

## THE EDITORS

### On Re-launching a Journal

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A new title, a new look, a new quarterly format—and, we hope, the best of the *HSPS* heritage: With this inaugural issue (Volume 38, Issue 1) the editorial team for *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* re-launches a journal with a history and profile unique in the discipline. Under the direction of Russell McCormmach and John Heilbron, *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences* gained a reputation for closely analyzed, historically grounded accounts of scientific ideas, institutions, and practices. The new editors of *HSNS* welcome the challenge to continue its excellence. At the same time, we open the door to a wider reach in the natural sciences and a broader methodological spectrum.

In this issue we offer four research articles and two book reviews, marking out some of the directions in which we seek to move. The articles are invited contributions from sharp-sighted historians—several prolific *HSPS* authors among them—who have agreed to inaugurate *HSNS* traditions by example. Their essays draw on the substantive attention to content that has distinguished the journal's best articles, while reflecting more broadly on political, societal, cultural, and historiographical issues. We are deeply indebted to John Krige, Evelyn Fox Keller, Robert E. Kohler, and Naomi Oreskes, Erik M. Conway, and Matthew Shindell for their contributions. We are equally pleased to present them to our readers. We do not intend that these commissions should circumscribe the journal's mandate. Rather, we have aimed to illustrate the diversity of topics and approaches, and their shared anchoring in argument and evidence, for which we hope to make a home in *HSNS*.

Broadening the journal's historic focus on the physical sciences and experimental biology, we want to bring our readers the full range of topics in the modern natural sciences. As well as studies based in scientific disciplines or institutional history, we welcome those centered on sociopolitical developments

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or cross-cutting intellectual concerns. Our temporal compass is the eighteenth century to the present. Although our inaugural articles are situated in Europe and North America, we explicitly encourage articles based outside this geography. We will also feature special issues organized by guest editors; we invite proposals to the editorial board.

This issue also presents our transformed book review section, here inaugurated with essays by Matthew Stanley and Charles C. Gillispie. Overseen by editors Angela N.H. Creager and Michael D. Gordin, the book review section will be guided by a new principle of selection. Other journals in our field already fill the need for maximal coverage, reviewing as many worthy books as they are able. Instead we have decided to offer depth, nuance, and comparison. We will give our reviewers and readers the space to reflect on specific works of scholarship and recent trends in their fields, in, for example, historiographical review essays, exploring the state of a subfield and the variety of approaches deployed in it, and in-depth reviews of single, particularly interesting books. Further, we are intent on including more studies published in languages other than English, giving detailed discussions of methodology and approach to serve a reading community that still communicates mainly in English.

For this inaugural issue, the research articles and book reviews convey much of our intent for the journal. These are visible changes, going hand-in-hand with the new *HSNS* layout and quarterly publication. At the same time, a final transformation has been underway behind the scenes, one that equally reflects our ambition for the journal. *HSNS* is headed by a five-person editorial board who take collective responsibility for all articles. The editorial board is backed by about a dozen associate editors, who play an active role unusual in the field. Our associate editors secure peer reviews and, in dialogue with the editorial board, formulate recommendations for acceptance, revision, or rejection. They stand behind their reports with their names, as we encourage *HSNS* reviewers to do as well. To prospective authors we hope to offer a collective reviewing process that is prompt, fair, and transparent; we also intend to carry forward another *HSPS* legacy by working with them to ensure that their articles are well-written.

Old standards, new mechanisms: a mix of continuity and change. The journal will continue to be published by the Journals + Digital Publishing Division of the University of California Press. We are profoundly grateful to the Press for supporting the re-launch in every way. Aside from the new book review office in Princeton, the rest of the journal's business will continue to be coordinated

in Berkeley. The calm, able presence of Managing Editor Diana Wear in the Office for History of Science and Technology has made it possible to conceive this transition and carry it out.

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