Front Matter

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*Kaleidoscope* is a refereed, annually published print and electronic journal devoted to Communication Studies graduate students who work at the intersections of *philosophy, theory, and/or practical application of qualitative, interpretive, and critical/cultural communication research*. Particular areas of engagement for consideration include both traditional and experimental approaches. We encourage contributions that are rigorous and lively, and that are attentive to scholarship without sacrificing creativity or consequence—while we seek to cultivate the currently developing, we do not wish to sacrifice rigor and quality in pursuit of novelty.

*Kaleidoscope* offers graduate students an educational and professional outlet during a time when some of the most energizing new disciplinary research is done in areas that focus on qualitative approaches to communicative interaction. Because its attention is devoted to current graduate students’ developments in qualitative, interpretive, and critical/cultural work and is a collaborative, faculty-student juried endeavor, *Kaleidoscope* offers a perspective that is unique among Communication Studies journals.

We welcome manuscripts, during the submission period, from graduate students in Communication Studies and cognate areas/disciplines who are currently enrolled at the time of submission. Each manuscript submitted to *Kaleidoscope* will receive a blind assessment by two outside reviewers, (1) a faculty member and (2) an advanced Ph.D. student. By *blind*, we mean authors always remain anonymous, but reviewers have the option of remaining anonymous or disclosing their identities to the author via the Editor.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 - 16  A bookstore-café: An exploration of the blurring of the public and private spheres  
        Erin Christie

17 - 36 Island hopping as a mode of acculturation: The experience of German sojourners in the American Southwest  
        Tatjana K. Rosev

37 - 54 Butoh, Bodies, and Being  
        Brianne Waychoff

55 - 72 “They’re supportive, BUT...”: Female Graduate Students and Their Parents’ Reactions to Graduate Education  
        Rosalie S. Aldrich

73 - 94 Privacy in Conflict: How Implicit Behavior Norms Inform Expectations of Privacy  
        Ryan Malphurs

95 - 116 Gendered Social Movements: A critical comparison of the suffrage and gay marriage movements  
        Michelle L. Kelsey
As Editor of Volume 8 of *Kaleidoscope: A Graduate Journal of Qualitative Communication*, I am happy to present another issue of the journal. This issue represents the scholarly work of six graduate student authors whose essays feature some of the best qualitative communication research currently being produced in the field. This issue’s authors creatively engage varied sites of communicative interaction that are as diverse as bookstore cafés, diplomatic communities, and online listservs. The essays in this issue also bring together a range of qualitative methodological approaches to the study of communication that help expand disciplinary conceptions of qualitative research.

Now that the Fall 2009 issue is complete, I am pleased to introduce James “Jim” Petre as incoming editor of Volume 9. I would also like to thank Jim, Elizabeth Petre, and Craig Engstrom for their diligent efforts as associate editors of this issue. Their editorial contributions have been invaluable and contribute greatly to the quality of the essays represented here. Thanks are also in order for *Kaleidoscope’s* faculty advisors, Ron Pelias and Suzanne Daughton, for their administrative guidance, and the SIUC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research for its long-term financial commitment.

Finally, thank you to all the graduate student-scholars who continue to support *Kaleidoscope* by submitting their work. We are proud to share your work with our readers.

Jay Brower, Editor