

### **Letter From Chief Editor**

I am thrilled to present the second issue of the fifth volume of the *Undergraduate Historical Journal at UC Merced*. This issue is mostly comprised of articles that have been refined over the course of several months, alongside a few articles that have been dramatically refined over the 2018-2019 academic year. Both the authors and editorial board have combined their expertise to truly bring out the best version of each article.

This issue of the journal holds significantly more content than previous editions with a total of nine articles. These articles cover a wide range of historical topics from various regions of the world. The journal opens with articles by Sarah Lee and Omar González that utilized newspapers of the nineteenth century to examine topics in the US west. These are followed by articles examining California's irrigation history by Giovanni Menchaca and Anna Durbin. Summer Escobar and Sarah Shank remind readers of the horrors of slavery and its modern day impacts with their articles on chattel slavery in the US. T.R. Salsman takes readers to eastern Asia and demonstrates how assimilation operated under Mongol rule. Meghan Topolski examines early modern English law as she compares society's views on murder and infanticide. Ariana Soto-Zuniga closes this edition with a Renaissance art article detailing the true patron of the *Adoration of the Magi*.

The authors played an important and central role in seeing their articles to completion. However, my editorial board was essential in assisting authors polish their papers to their full potential. I am thankful for my editorial board which is comprised of the most talented scholars at UC Merced: Pooja Dimba, Giovanni Menchaca, Sarah Shank, Brandon Sor, Summer Escobar, Adrian Enwright, and Sarah Lee. Thank you for your contributions and for the majority of you graduating, I wish you good luck in your future endeavors. I would also like to thank Rocco Bowman, a graduate student in the Interdisciplinary Humanities program and founder of the journal, for his guidance in continuing the journal's successful run. Moreover, I want to thank Associate Professor Kevin Dawson for advising the journal. It has been an amazing opportunity leading the journal this academic year and am proud to present this edition of the journal for all audiences to enjoy.

Cheers,  
Omar González  
Chief Editor