

Reading the Archive: Beginning of a Journey

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It is with great enthusiasm that we present the inaugural issue of *Reading the Archive*, a journal dedicated to platforming graduate research in history. As young scholars learn in their classrooms, history writing involves a dynamic engagement with sources, methodologies and interpretations. However, in the new digital age, the meaning of the archive itself is being reframed, with historians challenging and redefining the given understanding of the archive. In recent decades, a wide range of sources have become available to historians. These range from the standard colonial and post-colonial state records, personal diaries and memoirs, personal collections, private institutional collections, oral testimonies, visual materials and objects—significantly broadening the scope of what constitutes an "archive". These sources allow historians to shift from dominant to alternative narratives and recover hitherto neglected and marginalised voices.

Reading the Archive seeks to provide a space for rigorous, original research by graduate scholars who, on the one hand, utilise newer or understudied archival materials, or reinterpret already well-known sources. In platforming such research, we hope to contribute to creating an inclusive and pluralistic space that engages with the fragmentary nature of the archives while foregrounding the possibilities they hold. The journal recognises the unique position that graduate researchers hold. While they are often the first to discover ignored and untapped archives, they struggle to find platforms for publication. *Reading the Archives* seeks to address this gap by providing a dedicated platform for emerging historians to share their research with the broader academic community.

The contributions in this inaugural issue reflect the diversity of graduate research today. The publications are trans-temporal and interdisciplinary. The journal seeks to incorporate genres like academic research, photo articles, book and film reviews, commentaries and interviews—each bringing fresh

perspectives for our readers. This journal would not have been possible without the support of numerous partners who believed in this idea. We are grateful to Professor Salil Misra, Guest Editor for the inaugural issue, for constantly guiding the journal through its maiden issue. We extend our deepest gratitude to the editorial board, student editors and peer reviewers, whose generosity with time and expertise made the issue possible. Finally, our sincere thanks to our contributors, without whose scholarship the journal would not exist.

As *Reading the Archive* embarks on its journey, we hope to see it emerge as a collaborative space that pushes the boundaries of research, raises methodological questions and bridges disciplinary divides. Future issues will continue to expand on the frameworks created in the inaugural issue, with continuous questioning of archival boundaries. This is likely to be an exciting and evolving journey. We invite you to join us in this endeavour, as we explore the past with an eye toward the future.