

A Thank You From the Conference Organizers

Dear Readers,

This journal issue commemorates the “Conflict and Culture” Conference held at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign last November. Included in this issue are three papers submitted for additional consideration for our journal after the conclusion of the conference.

The conference, the first of its kind on campus since the 1970s, was developed by undergraduate students within the Department of History, many of whom were also a part of the department’s associated student organizations, the Undergraduate History Journal at Illinois (UHJI), the Epsilon Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (PAT), and the Society of Minority Students in History (SMSIH). We are incredibly grateful to have had these organizations’ support.

After seeing a lack of Illinois Regional Conferences planned for fall 2024 on the website of the national PAT organization, we began our work that March soliciting papers and sponsorships alongside help from both students and University staff that would make things run smoothly. Our supporting cast included eighteen student volunteers, twelve academic unit sponsors, the University’s Conference and Event Services team, as well as the Illini Union’s facilities and catering staff. Their help was vital to the success of our undergraduate-run conference.

The “Conflict and Culture” Conference could not have been such a success without its speakers. Following a submissions process in the early fall, we selected twenty-one authors to become panelists, participating in seven ninety-minute panels that took place over a day and a half. It was additionally remarkable that almost half of these speakers were from other universities, showcasing how this conference allowed for a truly wide range of historical research to be shared and discussed at the conference. While we cannot list all of our featured speakers or share all of their work in one journal issue, readers can follow this [link](#) to the conference’s webpage for more information.

We were delighted by our attendance numbers that exceeded expectations, and included other regional PAT chapters who participated. This enabled us to produce lively discussions during each and every panel. We are hopeful that future conferences will see just as much, if not more, spirited discussions of historical research.

We appreciate being able to print these articles in the journal as well as having the chance to recognize the work that so many people put into this conference.

Thank you,

Will Doty and Justin Wytmar

The “Conflict and Culture” Conference Organizing Committee