

## Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the first issue of *History of Women in the Americas*, dedicated to the analysis and investigation of the history of women within the Americas and between the hemisphere and other parts of the world. *History of Women in the Americas'* mission, as with that of the Society for the History of Women in the Americas (SHAW), its parent organisation, is to offer a forum for national and transnational history that explores women's pasts from a variety of perspectives. We particularly welcome interdisciplinary, transnational and intersectional contributions that further our understanding of women's lives and roles and how these came to be constructed. We also actively solicit articles on women and gender roles in a single area, region or nation within the American hemisphere. Produced in cooperation with the SAS Open Journals Scheme operated by the School of Advanced Studies, University of London, *History of Women in the Americas* is a peer-reviewed, open-access electronic journal.

Its parent organisation, the Society for the History of Women in the Americas (SHAW), is a scholarly association dedicated to the historical investigation of women and gender in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean, either within or between areas, nation states and the rest of the world. It had its origins in the Centre for American, Trans-Atlantic, and Caribbean History at Brunel University. Founded by Professor Jay Kleinberg in 2008, the society was originally called British Historians of Women in the Americas (BHWAs) but was renamed in 2011 to reflect the level of international interest and involvement. Its annual conference, History of Women in the Americas, and its seminar series, 'Gender and History in the Americas' at the Institute for Historical Research, University of London, provide an arena where researchers from a range of disciplines and national perspectives can come together. They also offer a focal point where hemispheric gender concerns can coalesce and develop further.

As editor I would like to thank all the people and institutions who have made the launch of *History of Women in the Americas* possible. Brunel University's Centre for American and Trans-Atlantic History sponsored the initial conferences on women in the America, which I co-organised with Inge Dornan. Rachel Ritchie, the journal's Associate Editor, has toiled ceaselessly to get it established. The Editorial Committee and Advisory Board have provided academic expertise on the history of women's lives and roles across the Americas and between the Americas and oversight in the selection of articles. Peter Webster gave valuable expertise and support in setting up the journal on the SAS open-access platform.

Jay Kleinberg

26 April 2013