

## Concluding the “Historical Futures” project in *History and Theory*

Zoltán Boldizsár Simon and Marek Tamm, in cooperation with the journal *History and Theory*, initiated a new collective research and editorial project in January 2021. This project was dedicated to mapping the new modalities of historical futures to develop an understanding of our current historical predicament that transcends disciplinary and methodological boundaries. The plan was for each issue of the journal (except for its December theme issues) to feature project contributions on a rolling basis, akin to a television series format for scholarly publishing. At the start, they envisioned a running time of two years, with optional yearly renewals. Now, at the end of its fourth year, the project leaders have decided to conclude the collective endeavour in order to be able to provide a comprehensive overview of the project’s work and achievements. Simon and Tamm’s synthesis, in the shape of the closing essay of the series, will be published in the September issue of *History and Theory*, and is already available in open access ahead of print at the journal’s online platform: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/hith.12352>.

The authors of the “Historical Futures” contributions had full freedom in selecting the topic and format of their articles. They explored various modalities of historical futures as they appear across a wide range of societal practices and discourses (from the algorithmic governance of everyday lives to the anticipated futures of Earth System transformations and their sociopolitical underpinnings) and/or contributed to refining the theoretical framework of the whole endeavor.

To facilitate the collective work, Simon and Tamm provided initial conceptual input. In addition to defining the concept of “historical futures,” they argued that contemporary technoscientific and anthropocenic historical futures possess a new quality. To capture this new quality conceptually, they proposed the notion of “disconnective futures,” a term intended to describe a relationship between apprehended pasts and anticipated futures that was inconceivable to modernity.

In total, twelve articles were published in the series by scholars from various disciplines and across the globe, alongside the opening and closing pieces by the series’ editors. Exceeding initial expectations, the contributions demonstrated considerable thematic, disciplinary, methodological, and geographic diversity in their explorations of historical futures’ modalities. They examined a broad range of societal practices and discourses (ranging from speculative philosophies of history to AI, geology, literature, Zapatista experiences, Amerindian indigenous knowledges, and transhumanist aspirations to precision medicine) to trace historical futures. All project articles, most of them available as open access, are available on the website of *History and Theory*: <https://historyandtheory.org/historical-futures>.