

EDITORIAL

The establishment of a new journal devoted to the philosophy and theory of history marks the creation of a scholarly space for questions that resist classification within either purely theoretical philosophy or strictly empirical historiography. Within this space, history is not approached merely as the representation of what has been, nor philosophy as an abstract and self-contained intellectual endeavor. Rather, it is conceived as a site of collaborative reflection on historical meaning and temporality, as well as on catastrophe, memory, hope, political language, subjectivity, and related problematics that emerge at the intersection of philosophical inquiry and historical experience.

Yet the founding of a journal is not only the creation of an academic platform; it is also the assumption of responsibility. This responsibility concerns decisions about which questions are worth posing, the languages in which they are articulated, and the scholarly ethos offered to the reader. Editorial responsibility entails a resistance to transient academic fashions as well as to ideologically convenient solutions, and affirms a commitment to the view that theoretical work constitutes a mode of engaging with history rather than a means of withdrawing from it.

Against this background, it is legitimate to ask whether the establishment of yet another journal is warranted in a scholarly landscape already populated by respected periodicals in the philosophy of history, the history of concepts, and theoretical historiography. Our response is unequivocal: such a need does indeed exist. First, many existing journals remain embedded within established theoretical traditions and, often, albeit unintentionally, reproduce Eurocentric or methodologically canonical languages. *Historia: Philosophy & Theory* seeks to open a space for experiences, historical temporalities, and intellectual problematics emerging from so-called “peripheries,” from fractures and margins, and from non-central histories – without reducing them to local particularities, but recognizing their universal theoretical relevance.

Second, our historical moment is shaped not only by ongoing struggles over the interpretation of the past, but also by an increasingly pervasive experience of the loss, suspension, or opacity of the future. Catastrophe, genocide, war, and the politics of memory have ceased to function merely as objects of historical inquiry; they have become key modalities through which the structure of time itself is apprehended. Under these conditions, there is a need for a journal that approaches historical theory as a critical engagement with the present and as a reflective practice oriented toward thinking possible futures. In this sense, *Historia: Philosophy & Theory* does not claim to fill a void

conceived as a mere absence; rather, it responds to a tension already inscribed within contemporary historical consciousness.

This process is grounded in a specific institutional and intellectual experience. The activities of the *Laboratory for Philosophy and Theory of History*, founded in 2023 at Yerevan State University together in collaboration with Kalle Pihlainen, progressively revealed not only a sustained research interest, but also the emergence of a stable and expanding field of discussion that exceeded the limits of seminars, lectures, and locally circumscribed projects. Within the framework of the Laboratory, questions were articulated that called for a broader audience, international dialogue, and a theoretically rigorous format of publication.

An important milestone in this process was the organization of the Laboratory's first international conference, *State-Sponsored Histories and Historiographic Authority*. The conference brought together scholars working in the philosophy and theory of history from different countries to examine the institutional conditions of historical knowledge, the relationship between state power and historiography, and the mechanisms through which historiographic authority is produced. The majority of the articles included in the present issue are revised and theoretically elaborated versions of papers originally presented at this conference, allowing the productive tension of a live intellectual exchange to be preserved and transformed into durable scholarly texts.

Ultimately, this journal is founded on the conviction that history is a field of resistance: resistance not only to narratives imposed by power, but also to the uncertainty of the present when it becomes naturalized and unquestioned. Under conditions of geopolitical instability and accelerated change, historical thinking functions as a mode of resistance to the pressure of time itself: it exposes the contingency and fragility of the present and safeguards the possibility of critical reflection. To think historically is to resist the pressure of an imposed present, to disclose its contingency and fragility, and to insist on the continuing possibility of critical judgment. This journal affirms historical theory as a form of intellectual responsibility – one that refuses closure, resists inevitability, and keeps open the horizon of thought.

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