



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.



SHEROOG KUBUR
Managing Editor

Sheroog Kubur is the 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, *Clowning around in journalism: Exploring local journalistic practices by yyc.clowns*. 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.



ABBI JOHNSON
Junior Managing Editor

Abbigail Johnson is a third-year Communications and Media Studies major and second-year Film Studies student at the University of Calgary. Her academic interests include transnational cinema, cultural imaginaries, and investigative journalism, with a particular focus on the intersection of media, politics, and representation. Alongside her studies, she has contributed to a range of student and cultural initiatives, including volunteer work with the Calgary Underground Film Festival and UCalgary Racing Team. She also previously worked with Global Affairs Canada during the 2025 G7 Leaders' Summit. Outside of her studies, Abbigail enjoys spending time outdoors and watching far too many films.



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!



ISMAYIL IMANLI
Peer Reviewer

Ismayil (He/Him) is a 4th-year student in Political Science and Sociology at the University of Calgary. Ismayil is part of a very active student life at UofC: Co-Creator and 1st President of the Azerbaijani Students' Association (2025-26), Director of Photography at the FASA (2024-25), Peer-reviewer at the Insight Undergrad Journal in PoliSci (2025-present). Apart from his work within Campus, Ismayil is also a Junior Grant Writer for the "All Smiles Learning" Non-Profit, where he hopes to help the organization with its agenda of child development. Ismayil loves studying IR, Comparative Politics and Sovietology. His favourite work is "The Enemy is Everywhere: Stalinism in the Caucasus" by Jorg Baberowski.



SHAE KUBUR
Peer Reviewer

Shae Kubur is a Sudanese-Canadian actor and filmmaker based in Calgary, Alberta. She graduated from the University of Calgary with a Bachelors of Arts and a degree in Film Studies in 2024.

She has also published with the Motley Journal in 2024. Kubur finds inspiration in investigating the extraordinary within the mundane. In her piece “An Aesthete Thinks About Herself for Too Long”, Kubur uses autotheory to interrogate why we, as individuals, are drawn to certain personal aesthetics, and makes a case for why aesthetics are a major factor in constructing our personal identity. Kubur aims to bring this ideology into her filmmaking as well. She is interested in themes of race and femininity, and how those two factors affect how an individual operates in the world. Shae Kubur hopes to continue telling creative stories regarding her identity, with elements of surrealism.



MATTHEW JOHNSON
Peer Reviewer

Matthew Johnson is a fourth year Political Science and Communications & Media Studies student at the University of Calgary. He shares a deep passion for politics and the exploration of the intersection between new media and the world of political events and campaigns. Johnson with a deep passion for writing, is now pursuing a career in journalism and communications, they currently serve as the Editor-in-Chief at the Gauntlet.



DAMAN PREET SINGH
Peer Reviewer

Daman (they/them) is a third-year communications student with a strong interest in journalism and the visual arts. Their research interests lie where communications and culture theory intersect with identity, pop culture and subcultures, while also learning how to communicate their findings through art mediums. Currently, Daman works as a freelance photographer, a regular contributor to the *Reverie*, and is keen on learning how communication theory can affect their work, in both journalism and photography.

FIONA PAUL
Peer Reviewer