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**Editor's note**

This double issue of *Kaleidoscope* emerges out of some of the most challenging years that higher education has faced in this journal's tenure. The global CoViD-19 pandemic has caused nearly 6 million deaths worldwide, and the shifting modalities of learning have posed substantial existential questions for the future of this publication. However, in spite of these challenges, graduate researchers continue to investigate human communication and produce research to better understand what we might do to address the ongoing crises we face. Since our last pre-pandemic release in the Fall of 2019, we have had over 40,000 downloaded articles from 2,541 institutions across 170 countries. While these numbers might speak to the continued success of the journal in terms of readership, we also measure the success of our journal through its continuing commitment to a pedagogical editorial process and open access publication. *Kaleidoscope* has emphasized, for twenty years now, the importance of not only publishing graduate research but also providing a space for graduate students a space to review and edit their peer’s work. This is made possible by the service of our Editorial Board who provide critical feedback to authors, and immense support for the journal itself. *Kaleidoscope* would not be possible without the labor of this Board, the associate editors, graduate and faculty reviewers, the article authors, and those who refer others to the journal. On behalf of the editorial teams that have made this possible, I want to extend my deepest gratitude.

Our review process involves every submission being reviewed by both a faculty reviewer and a well-qualified graduate student in order to uphold the pedagogical aims of the journal. These reviewers provide feedback in order to develop high-quality, competitive graduate scholarship. After this initial review process, our authors work with our editorial team over multiple rounds of revisions and edits to bring forth our peer-reviewed research. A major thank you must be extended to the associate editors for these two issues. For volume 19: Robert Fiedler, Scott Jarmon, Anna Wilcoxen, and Tao Zhang; and for volume 20: Janine Armstrong, Bolton Morales, and OJ Duncan. I’d also like to extend a special thank you to Shelby Swafford for her amazing work as the advising editor of volume 20, and the editor of volume 19. Her dedication to compassionate reviewing throughout her tenure as editor, and in her advisement of my editorship has been nothing short of exemplary for the harrowing moment of pandemic that we inhabit. Thank you to our faculty advisor Dr. Craig Gingrich-Philbrook for his guidance, advice, and encouragement in bringing this journal to realization. Finally, I want to thank those who have financially contributed to *Kaleidoscope* for their continued patronage.

SIU’s Graduate and Professional Student Council; Dr. Gary Kinsel and the SIU Office of the Vice-Chancellor of Research; Dr. Andrew Balkansky, Interim Dean, and the College of Liberal Arts; and the SIU School of Communication Studies for their continuing financial and institutional support. We hope that you enjoy this double volume of the journal and invite you to view previous volumes at https://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/kaleidoscope/.

The articles that appear in the 19th volume of *Kaleidoscope* reflect a diverse array of research interests brought to bear on a variety of grounds. Each article
attends to the special call put forth in 2019 by Shelby Swafford. This special call, “Feminist Interventions, Innovations, and Imaginaries” asks scholars to consider the ways that feminist theory and practice have contributed to world-building projects and communication studies more broadly. The articles speak to this call, each considering the different forms of worldbuilding that we might encounter on personal, social, and societal stages.

AC Panella addresses the complex legacy of aesthetic minimalism and its stylistic opposite—maximalism in their close reading of Taylor Mac’s performance *Holiday Sauce* in “Queering Aesthetics: why Maximalism Matters.” By attending to the aesthetic excess of Mac’s performance and the phenomenological impact of the maximalist performance, Panella explores the ways that queerness has often been brought alongside excess, and how an at-times elitist preference for minimalism has often worked to elide the flurry of connections and comingling that queer studies asks us to attend to.

Following this work on the maximalist aesthetics of Taylor Mac, Karly Poyner-Smith offers an exploration of the rhetoric of identity negotiation in feminist evangelical Christian spaces in her piece “Coats of Fire.” Drawing upon Stella Ting-Toomey’s identity negotiation theory, Poyner-Smith explores the oft-under-considered liminality of evangelical identity, especially as it pertains to women existing within the broader evangelical movement.

Cassidy Ellis extends feminist work with her autoethnographic interrogation of her experience as an abortion clinic patient escort in “A Boring Day at the Clinic is a Good Day at the Clinic.” Arriving from performance as a lens on the role, Ellis explores through performative writing the role of embodiment in scholarship on anti-abortion violence. Ellis further extends this performance frame to examine the story-telling lineages that circulate among abortion providers and activists as a means of making sense of their identity as abortion providers. Whiteside similarly takes up the call of examining reproductive and sexual politics in “Globalizing Sexual Violence.” Taking postcolonial feminist theory as a framework to compare the discursive constructions of sexual violence, Whiteside examines 49 articles that speak to sexual violence in India and South Africa. Speaking to cultural norms on gender, Whiteside makes explicit the link between patriarchal gender norms and particular socioeconomic moments in world history.

Alex Rister brings a similar lens on violence into the digital space in “#ListentoSurvivors.” Examining the Twitter feeds of three anti-human trafficking activist groups, Rister utilizes John Berger’s STEPPS framework to identify common themes that emerge around mediated campaigns to engage activists. Attending to the unique role of social media for pursuing digital activism, Rister concludes with theoretical and practical considerations for future digital activists.

Finally, Fatima Albrehi examines the usefulness of art in addressing structural violence in her piece “Hip Hop Music and Communicative Messages.” Through focus-group interviewing, Albrehi investigates the responses to three hip hop songs, and follows the attending discussions among listeners regarding the tracks’ responses to systemic violence. Albrehi asks us to consider not only the usefulness
of art in addressing systemic violence, but also the degree to which political art can foster group cohesion and a sense of identity.

My heartfelt gratitude and compassion go out to the Kaleidoscope community upon the conclusion of this issue. It has been a tumultuous number of years, and throughout it, we have had missteps, moments of epiphany and love, plenty of grace, and the patient dedication of these authors. Kaleidoscope would not exist without the support of the editorial board, faculty, and graduate students that dedicate their time to maintaining this space. Graduate students and their research exist in a precarious situation within the American academy, often occupying positions of temporary, low-paying work and a byzantine job market upon completion. Despite these challenges, the heartfelt and considerable engagement with these pieces on the part of writers, reviewers, and editors has led to what I hope will be a monument to the endurance of those academics who lived through the beginning of a global pandemic and the new world that has been shaped in its wake. Finally, I want to commend Janine Armstrong as the editor for the upcoming 21st volume of Kaleidoscope. I’m sure that her attention to the journal’s ethic, graduate student research, and to academic endeavors more broadly will produce a wonderful issue in the fall of 2022.

— Alex Lockwood, Editor