

BOSTON REVIEW

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY FORUM
INDEPENDENT AND NONPROFIT SINCE 1975

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Dear Reader,

I write to you following a period of record growth at *Boston Review*. During the peak years of the COVID-19 pandemic, *Boston Review's* readership increased by 25 percent. We attribute it to the fact that, during a time of global turmoil, our tiny team of three full-time editors burned the midnight oil to provide exactly the kind of response that *Boston Review* is known for: big-picture, deeply expert, self-aware, of the moment but never a hot take. In a moment when the mainstream media was often little more than a klaxon, and hid critical news behind paywalls, *Boston Review* proved its value yet again—all while keeping our content free.

But being free to read doesn't mean free to produce. On the contrary, our expenses have only increased in recent years. We know yours have, too, which makes us even more grateful for your support. We know you agree that the work we publish is important, and that it matters for it to be available to everyone, regardless of whether they can pay. When you support us, you're also subsidizing a public benefit. Without our member readers, there would be no *Boston Review*.

Support from members and donors has never been more important or more needed. We have plotted the course for an ambitious 2023, during which we will launch several key new projects, including a membership self-service area, downloads of our entire print issue archive, and revised membership tiers with exciting new perks.

We thank you for continuing to support our democratic mission.

We couldn't do it without you.

Sincerely,



Rosie Gillies
Digital Director

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

“Publishing diverse voices that embrace debate and encourage impatience with convention, *Boston Review* is an indispensable pillar of the public sphere.”

ALONDRA NELSON

Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

“*Boston Review* offers some of the most penetrating and challenging cultural commentary, political discussion, and social analysis to be found anywhere in the United States. It is a must read.”

RANDALL KENNEDY

Professor, Harvard Law School

“I love *Boston Review* for being unfailingly smart, perceptive, and unexpected.”

ELIZABETH BRUENIG

The Atlantic

“In our swamp of media sensationalism and group-speak, *Boston Review* stands out as a bold voice for reason and argument, offering intelligence, integrity, and variety.”

MARTHA NUSSBAUM

Professor, University of Chicago

“*Boston Review* has essential high-quality political writing — insightful and provocative in the best sense. Things you will not get anywhere else.”

T. M. SCANLON

Professor Emeritus, Harvard University



“*Boston Review* sees around corners — it names the urgent challenges of our era ahead of others and brings together the brightest minds to debate them. I read the *Boston Review* in order to clarify my own thinking. It’s a tremendous resource in this time of chaos.”

DANIELLE ALLEN James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard University and Director of the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics

FROM THE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

At *Boston Review*, we publish out of a sense of hope, inspired by the conviction that collective reasoning and imagination can create a more just world. We offer deeply considered long-form essays and our signature forum on the urgent issues of our times. We are left-of-center and nonpartisan, independent and nonprofit.

Though our principles are fixed, our approach to publishing is not. As the publishing landscape has changed, we have regularly reinvented our format to reach as many readers as possible. In the mid-1990s we were one of the first magazines to put all our articles online—with no paywall—and also started publishing lots of books. In the 2000s we dropped our tabloid format in favor of a standard magazine format. In the 2010s we radically increased our online content and pulled back from magazines to bookazines. In 2016 we got rid of online advertising to exit the world of surveillance and started to build our current membership model.

The two of us have been doing this together for two decades, and we are proud of what we have accomplished. With our small editorial team, we have been able to publish an extraordinary collection of writers, many of them just starting out. We bring their creativity and thoughtfulness to many millions of general readers, to the students and teachers who read and teach our essays, and to journalists at the larger media outlets—from the *New York Times* and the *New Yorker* to NPR—that draw on our work.

Boston Review has been in business for forty-seven years, but we are still a nimble organization. Guided by firm principles and values, we create serious public discussion using whatever format the times call for.

We invite you to join the conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Deborah Chasman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Deborah Chasman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joshua Cohen". The signature is more stylized and abstract, with a prominent horizontal line and a large, looped "C" for the last name.

Joshua Cohen

BOSTON REVIEW CONTRIBUTORS HAVE INCLUDED:

SADIQ AL-AZM
KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH
RAE ARMANTROUT
JOHN ASHBERY
MARGARET ATWOOD
JOE BIDEN
ELIZABETH BISHOP
PIERRE BOURDIEU
JOSEPH BRODSKY
JUDITH BUTLER
ITALO CALVINO
JULIA CHILD
DON MEE CHOI
NOAM CHOMSKY
KIMBERLÉ CRENSHAW
EDWIDGE DANTICAT
ANGUS DEATON
DANIEL DENNETT
NATALIE DIAZ
SAMUEL R. DELANY
RITA DOVE
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AKBAR GANJI
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KEEANGA-YAMAHTTA TAYLOR
JOHN UPDIKE
PHILIPPE VAN PARIJS
OCEAN VUONG
BINYAVANGA WAINAINA
ELIZABETH WARREN
CORNEL WEST
HOWARD ZINN



WHY I SUPPORT *BOSTON REVIEW*

Robin D. G. Kelley

Boston Review is my favorite publication: every time its newsletter appears in my inbox, I stop what I'm doing to read. When it comes to publishing fresh and generative ideas, *Boston Review* has no peer.

It is not corporate, it is not trying to be hip, and it is not afraid of hard and hidden truths. No wonder so many eminent public intellectuals are flocking to its pages. Writing for *Boston Review* is a joy because I know that I will always be edited with rigor and care—a miracle in an age when editing has all but disappeared.

At *Boston Review* you can also trust that ideas are taken seriously—and that they will always be accessible for all. It is committed to keeping its website completely free. *Boston Review* deserves your support; they have earned it. ▲

RECENT FEATURES

CLASS AND INEQUALITY

- Portrait of the United States as a Developing Country
- What Silicon Valley Gets Wrong About Innovation
- Industrial Policy's Comeback
- Neoliberalism's Bailout Problem
- Thomas Piketty Takes on the Ideology of Inequality
- Taxing the Superrich

PHILOSOPHY

- The New Moral Mathematics
- Just Give Me My Equality
- In Search of Foucault's Last Words
- The Future of Political Philosophy
- The Unfinished Project of Enlightenment
- The Philosophy of Anger
- Alternative Hedonism

POLITICS

- NATO and the Road Not Taken
- Up from Federalism
- The Deep Structure of Democratic Crisis
- Why Do Authoritarians Win?
- Coronapolitics from the Reichstag to the Capitol
- The Violent Logic of Humanitarianism

RACE

- Abolition Democracy's Forgotten Founder
- The Fight for Reparations Cannot Ignore Climate Change
- Why Policing and Prisons Can't End Gender Violence
- Unlearning Our Settler Colonial Tongues
- The United States Is Not "A Nation of Immigrants"
- The War on Critical Race Theory

GENDER AND SEXUALITY

- *Roe* Is as Good as Dead. It Was Never Enough Anyway.
- Abortion Is Not a “Choice” Without Racial Justice
- What Will It Take to End Violence Against Native Women?
- How Capitalism Is Ruining Sex
- Domestic Labor Robs Women of Their Love
- Is There a Constitutional Right to Sex Work?

SCIENCE

- The Inflated Promise of Science Education
- Mental Illness Is Not in Your Head
- The Long-Term Safety Debate Over COVID-19 Vaccines
- Stop Building Bad AI
- Is Nuclear Power Our Best Bet Against Climate Change?
- How Americans Came to Distrust Science

LAW

- Life Sentences for Ahmaud Arbery’s Killers Are Nothing to Celebrate
- Three Paths for Labor After Amazon
- Make Progressive Politics Constitutional Again
- Twenty Years Later, Guantánamo Is Everywhere
- Probation Profiteering Is the New Debtors’ Prison
- Save the Equal Rights Amendment

ARTS IN SOCIETY

- **POETRY** from Kemi Alabi, Terrance Hayes, Ocean Vuong
- **SHORT STORIES** from Samuel R. Delany, Maria Dahvana Headley, Izumi Suzuki
- **ESSAYS:** Magritte’s Prophetic Surrealism • *West Side Story* and the Tragedy of Progressive Hollywood • Bringing Abolition to the Museum

SELECTED AWARDS

ON ANGER (WINTER 2020 ISSUE)

SELECTED BY THE *NEW YORKER* AS ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR

NUMEROUS PIECES HAVE BEEN CITED RECENTLY AS NOTABLE ESSAYS
IN *THE BEST AMERICAN ESSAYS*, INCLUDING:

“Walt Whitman’s Boys”
by Jeremy Lybarger (2020)

“Guns in the Family”
by Walter Johnson (2019)

“Saving Orwell”
by Peter Ross (2018)

“Pigs”
by Jesse Maceo Vega-Frey (2017)

“The Lure of Luxury”
by Paul Bloom (2016)

“The Logic of Effective Altruism”
by Peter Singer (2016)

“The Desire to Know”
by Steven Shapin (2016)

“Rethinking Privacy”
by William H. Simon (2015)

“Mortal Risks”
by Oded Na’aman (2015)

“Picking Pebbles”
by Deborah Stone (2014)

“On Being an Octopus”
by Peter Godfrey-Smith (2014)

“War Is Betrayal”
by Chris Hedges (2013)

“Apocalypse: What Disasters Reveal”
by Junot Díaz (2012)

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- **ESSAY “PLEASURE AND JUSTICE”** by Becca Rothfeld was a finalist for *Washington Monthly’s* Kukula Award for Nonfiction Writing (2022)
 - **ESSAY “TECHNOLOGY CAN’T FIX ALGORITHMIC INJUSTICE”** by Annette Zimmermann, Elena Di Rosa, and Hochan Kim wins The Hasting Center’s Award for an Early-Career Essay (2020)
 - **ESSAY “WHO SHOT VALERIE FINLEY?”** by Beth Schwartzapfel is named a runner-up for the John Jay/H. F. Guggenheim Prize for Excellence in Criminal Justice Reporting (2014)
 - **SHORT STORY “HITTING BUDAPEST”** by NoViolet Bulawayo wins the Caine Prize (2011)
 - **UTNE INDEPENDENT PRESS AWARD FOR BEST WRITING** (2010)
 - **ESSAY “A DEATH IN TEXAS”** by Tom Barry is named a finalist for the American Society of Magazine Editors (ASME) National Magazine Award for Public Interest (2010)

IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

Amy Moran-Thomas

MIT Professor Amy Moran-Thomas's August 2020 article on racial bias in pulse oximeters—a flagship essay from our Thinking in a Pandemic series—is one of our most-read essays of the past few years, with more than 125,000 readers. Moran-Thomas's reporting and analysis prompted a follow-up research study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* ("Racial Bias in Pulse Oximetry Measurement," December 17, 2020), coverage in the *New York Times* ("Pulse Oximeter Devices Have Higher Error Rate in Black Patients," December 22, 2020), and a letter of concern to the FDA from Senators Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker, and Ron Wyden (January 25, 2021).

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

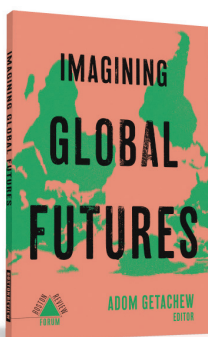
- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- The Carnegie Corporation of New York
- The Ford Foundation



“Boston Review is unique in the information space: a journal that publishes deep intellectual, literary, and cultural content that is accessible to a lay audience and offers the kind of real discussion and debate that opens minds.”

LARRY KRAMER President, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

THIS YEAR'S ISSUES

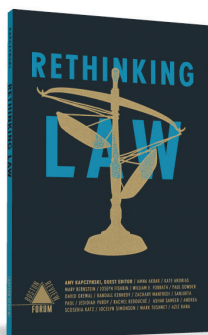
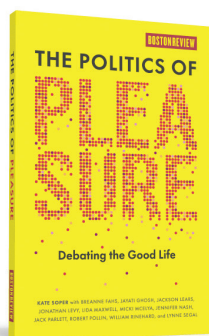


IMAGINING GLOBAL FUTURES [FALL 2022]

What does a just world look like? Drawing on the legacy of postcolonial struggles for liberation, this volume begins with a planet beset by accumulating crises and imagines how we can move beyond them.

THE POLITICS OF PLEASURE [SUMMER 2022]

How might we reimagine degrowth as a path to a better society? Philosophers, economists, gender theorists, and more debate the economic, social, and intimate aspects of the good life.

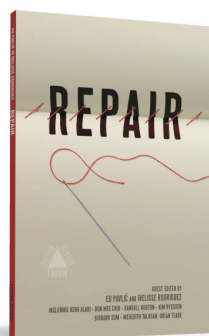


RETHINKING LAW [SPRING 2022]

Amidst the rolling back of *Roe* and other progressive achievements, it's time to reject the legal liberalism that attempts to cordon off constitutional questions from democratic politics.

REPAIR [WINTER 2022]

Years of pandemic and pyrrhic politics have left us with deep wounds, individually and collectively. In essays, memoir, poetry, fiction, and comic-strips, contributors explore what it might look like to repair.





THE CRITICAL ROLE OF *BOSTON REVIEW*'S IDEAS

Noam Chomsky and Robert Pollin

Boston Review plays a critically important role in getting ideas out in the world that can have a real impact in confronting the monumental challenges we face today. That includes the magazine's ongoing forum presenting a range of serious perspectives and debates on the climate crisis and prospects for a global Green New Deal. It also includes its series on neoliberalism, which has sharpened our understanding of this most malignant, contemporary variant of capitalism.

Boston Review also organizes extremely valuable public conversations, such as the recent event on Israel and Palestine. This program highlighted the work of the outstanding peace and social justice organization Standing Together, whose membership and leadership includes equal numbers of Jews and Palestinians.

Everything on *Boston Review*'s website and all its virtual events are completely free to everyone. Yet of course, it takes ongoing commitment and hard work by *Boston Review* staffers to consistently publish high-quality work that matters and to organize events that reach large international audiences. Thank you for your support in helping to sustain this outstanding publication. ▲

CURRENT SPECIAL PROJECTS

These ongoing series invite leading writers and thinkers to grapple with critical issues of public concern.

RETHINKING POLITICAL ECONOMY

After forty years of market fundamentalism, our world is in crisis. How do we build a new one? Essays debate new ways to think about protecting the planet, the relationship between equality and democracy, the need for racially inclusive prosperity, the promise of industrial policy, the dangers of concentrated economic power, and a revival of investment in public goods.

POWER OVER POLICING

The 2020 uprisings following the death of George Floyd prompted a national reckoning on race and policing. Historians, lawyers, activists, social scientists, and other contributors explore a range of potential solutions from criminal justice reform to full-out abolition, outlining ways to end mass incarceration and build community safety.

THINKING IN A PANDEMIC

From masks to models and from data to drugs, COVID-19 prompted a high-stakes dispute about ideas: which evidence counts, which arguments succeed, and which interventions matter. Leading physicians and epidemiologists, historians and social scientists, anthropologists and philosophers explore this meeting of science and society head on.

UPCOMING SPECIAL PROJECTS

RECLAIMING FREEDOM

After decades of right-wing appropriation, the idea of freedom as a core political value has largely disappeared from progressive discourse and organizing. In partnership with Harvard University's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, this project explores why freedom remains an essential component of any vision for a just society. Featuring philosophers, historians, sociologists, and political scientists in dialogue with movement leaders and elected officials, the series ranges widely over theory and practice.

OPPORTUNITY AFTER MERITOCRACY

The notion of equal opportunity has long played a central role in U.S. politics and policymaking. Across the ideological spectrum, it is held up as an economic ideal—a way of arranging access to education, work, and wealth—as well as an egalitarian one, giving meaning to the notion that all citizens are equal. At the same time, in a neoliberal age that emphasizes personal responsibility and individual merit, the meaning and value of “opportunity” have become increasingly contested. This project explores these debates about what an opportunity society should look like, bringing together economists, philosophers, historians, and policymakers to imagine a more equitable society—and the way to get there.

RECENT EVENTS

THE RACIAL CAPITALISM OF CARE

Ruha Benjamin, Michelle Morse, Dorothy E. Roberts, and Bram Wispelwey

PROSPECTS FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Cohosted with Standing Together and featuring Sally Abed, Noam Chomsky, Omar Dahi, Alon-lee Green, Jim McGovern, and James Zogby

READ UNTIL YOU UNDERSTAND: THE WISDOM OF BLACK LIFE AND LITERATURE

Sonia Sanchez, Farah Jasmine Griffin, and Elleza Kelley

AI FOR JUSTICE

Daron Acemoglu, Beth Noveck, Rob Reich, and Annette Zimmermann

REALIZING A GREEN FUTURE

Alyssa Battistoni, Robert C. Hockett, Edward J. Markey, Thea Riofrancos, and David G. Victor

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE: A FUNDRAISER FOR BLACK LIVES

Elizabeth Hinton, Robin D. G. Kelley, Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, Brandon Terry, and Cornel West

BLACK VOICES IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE FELLOWSHIP

It is no secret that there is a profound lack of diversity in the media. The Black Voices in the Public Sphere Fellowship, now in its second year, helps change this by creating opportunities for the next generation of Black journalists, editors, and publishers.

The program provides fellows with training, networking opportunities, and career development workshops. Speakers for the 2021–22 workshops included Jamelle Bouie (*New York Times* columnist) and Adam Serwer (*New York Times* best-selling author and staff writer at the *Atlantic*). Our first cohort of fellows, Nia Evans and Nate File, have both secured jobs with respected media publications.

Supported by an advisory board that includes Danielle Allen, Ann Marie Lipinski, Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor, and Brandon Terry, the program builds on our long-term and deep commitment to publishing work on racial justice. It also receives generous financial support from *Boston Review*'s board of advisors, the Ford Foundation, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York.



2022–23 FELLOWS

MAYA JENKINS brings her interest in colonially conditioned interracial solidarities to her role at *Boston Review*. Maya received a bachelor's from Harvard University where she studied sociology and English.



N'KOSI OATES is a social and cultural historian who studies African American life through culture, aesthetics, literature, and history. He earned his PhD in the Department of Africana Studies at Brown University.

“All of us have been proud contributors to the rich intellectual tradition curated by *Boston Review*. Before our country’s more famous publications were willing to run pieces on police and prison abolition, racial capitalism, Black radical thought, and the ethics of resistance to state and market violence, *Boston Review* provided one of the major forums for these ideas to be debated with seriousness and subtlety, and it still does.



There are not many publications that can match *Boston Review*’s commitment to publishing Black thinkers, giving space to debates about Black liberation from across the political spectrum, or insisting on the significance of race in broader questions of justice, democracy, and citizenship.”

BRANDON TERRY, Harvard Professor and *Boston Review* contributor & board member, speaking during “Where Do We Go From Here: A Fundraiser for Black Lives”

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Twenty years ago, I came across *Boston Review* at a time when I had become disenchanted with the American media's commercialism, lack of substance, and increasing partisanship.

While doing some research, I discovered a 2004 *Boston Review* article, "We the People: Who Has the Last Word on the Constitution?" I so enjoyed the article's subject matter, content, intellectual rigor, and accessibility that I immediately subscribed to *Boston Review*. I've been a devotee of the magazine ever since, and have served as chair of the board for the past decade.

Throughout my time as a reader and supporter, I have come to appreciate *Boston Review* as a rare publication: a model of robust and intellectually honest debate. *Boston Review* takes ideas seriously and treats its readers as partners in a discussion, not as purchasers of a product. As I've grown more impassioned about *Boston Review*, I've come to understand the urgency of its mission—to model and to deliver the tools citizens need to be fully engaged with democratic life. I've also come to understand the wisdom of *Boston Review's* commitment to providing content for free. Democracy requires it.

We all know that the market does not support great independent journalism. The role of *Boston Review's* board is to support and expand the publication's mission—to get its content in front of an ever-growing audience of engaged citizens. I hope you will join us as citizens, readers, subscribers, and supporters.

Sincerely,



Derek Schrier



BOSTON REVIEW BY THE NUMBERS

	2021 (ACTUAL)	2022 (BUDGET)
PROGRAM REVENUE		
Annual Fund/Membership	92,478	115,000
Retail Sales	33,207	38,000
Ancillary Business	29,630	30,000
TOTAL	155,315	183,000
SUPPORT		
Individual Gifts (1k and over)	29,459	30,000
Board Contributions	285,012	305,000
Grants	610,000	400,000
Black Voices Fellowship Grants	268,344	250,000
TOTAL	1,192,815	985,000
TOTAL INCOME	1,348,130	1,168,000
EXPENSES		
Design and Production	54,320	60,200
Black Voices Fellowship Program	61,428	167,667
Editorial	438,113	467,337
Administrative	183,976	156,862
Development	71,123	20,443
Marketing	77,318	86,453
Circulation	36,958	34,000
TOTAL	923,236	992,961
Net Operating Income	424,894	175,039
Retention Credit	40,111	
NET INCOME	\$465,005	\$175,039*

*By 12/31/22, we anticipate \$457,781 in cash reserves.

PLEASE VISIT US AT

BOSTONREVIEW.NET