

## Letter From the Editors

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*It is with great pleasure* that I present the inaugural issue of *Directions in Cultural History*, which is the twenty-first volume of the *UCLA Historical Journal*. This is a re-envisioning of the mission for the annual publication of the UCLA graduate studies in history. The articles, notes and book reviews in this issue of *Directions* represent the some of the many avenues of historical investigations of culture that have opened up in recent years. The interview with Professor Symcox upon his retirement from active participation in the History department is a celebration of a scholar who has graced faculty and students alike with his humor, intelligence, and sound historical practice for more than forty years. Christopher Bates combines extensive archival work with contemporary history in an intriguing study of the modern cultural politics of the Civil War. Sameer Shah explores the question of what happens when great scientists get it wrong in his presentation of Julian Schwinger's contributions to particle physics and cold fusion. In our notes section, Dorothy Barescott and Babacar M'Baye's essays form a conversation about cultural identity at the interstices of nationalism, race, and practices of knowledge. Our book reviewers have parsed some of the recent works in many disciplines of the field.

I would like to thank Megan Barnhart for her help as the Managing Editor, and Courtney Spikes for her great warmth and know-how. I cannot forget to mention Teo Ruiz for his enthusiasm for our project, Ned Alpers for his continuing support as the department chair, as well as all of the faculty who have supported us in too many ways to count. We are lucky to have the financial support of the Graduate Student Association. Finally I must thank C., who asked not to be thanked, but without whose help this journal quite literally would not have seen the light of day.

*Kimberly Garmoe*  
*Editor-in-Chief*