

Introduction

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Welcome to Volume 25, No. 4 of *Enterprise & Society*. By tradition, this issue carries the presidential address delivered at the annual meeting of the Business History Conference. Sharon Murphy delivered a compelling talk on the topic “Doing Business in the Public Interest,” intermixing sharp reflections with personal family history. We are delighted to present Sharon’s fine essay here. Also, by tradition, this issue carries summaries of the dissertations shortlisted for the Krooss Prize at the annual meeting in the spring. This year four finalists presented their work to the conference. The four finalists were Manuel Bautista-González, Liane Hewitt, Jordan Howell, and Ellen Nye. This year’s winner of the Herman E. Krooss Prize for Best Dissertation in Business History was Ellen Nye. Unfortunately, personal circumstances have prevented Dr. Bautista-González from completing his summary in time for this issue, but we look forward to publishing his contribution as soon as possible.

Alongside these regular features, this issue carries no fewer than twelve full research articles! This veritable cornucopia of work takes you from South Africa to Denmark; from Egypt to China; and from the Americas (North and South) to India, Sweden, Norway, and Wales. It also ranges across centuries and themes, taking in corporate networks, colonial real estate markets, state-owned enterprises, knowledge management, corporate futurism, neoliberalism in schools, hipster marketing, regional industrial policy, labor politics, and much more. It will be hard to know just where to begin!

As ever, as the year ends, I wish to express my gratitude to the many people who make this endeavour possible. Not least among them are Associate Editors Shane Hamilton, Ai Hisano, Andrea Lluch, and Sharon Murphy; Associate Editor for Reviews Alex Beasley; and the wider Editorial Board. My deepest debt is always to Carol Lockman of the Hagley Museum and Library for editorial assistance. I am deeply appreciative to Adam Albright, also of the Hagley Museum and Library, for his fabulous cover designs. Likewise, I could not do without the unerring support of Roger Horowitz and Vicki Howard as Business History Conference Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. I also wish to acknowledge the work of the Print Media Oversight Committee, which has this year comprised Victoria Barnes, Xaq Frohlich, and Marc Levinson (current chair). I remain deeply appreciative of the colleagues we work with at

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