

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 Baxter (she/her) is the Managing Editor of The Motley Undergraduate Journal at the University of Calgary, where she is in her final year of degrees in Communication and Media Studies with a minor in Statistics, as well as Political Science with a minor in Global Development. After two years in the role,

this issue marks Skye's final publication with Motley. Her time with the journal has been defined by a deep commitment to fostering community, mentorship, and accessible platforms for undergraduate research and creative expression. A recipient of the PURE Research Award and a Chancellor's Scholar, Skye's academic work explores the intersections of communication, global development, and social justice, particularly how discourse shapes our understanding of sustainability and decolonization. Beyond academia, Skye can often be found reading in a corner with her dog or performing a monologue on the nuances of Hamlet, a text she believes is never quite finished revealing itself. She hopes to pursue graduate research and eventually teach at the university level, continuing to champion storytelling as a form of collective inquiry and change.



SHEROOG KUBUR
Junior Managing Editor

Sheroog Kubur is the Junior Managing editor of the Motley Undergraduate Journal of Communications. She is in her final year as a political science and communications student, with a background in journalism and community-focused volunteer work.

She has become a longtime supporter and volunteer to the journal, looking forward to bringing her editorial and research experience together in this new role. Sheroog's journey into undergraduate research started after publishing her first article with the Motley into journalism studies and local practices. Since then, she has worked to combine her two disciplines in her studies, writing her honours thesis on digitally-mediated social movements and developing a PURE project looking into the social media practices of global right-wing leaders. This year she was also the recipient of the Best Undergraduate Paper in Political Science, writing about the ways in which digital technologies are used as tools of simplification for states.



OLGA MARIA BARCELO
Outreach Director

Olga Barcelo has been our Outreach Director since December of 2024.

She was inspired to be part of a team that has been able to bring a variety of voices together in the Communications and Media Studies faculty. She will be graduating this fall with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Media Studies. She currently works as a Constituency Assistant for a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. She hopes to pursue graduate studies in the future. She regards her family as one of her biggest inspirations. As her mother is a political refugee from Chile, and her father is an immigrant from Chile, she is incredibly interested in listening to the voices of the oppressed, and ensuring all voices are heard.



BRANDON EBY
Peer Reviewer

Brandon Eby (they/them) is a master's student in Sustainability Studies at Trent University and a peer reviewer with the Motley Undergraduate Journal. Their current area of research is on emergency preparedness in the context of rising human made ecological disasters. They completed their undergraduate degree in Sociology from the University of Calgary in 2024, and were involved in student groups such as Students for Direct Action, The Kula Ring, and the UCalgary Sociology and Law & Society Association. They are involved locally with medieval reenactment and research groups in Peterborough, and look forward to continuing as a peer-reviewer with Motley.

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).



ISMAYIL IMANLI
Peer Reviewer

Hi! My name is Ismayil Imanli. I am double-majoring in PoliSci and Soci. I am an aspiring lawyer with a deep interest in social scientific inquiry, which draws me to work with The Motley. One of my favourite areas of research, which I am writing a monograph on, is the comparative analysis of Insurgency and State Violence in different polities and times. Another motivation for me to work with the Motley would be raising academic activities outside of the lecture halls. In my free time, I am interested in learning music theory and playing piano. I am looking forward to working with different authors and the editorial staff.



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.



HANNAH ADRIANO
Peer Reviewer

Hannah (she/her) recently graduated from the University of Calgary with a major in Communications and Media Studies and a minor in Business. She has a strong interest in uncovering the multi-layered, complex meanings of representations in popular culture and dissecting how hegemonic discourses manifest themselves in contemporary media landscapes. She is currently working as a communications intern for WEDO Canada and hopes to pursue a career that intertwines her passions in writing, digital media arts, and creativity.



NATASHA BODNARCHUCK
Peer Reviewer

Natasha Bodnarchuck (she/her) is an author, peer reviewer, and copyeditor for the Motley Journal. She recently graduated from the University of Calgary with a BA in Communications and Media Studies with Honours. When she's not reading essays that critically examine how people and stories are framed in the media, she can be found mountain biking, skiing, or spending time with her friends. She looks forward to reading the other undergraduates work!

MATAYA HOFLAND
Peer Reviewer, Copyeditor