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Note from the Editor-in-Chief

NINA MORGAN

Starting in 2019, *JTAS* will be publishing issues semi-annually, thus doubling our production! The *JTAS* team will also welcome, in Spring 2019, the publication of a new book, the *Routledge Companion to Transnational American Studies*, which features essays by most of our editorial team and many of our colleagues from around the world. We are thrilled and delighted!

The *Companion* collection of over thirty essays is the brainchild of Routledge Senior Editor Polly Dodson—and we are deeply grateful for her shared commitment to Transnational American Studies and for her faith in us. The volume provides readers with a history of the concept of the transnational and develops new ways for Americanists to read events, images, sound, literature, identity, film, politics, and performance as well as opens the door to experimental and forward-leaning approaches to the field.

We can say wholeheartedly that we are looking forward to new challenges and growth in 2019. We are also looking forward to working closely with our new *Special Forum* editor, Professor of American Studies Erika Doss (Notre Dame), who steps into Dr. Brian Goodman's long-held role at *JTAS*. Now a new and proud father, Brian stayed on for this last issue to see the “Disrupting Globalization” *Special Forum* through to completion. Having worked with us for many years, Brian will be much missed! After nearly ten years, Greg Robinson is stepping down from his work on the *Forward* section but will remain on the Editorial Board as a voting member. A tireless contributor to many editorial tasks, Greg will no doubt be at the ready to assist our new *Forward* Editor, the FWF Lise Meitner Postdoctoral Fellow in American Studies at the University of Graz, Austria, Dr. Jennifer Reimer. We are thrilled to have the names of these two scholars, Dr. Erika Doss and Dr. Jennifer Reimer, on the *JTAS* masthead.

The current issue, 9.1, is the result of the tireless effort of many writers, researchers, editors, contributors, and consultants. I would first like to highlight the commitment of our managing editor, Dr. Sabine Kim, without whom we would not have much to celebrate (or read!). Managing the multiple people and processes involved in peer review, copyediting, and producing this journal is a tremendous task and one that seems to last all year; Sabine Kim manages to do this work with grace and

ready laughter. Her associate managing editors, Dr. Aiko Takeuchi-Demirci, Dr. Selina Lai-Henderson, Jonathan Leal, and Brendan Shanahan have tackled very challenging deadlines as well as difficult delays in addition to handling the work central to their own careers and research. We are all grateful to them for the care with which they have taken on such detailed work. Sometimes, assistants will help particular editors, one on one. In Greg's case, this last issue was made easier by editorial assistant, Miguel Isaias Samano, a Stanford undergraduate. As associate managing editors Jonathan Leal and Brendan Shanahan return to their research, we will be joined by Stanford graduate student Juliana Nalerio. Books must be written, after all, and we hope as promising scholars like Jonathan Leal and Brendan Shanahan dip in and out of working with *JTAS* that we will continue to share in their work and perhaps find it in our future issues!

The *Special Forum* section—in this issue, guest edited by Begoña Simal González and José Liste-Noya—is an increasingly important part of *JTAS*. Readers find these curated collections with their own introductions to be fresh, timely, and especially useful for adding to syllabi. As we look forward, we will also be seeing more from this section of the journal. Please see the sidebar of our *JTAS* page for future Special Forums or contact Erika Doss if you have a proposal in mind. Upcoming in this section: “Archipelagoes, Oceans, and American Visuality” to be guest edited by Mary Eyring, Brian Russell Roberts, Hester Blum, Iping Liang, Fidalis Buehler, and artist Mike Calway-Fagen; and “Transnational American Studies within the Post-Arab Spring Context” by guest editor Eid Mohamed.

Our editorial process includes not only sending out submissions for external peer review, but the Editorial Board votes as well as comments extensively on essays *JTAS* will publish. In most cases, helping scholars focus on the best parts of their research is a process that strengthens and deepens our understanding of this field. Alfred Hornung, Kevin Gaines, Hsuan Hsu, Greg Robinson, Takayuki Tatsumi, Shelley Fisher Fishkin and I look forward to your submissions. Of course, nothing moves through the process without our peer reviewers, who prepare the most impressive and comprehensive commentaries writers could ask for. This work is rarely seen yet it is central to the scholarly mission. We are very grateful to these friends of *JTAS*.

Finally, Dear Readers, thank you for being here. We know from our statistics and data that you comprise tens of thousands of people around the world. You are our transnational community, and we welcome you to our pages!