



LETTER FROM MANAGING EDITOR, SHEROOG MOHAMED KUBUR

Who gives media its power? How do people challenge this power, on and offline? And, the question most important to the Motley, what does it take to answer these questions? Media is rapidly evolving, bringing to light new questions of what it means to produce, consume, and engage with media. Despite the uncertainty of the future, communications has always been a discipline that thrives on creative and critical inquiry, taking the everyday messages we take for granted and questioning what constitutes normal and who has the power to define it. The Motley Undergraduate Journal of Communications has proudly served as a vehicle to bring these questions to the forefront, highlighting the undergraduates who have taken on the challenge of questioning the status quo. This issue asks questions of how media is used to perpetuate covert colonial imaginaries, but also represent how intimately politics intertwines with the domestic sphere, and how citizens use the media available to them to chronicle and challenge political corruption.

The Motley is a place of celebration for undergraduate research and its process, from the initial submission to the review, to the editing, until the publication. A journal is only as memorable as its contributors, and the Motley has had the privilege of working with a diverse collective of scholars to put out incredible work. It is this level of curiosity and care that has allowed us to plant our roots firmly within undergraduate research.

The community of lifelong scholars of the Motley Undergraduate Journal are situated in Moh'kinstis and the traditional Treaty 7 territory and the Blackfoot confederacy, which is composed of the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani. We also acknowledge the Îyâxe Nakoda, which includes the Bearspaw, Chiniki, and Goodstoney First Nations, as well as the Tsuut'ina nations. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation within Alberta (Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6). As settlers on this land, we must acknowledge those who built this region and will continue to see it thrive.

The Motley Undergraduate Journal would not be possible without the Department of Communications, Media, and Film at the University of Calgary giving the journal the soil needed to grow. A special thank you is owed to Dr. Maria Bakardjeva, professor, Chair of Communications and Media Studies at the University of Calgary, and the Editor-in-Chief of the Motley. Another special thank you is owed to Dr. Maria Victoria Guglietti, who continues to support the journal through nominating the most submissions and providing insightful reviews and guidance. Finally, thank you to Melissa Morris, who planted the seeds to allow the journal to blossom into the intellectual hub it is today.



A distinct and special thank you is warranted to all authors, past and present, of the Motley Journal. It is their work that gives the journal its structure, enriching each issue with unique and innovative research and providing a strong foundation with which communications and film research can thrive.

Thank you to the faculty who have generously granted their time to partake in the review and nomination process, ensuring each submission is given the care required to create an exceptional line up for every issue.

This issue carries a strong interdisciplinary edge that we are proud to present, with papers sponsored by Dr. Motilola Akinfemisoye-Adejare in the Archaeology and Anthropology department, Craig Fortier of the Gender and Social Justice department at Waterloo University, and Dr. Pablo Policzer of the Political Science department. Thank you to the nominations across departments across Canada.

Research only goes so far as its readers, so a final thank you to the readers of the Motley Journal. Your interest and engagement with communications research is the sunlight giving the journal life, shining a warm light onto the scholarship we seek to promote.

In my short time at the Motley, I have had the pleasure of engaging with inspiring works and incredible authors and volunteers. I look forward to see what Abbi Johnson, the new managing editor, will cultivate during her time with the journal working with the community of scholars the Motley so proudly fosters. Good luck, Abbi!

Sheroog Kubur
Managing Editor