays represent the highest levels of achievement in the department. This year, a number of excellent research papers were submitted for review. We would like to express our gratitude to all the students who submitted their work for consideration as well as to the faculty members who helped them with their projects. We are pleased to present to you the 2018 edition of *Historical Perspectives*.

This year's edition includes essays that explore a wide variety of topics related to the themes of gender, political, and cultural histories spanning the past four centuries. Many of these essays explore similar topics as they are shaped by the courses offered at Santa Clara University, including classes on the French Revolution, Genocide in the Twentieth Century, and the History of Sexuality. This year's submissions demonstrate clearly the intersection between Ethnic Studies, Gender Studies, and History. These works demonstrate that our student writers utilize critical interpretation, insight, and creativity in order to analyze the events of the past and recognize their lasting presence in the today's ongoing narrative. These writers are rewriting and reclaiming history.

Due to the political undertones of many of the papers included in this year's journal we felt that the cover art should reflect those sentiments. The piece we chose for the cover is titled *Another Call from Africa* created by Turgo Bastien, an artist of Haitian descent. We felt this especially appropriate as several of this year's pieces explore cultural and spiritual aspects of Haitian identity. The artist focuses on "painting for peace," believing that art has the power to bring communities together, thus finding light in the ultimate darkness. The artist's belief that art has the power to

*Historical Perspectives*, Series II, Volume XXIII, 2018

heal the world goes hand in hand with our belief as historians that the study of the past can change the future.

While the journal itself remains distant from any explicit political commentary, we believe that this year's submissions not only reflect Santa Clara University students' growing sense of political urgency but also their passion for education, social justice, and their intention to create change.