

INTRODUCTION

The inspiration for this issue of the Humboldt Journal of Social Relations came from work on research projects in the Spring of 2019, and the realization that forty years had passed since the 1979 publication of *When Our Worlds Cried: Genocide in Northwestern California* by Jack Norton. This seminal work was the first to focus in on a regional study of genocide in California and to employ the use of the 1948 United Nations Convention of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to analyze the atrocities experienced by Indigenous people in Northwestern California. At a time not as safe as now to remind the state of its crimes, Norton laid a foundation for future research by historians, sociologists, anthropologists, linguists, and Native American studies scholars to develop a body of work focused on the Indigenous viewpoint that reinterrogated the history of settlement, development of the state and the resulting societal divides.

In this issue established, emerging and aspiring scholars have come together to interrogate a history and society that laid the groundwork for societal divisions which have given rise to the local, regional and national protests, actions and conversations on racial and social justice that are taking place at time of this writing. The work of each of the authors represented here could stand on its own. When combined with the perspectives and understanding presented in the companion articles a composite of the approaches to the state of Genocide and Native American Studies in the context of the California emerges. What is presented within these pages should be regarded as a snapshot in time of the thinking and scholarly approaches to be expanded upon to build a comprehensive literature of what took place in the state at the regional and tribal level.

The scope of methods, topics and use of the definition of genocide in this issue encompass the theoretical and practical application in the humanities and social sciences. Together, the editorial team decided to provide the opportunity for students at Humboldt State University to submit articles on the topic. These articles represent a new generation of aspiring scholars in the fields of Genocide and Native American Studies. Our goal was to demonstrate that the scholarship in this subject area has room for growth, new approaches to interrogation, and can serve as inspiration for those who are in the early stages of their academic careers.

Jack Norton examines the history of California, the intended destruction and decimation of native cultures, and the lasting legacy of contact on aboriginal lifeways and tradition, as well as the recent resurgence of native traditions and culture is addressed to suggest that the health and healing of native communities lies in reconciling the past to make passage into the future. Kaitlin Reed interrogates the recent attention on the California Indian

genocide to understand the interconnections between settler colonialism, genocide and ecocide, focusing on land dispossession and environmental destruction and what that means for California Indians today.

Vanessa Esquivido and Brittani Orona examine the complicated history of tribes in California and their fight for the repatriation of their ancestors and cultural items from universities and Anthropology departments through application of the Native American Graves Protection, Repatriation Act and California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and the United Nation Declaration of Rights for Indigenous Peoples. Charles Flowerday and Robert Hitchcock focus on Ishi as representation of sentimental folk reductionism and how his life can be employed as a teaching tool for the California Indian Genocide. Gavin Rawley, a 2019 Charles R. Barnum History Award winner at Humboldt State University, exams the current state of the debate of historians and the American public over whether or not the crimes that have been committed against Native Americans in the United States constitute genocide through an analysis of Humboldt County, California.

Joshua Overington provides an account of his personal experience researching the lasting effects of the 1860 Indian Island Massacre, the way the story is told and the reparations are being made today. Elizabeth McClure presents a detailed analysis of Lucy Thompson (Yurok) whose 1916 book *To the American Indian: Reminiscences of a Yurok Woman* served as way to preserve her people's stories, bring attention to the violence towards indigenous Californians and to promote the continued stewardship of the Klamath River.

With the start of the academic year in the Fall of 2019, there was a clear road map for the editing and production of this volume. That well thought out and comprehensive plan quickly morphed into a fluid management of events beyond the control of the editorial team. Located in extreme northern California, Humboldt State University and many of the authors were impacted by two Public Safety Power Shutoffs that taxed laptop and mobile batteries to meet deadlines that were inevitably extended. Spring 2020 was going to be smoother, production and editorial deadlines were going to be met for a May publication date. Good intentions and planning quickly gave way to moving to a totally virtual production process, at the same time as moving classes online and the reality that COVID-19 would change our day-to-day normal. The authors and editorial team held strong, making the best of the situation and adjusting to the constant flux in circumstances that accompany a pandemic. With perseverance, a healthy sense of humor, understanding, and teamwork, the journal came together.