



Maria Bakardjieva PhD. Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Maria Bakardjieva, Professor and Chair in Communication and Media Studies at the University of Calgary. Her research examines the social construction of communication technologies and the use of digital media in various cultural and practical contexts with a focus on user agency, critical reflexivity and emancipation. She has numerous publications in leading journals and influential anthologies. The books she has authored and co-edited include *Internet Society: The Internet in Everyday Life* (2005), *Socialbots and Their Friends: Digital Media and the Automation of Sociality* (2017), *Digital Media and the Dynamics of Civil Society: Retooling Citizenship in New European Democracies* (2021), and *How Canadians Communicate* (2004 and 2007). Between 2010 and 2013, she served as the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*. Her current projects investigate the role digital media play in citizen engagement and democratic participation. Dr. Bakardjieva teaches courses in communication theory and research methodology, communication technology and society, digital media and democracy. She works to promote undergraduate research activities in Communication and Media Studies and engages in knowledge mobilization and community outreach intended to advance the public understanding of issues related to Communication and Media Studies.



Melissa Morris, Managing Editor

Melissa Morris is the founding Managing Editor for The Motley. She graduated with a BA (Honours) in Communication and Media Studies in Spring 2023. In addition to her role with The Motley, she is the Director of Student Affairs for the Students in Communications Club. In the first two years of her undergraduate degree, she published two papers in the *Agora Undergraduate Journal*, and won a Student Writing Award. Her Honours thesis *Cottagecore and Colonialism: an Analysis of Visual Discourse in the Cottagecore Aesthetic Subculture* delved into political ideology and subcultural identity expression through visual methods such as fashion. Her thesis presentation placed second at the 2023 Arts Undergraduate Research Symposium. Her other areas of academic interest include intersectional feminist research, queer studies, and governmental policy concerning communication and media. Her experience publishing and editing with the *Agora Journal* spurred her passion for highlighting the ideas of student authors. Melissa has a passion for building community and empowering students to share the depth and variety of their knowledge with others. She plans to pursue a career that brings together her passion for building community, research, and global affairs.



Skye Baxter, Junior Managing Editor

Skye (she/her) is currently in her third year of a combined degree, studying Communications, Political Science, and Statistics. Over the summer, she was awarded the PURE Research Grant from the University of Calgary in order to conduct a political critical discourse analysis, which has sparked her love of research and academic writing. With a special interest in political communication, feminist media studies, rhetorical analysis, the politics of representation, and literary studies, Skye takes a great interest in understanding the role that communication plays in social identity and collective discourse. She eventually hopes to pursue a career that combines her passion for writing, research, and community involvement.



Bray Jamieson, Assistant Editor

Bray (he/him) currently serves as the Motley Undergraduate Journal's Assistant Editor. Bray is a recent graduate student of both the Communications (Honours) and Philosophy departments at the University of Calgary. He is currently working towards obtaining a J.D. from the University of Alberta, with the intention of working towards a career in the field of communication law and policy.



Rune Bhattacharya, Peer Reviewer & Peer Editor

Rune (he/him) is a Copy Editor and Reviewer with the Motley. His current career goal is to be a sessional instructor in COMS, as well as to apply for a MA in COMS at the University of Calgary. His special areas of interest are antisemitism and political illiberalism. Rune is an avid book collector and reader and enjoys horror movies. If he could get a permanent position as a research assistant in a counter right-wing extremism organization that would be a dream job!



Brandon Eby, Peer Reviewer

Brandon Eby is a trans nonbinary 4th year undergraduate student in the department of Sociology at the university of Calgary. They have participated in independent research through their work on the paper 'The Role of Antiziganism in Brexit', have participated in research projects as a research assistant, and have participated in campus community building through numerous clubs. Eby has also been involved in campus organizing around food security efforts with Food Justice Now and Students for Direct Action. They are planning on pursuing a master's degree in Sociology after their undergraduate degree. They are interested in Activist informed research, with a special focus on decoloniality, challenging and disrupting existing power structures, the lived experience of Roma in Canada and Ukraine, and Queerness.

Eby aspires to participate in Community informed, activist sociology, and is heavily inspired by decolonial and activist scholars, such as Margareta Matache, Marquis Bey, David Graeber, and Sara Ahmed.



Natasha Bodnarchuk, Peer Reviewer & Peer Editor

Natasha Bodnarchuk (she/her) is a copy editor, reviewer, and author of The Motley Journal second issue. She is in her fourth and final year of her BA (Honours) in Communications and Media Studies. Natasha's piece "I Was There Too..." explores the impractical uses of technology and challenges notions of digital efficiency. Natasha is an avid writer and reader. She is thrilled to be part of the Motley Journal and looks forward to reading other students' work.



Nickey Goulden, Peer Reviewer

Nickey is a 4th year undergraduate majoring in Communications and Media. Her focus is hopefully using this degree to break down divisive communications barriers and foster critical media literacy in a wide range of demographics. Or maybe she'll finally figure out how to turn herself into a snail and run away to live in the woods. It won't be a particularly fast escape, but she's pretty sure no one will think to look for her in snail form.



Luke Pye, Peer Editor

Luke Pye (he/him) is a Metis undergraduate who is working towards a Major in Media Communications and a Minor in Museum and Heritage Studies. In this volume of the Motley, he worked as both author, reviewer, and editor and is very excited to see all of the Motley's hard work come to full fruition. Luke hopes to eventually work as a program coordinator or a copyeditor for non-profit organizations to help those in need gain the tools they require to thrive! Luke is also the author of the article, "Dungeons and Dragons and the Critical Failure: A Thematic Analysis of the TTRPG Communities Reception of the Leaked OGL 1.1", available to read in this issue!



Haley Pelletier, Peer Reviewer & Peer Editor

Haley Pelletier (she/her) recently graduated with a combined Communications and Political Science degree. She is a peer reviewer and editor for the Motley Undergraduate Journal. Through her role with the journal, she hopes to gain formal experience in publishing, editing, and facilitating this unique undergraduate opportunity for the Communications department and its students.



Chloe Deschamps, Peer Reviewer

Chloe Deschamps (she/they) is an undergraduate student working towards a degree in English with a minor in Film Studies. Their involvement in Motley was inspired by an interest in editing for other student journals and an interest in work that is unconventional and interdisciplinary. She is hoping to find a place conducting graduate research in one of her fields of study.



Ariadna Alvarado, Peer Reviewer & Peer Editor

Ariadna (she/they) is a fifth-year undergraduate Communications student with a minor in Political Science. They were also an author for the first issue of The Motley Undergraduate Journal with a piece on visual culture and race. Currently, she is keen on producing video essays, practicing analogue photography, web programming and dancing to K-pop. Although uncertain whether her plans will change, they aspire to work at the intersection of UX/UI Design and Front-End Web Development.



Kabir Singh Bedi, Peer Reviewer & Peer Editor

Kabir (he/him) is a third-year undergraduate student here at University of Calgary, double majoring in Communication and Media Studies and International Relations, and has been involved with The Motley Undergraduate Journal since 2022 as a Peer Reviewer. As someone actively involved on campus, he finds working with Motley as another opportunity to stay involved, learning along the way as he reviews some of the articles and suggests changes. He looks forward to continue his term with Motley and reviewing more articles.