

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

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## Introduction

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## Introduction

Santa Clara University's Phi Alpha Theta chapter publishes a number of exceptional essays annually in the History Department's journal, *Historical Perspectives*. We faced the difficult decision of choosing between many well-written student essays that cover significant topics spanning many years and the world across. As a result, the essays chosen represent some of the most impressive undergraduate writing that Santa Clara University students have produced for advanced seminars, original research, and senior theses. We are grateful to every student who submitted their papers for consideration and the faculty members who assisted student writers with their essays. We are proud to share the meaningful work from our community that exemplifies the outstanding academic achievements and unique perspectives of Santa Clara University students for the 2021 edition of *Historical Perspectives* journal.

We find it important to acknowledge that 2021 has presented new and continual challenges around the world and within our Santa Clara University community. The coronavirus pandemic continues to threaten lives and pose challenges as many navigate the transition back to semi-normalcy. Additionally, SCU students have experienced immense grief due to the loss of three SCU students during fall quarter. We would like to take a moment to honor the lives of Tone Lee, Justin Ebner, and Charlie DePue. Our community has come together this year to promote the accessibility of resources and support for challenges including mental health, sexual assault, and racial injustice.

As history majors, we understand that the past and the present are often intertwined, and the essays chosen for this year's journal reflect several of our world's ongoing challenges. Between the nine essays, the experiences of the LGBTQ+ community, the Black community, and women are highlighted along with the intersectionality of sexuality, race and gender. We believe it is important to acknowledge the historic and continual oppression of

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these groups throughout the world and within our own community. It is also significant to note the mobilization for change that has occurred throughout history and continues today. This year's submissions demonstrate the ability of marginalized communities to persevere through oppression and seemingly insurmountable challenges. The selected essays represent a variety of perspectives and voices that are valuable to Santa Clara University and the community at large.

Continuing the tradition started with last year's edition of *Historical Perspectives*, this year's journal includes a book review of *Homosexuality in Cold War America: Resistance and the Crisis of Masculinity* written by Robert Corber and reviewed by student author Adelaide Vergnolle. This well-written review gives a nuanced look at literature covering the homosexual experience in the Cold War and makes for a meaningful addition to the theme of this year's publication. Additionally, the cover art for the journal was produced by one of our own Santa Clara University students, Alexa Esposito, who is currently a sophomore studio art minor. During such difficult times for our community, we felt it important to uplift a member of our Santa Clara University community. We feel that this powerful artwork encapsulates the communities represented within this year's essay topics.

Finally, we would like to recognize the incredible inner strength demonstrated by the student authors in producing such profound and meaningful pieces of writing during such turbulent times. Despite challenges and losses, this year's journal attests to the dedication, creativity, and commitment to evoke change of Santa Clara University students. The submission topics reveal the broad backgrounds of our student writers including Women and Gender's Studies, History, and Ethnic Studies, and the willingness of students to examine significant historical events. We hope that this year's edition of *Historical Perspectives* encourages you to think critically about the discrimination and oppression of various groups around the world and in your own community. We invite you to participate in the process of creating change and

persevering through the immense challenges this year has brought us.