

# THE EDITORIAL TEAM



**MARIA BAKARDJIEVA**  
**Editor in Chief**

Dr. Maria Bakardjieva (she/her), 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 plays 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.



**SKYE BAXTER**  
Managing Editor

Skye (she/her) is currently in her fourth year of a combined degree, studying Communications, Political Science, and Statistics. In 2023, she was awarded the PURE Research Grant from the University of Calgary to conduct a political critical

discourse analysis, which sparked her love of research and academic writing. Having worked as the Managing Editor of the Motley Journal for over a year now, Skye has completely fallen in love with the editorial process and is thrilled that her days are filled with words. She spends most of her spare time reading or talking about the continued relevance of Shakespeare. 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.



**BRANDON EBY**  
Peer Reviewer

Brandon Eby (they/them) is a trans-nonbinary recently Graduated student with

a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. They have participated in campus organizing around food security efforts with Food Justice Now, as well as union organizing with the GLU. They are planning on pursuing a Master's Degree in Sociology, with a particular interest in the ways in which neo-vagrancy laws coordinate the lives of people internally displaced due to climate catastrophe. Brandon aspires to participate in Community informed, activist sociology, and is heavily informed by decolonial and activist scholars, such as Margereta Matache, Marquis Bey, David Graeber, and Sara Ahmed.

**MAGGIE HSU****Copyeditor**

Maggie (she/they) is a fifth-year Communication and Media Studies student with professional interests in social media management, community engagement, and journalism. Her research explores digital intimacy through online personas, fandoms, and influencers, with a particular focus on livestreaming, parasocial

relationships, and gaming culture. Maggie is also passionate about sports journalism, where they aim to share human interest stories that reveal how sports intersect with broader cultural narratives, transcending their reputation as a niche pursuit of fanatical audiences. They are dedicated to exploring how sports function as a dynamic form of media and storytelling that reflects societal values and identities.

**NICKEY GOULDEN****Peer Reviewer**

Nickey (she/her) is a recent graduate of the Communications and Media program at U of C, and continues her work as a peer reviewer with the Motley. She currently enjoys her job as an art instructor downtown, and is hoping to pursue her goals in an artistic career soon. She enjoys reading, rock climbing, and writing in her free time, but her true love is film (and nachos).



**MELISSA MORRIS**  
**Communications Development  
 Specialist**

Melissa Morris (she/her) is the founding Managing Editor for The Motley. She graduated with a BA (Honours) in Communication and Media Studies in Spring 2023. 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 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.



**LUKE POMEROY PYE**  
**Peer Reviewer**

Luke (they/he) is a 3rd year Media Communications major; they are a reviewer/editor at the Motley Journal and is inspired by all the hard work put in by the

students who submit to the journal. Luke hopes to eventually achieve a master's in library science after finishing their degree and eventually work to provide better, more inclusive programming for indigenous and queer youth to help build a community they didn't experience as a youth. Luke also is pursuing a minor in museum and heritage studies to supplement their understanding of conservation practices surrounding indigenous culture and artifacts. Luke is a 2 Spirit Métis artist who has been on a journey of reconnection and reconciliation for the past 5 years and has found a great affinity for indigenous art, specifically beading both contemporary and traditional jewelry and fashion.



**SEBASTIAN VASQUEZ  
GUTIERREZ**  
Peer Reviewer

Sebastian (he/him) is a copyeditor and peer reviewer who started in the fall of 2023. He has always been interested in Investigative journalism; his inspiration Sebastian has written for different newspapers where he discussed his struggles being an International student at UCalgary. He interviewed other students in similar positions, which further shaped his work. At Queensland University, he was involved with a group of journalists who investigated the gambling industry in Australia. Sebastian hopes to pursue a career in investigative journalism.