

## Editorial

*The Asian Review of World Histories* is the official journal of the Asian Association of World Historians. It will provide a forum for scholars on world historical studies in or for the Asian region, including the Pacific and West Asia. Taking the historiographical imbalances in world history seriously, the journal encourages all scholars in and for the Asian region to submit their works, focusing on global changes, especially relating to Asian events, interests, perspectives, ideals, and visions. Needless to say, the changes are not necessarily limited to Asia since all histories are connected around the world. Thus, the journal welcomes contributions from Africa, America, and Europe as well as from the Asian region.

The scholarship of history as well as world history has been dominated by Eurocentric perspectives since the dawn of the modern age. “Western” history has often been regarded as universal, while non-European histories have often been dismissed as being particular to non-European regions. The problem of Eurocentrism is not confined to historical scholarship from the “West.” It is deeply built into the very language of the academic and even social professions, and the way the professions were organized in Asia as well as in other parts of the world. The dichotomies and grand narratives of “the West and the rest,” however, have turned out to be inadequate and flawed in historical studies as well as in other fields. As the globalization of the world progresses and the importance of the Asian region in world economy and politics increases, Asian perspectives have attracted many historians even in Europe and America. Attempts by some pioneers to grasp

world history from an out-of-the globe perspective have persuaded many historians to rescue “the people without history” who have too often been forgotten and ignored even in academic works. World histories constructed by Asian scholars with Asian perspectives are already appearing, and the journal is committed to be an organ to highlighting and promoting such work. Besides, many outstanding and provocative papers and themes on world history have already been presented at the two congresses of the Asian Association of World Historians in 2009 at Osaka and in 2012 at Seoul. Encouraged by recent developments in world and global history throughout the world, we proudly put the word, “Asian,” in the title of our journal.

The journal seeks to redress the historiographical inequities of past scholarship, and contribute to more balanced and satisfactory world historical studies. But the journal will not claim that the historical scholarship published here offers another universal model for everyone. As a narrative, history cannot be written without a perspective or a center. In fact, it may not possible to avoid centrism in writing history. Besides, despite continuous endeavors to deconstruct Eurocentrism, the underpinnings of Eurocentrism are deeply rooted even in Asian societies. No one can say that a perspective from Asia will simply sweep away Eurocentrism. Thus, the histories presented and debated in the journal will necessarily represent their authors’ perspectives, preconceptions, and historical backgrounds in complex ways. The journal is not a pulpit, but a forum for the discussion of Asian perspectives on world history as well as perspectives from other parts of the world. Regardless of where they hail from, all historians of the world should be collaborators in understanding world history by sharing their interpretations, methodologies, perspectives, ideas and hopes. This is one of reason why the term “world histories” was selected after much thought for the title of our journal. This is also why the journal welcomes diverse points of view and rigorous peer-review.

Devoted to the examination of diverse historical problems concerned with changes over time, the journal invites participation from those identifying themselves as ‘global,’ ‘world,’

‘transregional,’ ‘comparative,’ ‘international,’ and ‘big’ historians, and all others who share an interest in ‘connected’ studies of the past. The journal welcomes all scholarly articles attempting to understand historical forces transcending the traditional viewpoints of nation states, as well as reviews dealing with recent literature on the connected pasts of the world as a whole. The journal’s histories are not confined to the history of humanity, but open to discussions of any historical events and agents. The journal seeks to transcend boundaries, borders and dichotomies, to be a forum for interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary conversations across a wide variety of social and natural sciences and for the collaboration of historians with scholars in adjoining disciplines, including global historical scholars in all parts of the world.

Ji-Hyung CHO  
President, AAWH  
On the behalf of the Editorial Board