



## NOTES FROM THE MOTLEY OFFICES

The Motley Undergraduate Journal comprises scholars, readers, reviewers, authors, editors, and storytellers. Our collective love of words and learning joins us in creating this wonderful collection of creative scholarship and community. We recognize that there has long been a bias towards the written word as being perceived as somehow more academic or 'legitimate' than oral storytelling, thereby invalidating many traditional practices of the Indigenous peoples. In the study of communications, our team works to recognize and incorporate as many forms of scholarship as possible, recognizing that no single form of academia is superior to another. Being based in Canada, we must reflect an awareness of the historical and ongoing impacts of colonialism and the importance of preserving and highlighting Indigenous cultures. As a communications journal, we would be remiss to ignore the ongoing role of discourse in perpetuating ignorance and systemic discrimination against Indigenous peoples. At the Motley Journal, we hope to actively deconstruct and dispose of these outdated and harmful forms of rhetoric. We cannot hope to move towards reconciliation and restitution if we do not first understand our past.

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. By supporting Indigenous scholars and amplifying Indigenous-led communication initiatives, you are part of a greater change: one that seeks equity and reconciliation. We hope you, the reader, take every opportunity to educate yourself on Indigenous histories and practices and the current issues that impact your specific region and its peoples. The Motley Journal would like to express deep gratitude to the Indigenous communities who care for the unceded land and whose knowledge and communication practices are integral to creating a reciprocal and respectful relationship with Turtle Island and its peoples.

It is also important to recognize the long-standing impacts of colonialism are not limited to our backyard; it is a global issue. In the spirit of calling for an end to systemic violence and oppression, we also call for a ceasefire to the ongoing genocide in Palestine. The struggle for

self-determination and sovereignty is one that colonized peoples around the globe face daily; we would also like to acknowledge and call for an end to the exploitation and genocide of the people of Sudan, Congo, and Tigray. The Motley Journal strongly believes that we must speak up and disrupt something when needed. We would like to express our solidarity with the people of Palestine, Congo, Sudan, and Tigray in line with our dedication to truth, justice, and reconciliation.

Our journal owes a great debt of gratitude to the Department of Communications, Media, and Film faculty 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, and 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. Lastly, there would be no journal if it were not for the extraordinary efforts of Melissa Morris, who built the Motley from the ground up. To read this journal is to understand the endless hours of love and dedication that Melissa spent creating it.

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. Tamara Shepherd, Dr. Julia Chan, Dr. Maria Victoria Guglietti, Dr. Ronald Glasberg, Dr. Samantha Thrift, Dr. Gregory Taylor, Dr. Ali Karimi, Dr. Ryan Pierson, Dr. Charlene Elliot, Dr. Pablo Policzer, and graduate students Claire Hadford and Emilie Charette. 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 review these works.

Of course, no journal exists without authors. We are lucky 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, which operates out of Simon Fraser University. OJS allows academic journals to freely utilize their publication software and training resources to

make 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.

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

Skye Baxter, Managing Editor