

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF, MARIA BAKARDJIEVA

The Motley's fourth issue exhibits all the best signs of a publication's maturity. It brims with talent. Its articles address highly important topics, approach these topics in original, intellectually surprising ways, and forcefully demonstrate our student-authors' ability to take academic theories and methods straight to the centre of acute social debates. But also, to skillfully use these theories and methods to cast intense light on skirted, buried and seldom-discussed problems and experiences that can have profound effects on individuals, families and communities.

Deserved attention is given in this issue to communication, media and health. The cultural processes of framing the nature of illnesses and the power of drugs, our authors show, are as important and consequential as the medical and pharmaceutical work surrounding these conditions and products. Social media portrayals and new forms of pervasive advertising by pharmaceutical companies influence our notions of healthy life and healthy bodies. Cultural discourses can shift the focus from patients' physical symptoms to their moral qualities and in that way delegitimise suffering and obstruct timely treatment. The research of Matthew Herring explains how that works.

Personal struggles for self-determination, mental and spiritual well-being and against digital data colonization are documented in the contributions by Natasha Bodnarchuk, Taylor Van Eyk, Shae Kubur and Daman Preet Singh. Through deep dives into their own experiences and those of others guided by theoretical concepts and insights, the authors detail the challenges facing women athletes, Indigenous and racialized youth as they negotiate their path to social acceptance, success and happiness. The medium of film is examined by Vipasna Nangal and Chloe Deschamps in its ability to pose eternal moral questions against the background of unique historical conditions and social realities. By tracing the evolution of two central characters, Nangal and Deschamps illuminate the complexities and contradictions of lived experience that are often obscured by ideological stereotypes.

It is impossible to produce a short trailer for an issue containing such a bundle of diverse intellectual explorations, each fascinating in its own way. Let's give our authors their rightful due – an engaged close reading of their works. And let us thank again the Motley's loyal team, all students and professors who nominated, reviewed and edited these texts because our marvellous journal can only come into being through these people's concerted, competent and dedicated efforts.