

Notes from the Editors

We, the editorial team, are delighted to present *Our Shared Planet: The Environment Issue* Volume 60:3/4. Our special issues often come from proposals by potential guest editors. This theme, however, came to us from our Editorial Board at our 2017 meeting at ASA in Chicago. We put out a call for proposals for an issue on the environment entitled "Our Shared Planet," and received two extraordinary submissions, conceived very differently, from two sets of guest editors. When we brought these to the 2019 meeting in Hawaii, we knew it would be a difficult choice. What we didn't anticipate is that the Editorial Board would accept both! Thus, the double-album! Not two sides, A and B, but a double issue with two curated pathways and conversations, with echoes between, to be explored in tandem.

The environment is a global issue, experienced locally, if unevenly. For many, the local effects have become increasingly intense. For the editorial team in Lawrence, Kansas, we feel those local effects as our region faces perilous ecological challenges around water usage and agriculture. The Ogallala Aquifer that underlies Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska is quickly drying up, threatening to make the region that *AMSJ* publishes from a desert. Our regional ecological crisis forced us to think about Climate Change and the realities of desertification in our immediate future. It called for us to respond as an interdisciplinary humanities journal. How might we contribute to the refashioning of our environmental narratives that guide many of cultural, economic and political policy choices?

Our editorial team has put a great deal of intellectual energy into this publication alongside the guest editors. We are especially pleased that these two volumes are so timely and representative in terms of scholarly topics and scholars from across North America and Europe. We could not be more delighted.

Sherrie Tucker and Randal Maurice Jelks

