

## Editor's Note

This issue begins our third year of publication. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our readers for their support.

The success of this journal in its first two years of publication bodes well for the future. The journal was inaugurated with the expectation of encouraging interdisciplinary discourse and shaping the field of policy history. In this regard, the *Journal of Policy History* has met our highest expectations. Since we announced the journal we have received well over two hundred manuscript submissions. Moreover, our subscriptions have continued to grow. There are several hundred subscribers—remarkable for a young journal given that we are not supported by a professional association.

The most exciting aspect of the journal has been its contribution to shaping the field of policy history. From the outset the editors believed that policy history should be broadly defined. Therefore, issues have included essays that explored specific events in the history of public policy. This approach offers lessons to both historians and other students of the past, while informing those concerned with contemporary issues how the past has shaped the present. Still, the founders of the journal envisioned policy history as something more than a didactic subfield of history. Indeed, we welcomed broadly conceived essays that discussed and analyzed historic shifts in policy over time. In this way we endeavored to show that policy history is more than an academic subfield. By showing how societies made decisions concerning the allocation of resources—in effect, how the general interest was defined—policy history aspires to offer larger insights into how polities are governed and how societies are transformed in history.

This year we initiated a *special issue* series in which particular topics and themes in policy history are explored—beginning with “Drug Control Policy,” edited by William Walker. Future topics will include “Immigration/Refugee Policy,” edited by Gil Loescher, “Urban Policy,”

edited by Martin Melosi, and “Civil Rights Policy,” with the editor to be designated later. We welcome suggestions from our readers for other topics that will be of interest to them. Also, we encourage our readers to suggest possible themes for review essays and forums.

We welcome all comments and suggestions concerning the journal. We look toward further improvement in the future with your continued support.