

Editor's Note

As we publish JSHC's third issue, we also grapple with the increased attack on the humanities and social sciences all over the world. From fund cuts to interdisciplinary schools and gender and women's studies research centers, gradual shrinking of research budgets and curbing of dialogue in the already surveilled academic spaces, increasing contractual employment in the academia and a frontal attack on the autonomy of institutions, the past few years have been a period of crises. Standing at this critical juncture in history, JSHC's third issue brings together papers from emerging scholars on narratives and pedagogy post the Great War, afterimage in historical notion, ideas on notions of 'wasteland' and 'discovery', propaganda during the Second World War to micro studies on bureaucracy in Cameron. The papers in this volume were carefully chosen not only for their fit with the concept note, but also how they could be part of a larger conversation on issues of identity, historical imagination and governance.

Professor Romila Thapar's interview sheds light on issues of citizenship, identity and imaginative histories. Not only does it help connect with our theme, but also with the other papers which are a part of this issue. Many of her answers are reflective of decades spent reflecting on the historian's craft and contemporaneous issues which are unavoidable for a public intellectual in today's day and age.

2018 was also the year when the bicentenary of Karl Marx's birth was celebrated all over the world including the advanced capitalist countries of the global north. And it is precisely in these societies that popular movements not only challenged a deep-seated power structure, but this period also saw newer solidarities being forged between academia and the working class. We posed these questions to Professor Terry Eagleton and asked him to make sense of all this for us.

Counterfactual or imaginative histories have often been used in service of repressive state apparatus and the emergence of reenergized fundamentalist formations globally. We sincerely hope that our readers would appreciate our efforts to unpack the memorialization around important events, and explore the afterlife of narratives around

these events, that continue to evolve throughout the extraordinary journey of human history.