

Maine in the Global Age

Where does Maine fit in the global age, when both transportation and information technologies can make geographic distance between people nearly meaningless? How can the humanities help Maine to better fit in this new global age? The three articles in this section reflect on these questions from various vantage points. Sheila Jans looks at the St. John Valley in Aroostook County, a region dominated by its existence on the border between the United States and Canada, with a long French-speaking tradition. She examines how the humanities can help with challenges such as outmigration, strained resources, and loss of identity in rural communities. Jane Smith argues for the importance of world language education in preparing Maine for the global age. She provides a brief overview of the state of world language education in Maine and offers suggestions for steps we can take to increase the number of proficient speakers of other languages. Reza Jalali closes out the issue with a discussion about Maine's Muslim communities and wonders about the issues that could determine the sustainability and future of these largely invisible communities. 🐉