

# NOTES FROM THE MOTLEY OFFICES

At the Motley Undergraduate Journal, we are not only researchers, writers, editors, and reviewers: we are storytellers. We understand the importance and value of continuing both written and oral accounts; it preserves our humanity and knowledge of the past. Through storytelling, we can concurrently pay tribute to our collective past and look to the future with hope and understanding. As Communications scholars, we understand how the stories we tell are greatly altered by both the teller and what is included and excluded from the narrative. Far too often, we see Indigenous histories obscured or even entirely erased. At the Motley Journal, we hope to actively work against this practice and advocate for Indigenous rights and freedoms. Our journal was founded at the University of Calgary and continues its legacy of creation on these grounds. As such, as a community of people who teach, learn, and work on this land, we owe a debt of gratitude and honour to Moh'kinsstis and the traditional Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Blackfoot confederacy, which is composed of the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani. We also acknowledge the Îyâxe Nakoda which includes the Bearspaw, Chiniki, and Wesley First Nations as well as the Tsuut'ina nations. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3 within the historical Northwest Métis homeland. We hope you, the reader, take every opportunity to educate yourself on both Indigenous histories and practices, as well as the current-day issues that impact your specific region and its peoples.

Our journal owes a great debt of gratitude to the faculty of the Department of Communications, Media, and Film at the University of Calgary. In addition to generously volunteering their time to contribute to the review process, these wonderful people tirelessly promoted the Motley and were responsible for nominating all of the papers in this issue. A special thanks is owed to Dr. Maria Bakardjieva, Professor and Chair of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Calgary, as well as the Editor-in-Chief of the Motley, who provided direction and thoughtful support throughout the entire review and publication process. I would also like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of Dr. Maria Victoria Guglietti who continues to nominate the majority of our submissions and always offers insightful guidance.

I would like to extend a special 'thank you' to the other professors who nominated and reviewed the student works you will soon read: Dr. Arti Modgill, Dr. Julia Chan, Dr. Maria Victoria Guglietti, Dr. Dawn Johnston, Dr. Monique Solomon, Dr. Marcia Epstein, Dr. Tamara Shepherd, graduate students Claire Hadford and Emilie Charette, and doctoral student Shena Kaul. We would have no journal without the support of those who see the potential in students, put their names forward, and donate their time to assess these works.

Of course, no journal exists without authors. We are lucky enough to have an incredibly strong team of student writers with fresh ideas and the generosity to share them. Their talent and dedication make this journal what it is. As the name suggests, the Motley is composed of a great diversity of people, interests, roles, and worldviews.

The Motley is freely and publicly accessible thanks to the Public Knowledge Project's, Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform operating out of Simon Fraser University. OJS allows academic journals to freely utilize their publication software and training resources, with a mission of making academic knowledge accessible to all citizens. The entire OJS library team at the University of Calgary offered the journal team invaluable assistance with building the site, resolving bugs, and providing continuous guidance.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Melissa Morris, the founder of the Motley. Not only did she spend countless hours training me, but she always did so with kindness, patience, and humour. Even after graduating, she was always there to answer any question I had about ISSNs, copyright, or how to properly format page numbers. There is truly nothing that she cannot accomplish; building an academic journal in less than a year from the ground up while being a full-time student is a testament to that. To read the Motley is to glimpse the love and dedication Melissa poured into this journal.

Lastly, I want to thank you, the reader. Your engagement promotes the continued elevation of Communications discourse. On behalf of the entire team here at the Motley, I sincerely hope that you enjoy our most recent issue. A great deal of time, love, effort, and even a few tears went into the creation of the work you are reading now. We hope you feel curious, educated, and inspired. We can't thank you enough.

Skye Baxter, Managing Editor