LETTER FROM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Dr. MARIA BAKARDJIEVA

Our Motley journal is almost four years old. In journal years, this makes it almost an adolescent. If we are to believe the theories I teach, it also makes it almost an institution.

An institution is a set of systematic practices drawing on established rules and resources. When institutions are old enough, they are taken for granted: the University of Calgary, *The Globe and Mail* ... We rarely ask how they emerged or why they have persisted. But when institutions are young, it is patently clear that their germination is neither a miracle nor an act of nature. Rather, it stems from the thoughts and actions, agreements and disagreements, work and sweat of numerous committed people.

Luckily, The Motley has had plenty of such people to count on. They have breathed life into it, nurtured it, and guarded it for close to four years. You can see them running from classroom to classroom to spread the word about the wonderful opportunities The Motley offers for giving visibility to student research; working on social media; encouraging authors and courting reviewers; editing, pestering, starting anew when things fall through ... All this on quite limited resources. One resource, however, has tipped the scales: limitless enthusiasm and a steadfast belief that the endeavour is worthwhile. And so we have watched our young, still vulnerable but beautifully resilient institution grow.

At this early stage, our brave institution-builders are not nameless. We know who they are, and it is incumbent upon us to name them: a succession of brilliant managing editors—Melissa Morris, Skye Baxter, Sheroog Kubur, and most recently, the editor who brought this new issue into being, our tireless, radiant, and infinitely resourceful Abbi Johnson; the reviewers and editors whose names appear on the opening pages of this issue; and, crucially, the faculty members who found time in their busy schedules of teaching, research, and family life to nominate, encourage, and review: Victoria Guglietti, Jessalyn Keller, Matthew Croombs, Charles Tepperman, Tamara Sheppard and David Janzen.

Dr. Samantha Thrift, Head of the Department of Communication, Media and Film, has also thrown invaluable support and reassurance into the cauldron.

To this motley and marvellous team, I want to say, as editor-in-chief, thank you! Let's keep building. Let's keep our young journal alive and thriving. I am certain it will pay off for everyone in motley ways.