

## INTRODUCTION

This year has been an exceptional year for Footnotes! Now in its sixth edition, we are pleased to say that we received the highest number of submissions to date; we just keep growing each year! In the context of a post-Women Studies era here at the University of Guelph, the presence of an academic feminist journal on this campus becomes all the more relevant. This year we made it our mission to reach out to students from as many fields of study as possible. We received papers from a range of disciplines: History, Biology, Theatre Studies, Political Science, Geography, Philosophy, Sociology and Anthropology, English, International Development, and Environmental Governance. Footnotes' success is a testament to those students who question, challenge and try to express the effects of dominant structures and paradigms within their own disciplines. The scope of submissions reveals the persistent and unwavering importance to express contemporary and historical feminist ideas in academia. This journal is for the students who speak up as much as it is for the students who remain anonymous and want to awaken the dormant feminist within them.

In this edition you will see a range of approaches to academic feminism. From the ten essays we selected for publication, we were able to generally categorize them under three sub-themes: (1) Examining Heteronormativity, (2) Constructing Identities, and (3) Confronting Oppression.

We begin the journal with Emily Blake's historical account of three different queer and gendered political movements in Iran. Our creative writing piece follows; "A Quiet Dance with Sadness" is Steph-Marie Szenasi and Desmond Small's account of a broken heterosexual relationship, bound by gendered codes. This is followed by Stephen Clarke's

essay on queering heteronormative political structures in a Western context. For the first time Footnotes has also included a piece by a graduate student, Jessie Gomberg, who is an English studies undergraduate alumni. Her piece on Sir Anthony Love, a play written by Thomas Southerne in 1690, explores a woman's experience with gender-bending using contemporary feminist theories.

Our second section includes essays addressing both personal and cultural identities. We open with Jessica Stark's essay on the impact of colonialism on Aboriginal women's cultural identities. We are pleased to include this piece and acknowledge its relevance in current Canadian society, as it was written during the peak of the Idle No More movement, a call to recognize and respond to the effects of hundreds of years of colonial repression. We stand in solidarity with the Aboriginal people of Turtle Island. The section continues with Stephanie Caskenette's historical essay on gendered children's toys affecting childhood development during the 1800s. We end the section with Chloe Stelmanis-Cali's poetic analysis of Susan Musgrave's *Origami Dove*. The analysis reveals the impact of normalized interpretations of bodies and its effect on our personal identities, creating fragmented senses of self.

Finally, our third section begins with Colleen McDonell's essay on the disenfranchisement of women within a patriarchal society. McDonell analyzes Adrienne Rich's collection of poems, *The Dream of a Common Language*, as an interpretation of motherhood within patriarchy. Running with the theme of motherhood, Rachel Schooley brings in an essay on the oppression that comes with being a mother with a disability in the modern Western world. Lastly, Jocelyn Greenwood presents a revisionist historical essay on the experience of Geishas in historical and modern Japan, and the potential for empowerment within a patriarchal society.

We hope you enjoy your reading, and happy feminist thoughts!

### **The 2013 Footnotes Collective,**

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