

# Note from the Editor-in-Chief

---

NINA MORGAN

The *Journal of Transnational American Studies* is nearing its tenth year as the product of pure team work by a group of internationally based scholars and students of American Studies who strive to provide the field with an open-access, peer-reviewed forum for innovative and interdisciplinary scholarship. We have streamlined our process, and we are looking forward to new and exciting affiliations with the global Transnational American Studies community.

The extraordinary effort of our editors, exceptional reviewers, and tireless copyeditors—most of whom contribute their time and expertise as volunteers—is only matched by the tremendous institutional support *JTAS* receives from the universities and centers associated with the journal as sponsors: Stanford University’s American Studies Program, UC-Santa Barbara’s American Cultures and Global Contexts Center, and the UC-Davis American Studies Department and Department of English.

*JTAS*’s anonymous reviewers have been rigorous in their analyses and enthusiastic in their commentaries—authors and editors alike have learned from them, and we are honored to have so many excellent colleagues working behind the scenes to make this journal one that the Library of Congress has selected for inclusion in its permanent collection. After a submission has passed through two or more readings in our peer-review system, our team of Editorial Board members reads the essays, the reviewers’ detailed and erudite comments on the essays, and then individually offer additional recommendations and comments which are compiled by the managing editors and sent, with a record of the voting result, to the essay’s author. It’s a long process for each essay, even before copyediting; thus the Board members, who are based in Canada, Germany, Japan, and the United States—Drs. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Alfred Hornung, Greg Robinson, Takayuki Tatsumi, Kevin Gaines, Hsuan Hsu, Shirley Geok-lin Lim, and I—share not only the work but also the sense of community that comes from the mutual goal of bringing new scholarship into conversation with the global *JTAS* readership.

In most issues, *JTAS* hosts a “Special Forum”—managed by Arizona State University’s newest Assistant Professor and our Special Forums Editor, Brian

Goodman. Here, we offer an open space for scholars who wish to propose, organize, and shepherd through the peer review process a special collection of essays that explores a specific theme or problem. Anyone interested in making a proposal should contact Dr. Brian Goodman. Publishing houses and university presses that share new and previously published works in Transnational American Studies in our Forward and Reprise sections, respectively, are a tremendous asset; thanks to their willingness to work with us free of charge, *JTAS* has become a resource for academics who want to read both what is cutting-edge in the field today and what they may have missed yesterday.

We are grateful for the support that Stanford University has provided from the American Studies Program, the Office of the Dean of Humanities and Sciences, and the Department of English, and we appreciate the leadership of Stanford's Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin and UC-Santa Barbara's Dr. Shirley Geok-lin Lim, both founding editors of *JTAS* and members of the Editorial Board. We are grateful to the Obama Institute at Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, for the generous support of our newest Managing Editor, Dr. Sabine Kim, who joins long-time Managing Editor, Chris Suh, graduate student in History at Stanford, who has returned to us—and to his dissertation—after service in the South Korean military. We are thrilled to have him back. We are doubly thankful to all of our University of California team members, especially UC-Davis's Dr. Hsuan Hsu of our Editorial Board, as it is through this relationship that we are supported by the amazing technical team at UC-Berkeley's eScholarship open-access digital repository. Our newest institutional support comes from Kennesaw State University's College of Humanities and Social Sciences. I am personally grateful to the KSU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and to Dean Robin Dorff for his generosity.

Like all teams, we are supported by a diverse and versatile staff, and we would like to acknowledge the work of Associate Managing Editors Aiko Takeuchi-Demirci, Brendan Shanahan, and Selina Lai-Henderson—as well as of our copy editors. This issue's joint lead editors, Sabine Kim and Greg Robinson, have been heroic in bringing this massive issue to the finish line, a Herculean effort well-assisted by Stanford graduate students, Aku Ammah-Tagoe (English) and Jonathan Leal (Modern Thought and Literature). And, like all teams, we sometimes have to trade out players. This year, three depart with the completion of this issue: two Stanford graduate students, Corey Johnson (2015–2017) and Max Suechting (2016–2017), both in Modern Thought and Literature; as well as one of the longest-serving and most admired members of our team, Dr. Caroline Kyungah Hong, without whose enthusiasm for the project back in 2007 (in tandem with Dr. Eric Martinsen), we might never have had enough momentum to get into the game. Caroline's detailed work behind the scenes and her unflappable demeanor have made her our go-to person for nearly ten years. A Managing Editor extraordinaire, she will be greatly missed.

*JTAS* has grown more quickly than we had imagined it could. Our team, comprised of the Editorial Board, the Managing Editors, Associate Managing Editors, Editorial Assistants, Emeritus Editors, and Advisory Board Members, in addition to staff working on campuses and with our online technology, not to mention the many peer reviewers and countless readers, makes *JTAS* a rather large base of scholarly exchange for those working in Transnational American Studies. Our open-access interface will soon serve that community better, offering new features that make communication with our readers more effective, social media links more user-friendly, and access to articles more functional. As the new Editor-in-Chief, I would like to welcome you to *JTAS*. Thank you for being here!