

Front Matter

**FROM CRISIS TO CATASTROPHE...
SHARING THE WORK IN CHALLENGING TIMES**

THE SSJ EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

As we kick-off the 2025 edition of *Socialist Studies*, we have some crucial updates for readers. First, to better manage the workload of voluntary journal editing, we have formed the first Editorial Collective for the Journal. In times of precarious academic employment and increasing expectations for academic staff, sharing the work makes the most sense for our Journal. This approach allows us to stay true to our collective commitment to realizing socialist principles in the publication of a high quality and deeply needed scholarly voice that welcomes and celebrates critical approaches. The Society for Socialist Studies supports the Journal through membership fees as an open access journal with no publication costs passed on to authors. We continue to have a strong circulation base and articles have high download rates. In other words, we continue to be seen as a valuable resource and a sound place for academic publication. As a Collective, we honour our past and intend to grow our reach and reputation.

As a Collective, we are determined to refresh the Journal and achieve more regular publications. A key part to this is to build an active and engaged Editorial Board to support timely reviews by adding “many hands to lighten the load”. If you are interested in learning more about the Editorial Board, please email editorsocialiststudies@gmail.com. The Editorial Collective members are: Bill Carroll, Mara Fridell, Veldon Coburn, Mel Wilk, Paul Kellog, and Sandra Rein.

We are thrilled to begin our 2025 publication with a critical essay by James Cairns. Timely in its content, Dr. Cairns asks us to engage the “worse is better thesis” to rethink how we engage this current moment when authoritarian populism dominates our politics and limits the ways in which we might imagine a better society.

The Socialist Studies Editorial Collective