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Editor's Introduction - Volume Two (10/2018)

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Fall 2018

Dear *Access** Reader,

I am delighted to present the second volume of *Access: Interdisciplinary Journal of Student Research and Scholarship*. The nine papers in this volume represent some of the fascinating and thoughtful student writing produced annually across the UW Tacoma campus. In what we hope was a valuable—and *relatively* painless—experience in academic publication, this year's crop of *Access* authors have taken papers written for classes taken over the last year, revising them based on feedback from our amazing editorial board to address new audiences and different purposes than those for which they were originally written. And I'm pleased to tell you that these authors rose to the challenge brilliantly.

As final proofreading and copy edits were nearing completion, assistant editors Tori Olive and Beck Adelante, met with me to discuss the articles chosen for this volume, noting the common thread of identity that laced together papers as varied as a narrative of immigration and the re-construction of personal identity; critical examinations of identity formation in film, art and literature; family identification in advertising campaigns; and the establishment of community identity through structuring the physical spaces in which we live. In each article, we discovered some facet of the different ways that humans use story to craft meaning and identity—and it is our pleasure to introduce these articles to you in this second volume of *Access**.

In our opening article, *The Journey to Awareness of an African Girl-Child*, **Joy Nguru** narrates a reflective self-analysis of her experiences as an immigrant, journeying from her homeland of Kenya to a new home in the United States. Nguru thoughtfully examines newly-discovered tensions between the social identities she'd grown up with in Kenya and those discovered in her new home—including a racial identity she'd never known before.

Like our first article, **Jeff Salazar's "Beast in the Pews: The Autopsy of Jane Doe: A Contextual Analysis"** focuses on aspects of social identity, particularly gender identity, as seen through film. With a psychoanalytic approach, Salazar analyzes character interaction, the symbolic relation between characters, and a female representation which symbolically contributes to and perpetuates the systemic oppression of women.

Our third article, *How Racially Equitable are the Outcomes of Sustainability Planning?* examines the intersection of race and class identities within the context of urban planning, the

changing urban form, and sustainable cities. Author **Anastasia Cale** examines the “Three E’s” of sustainability planning form values (the environment, the economy, and equity), using the history of development in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood as a case study.

In *The Park Is Open: An Ecofeminist Critique of Universal's Jurassic World*, author **Nichole McHugh** employs an ecofeminist lens to examine components of social identity and dominant ideologies about human relationships with the environment. In *Jurassic World's* depiction of the violence of man’s efforts to control and manipulate the natural world, McHugh recognizes capitalist ideologies and the subjugation of the environment through a masculinist anthropocentrism.

Rebecca Dickson's article, *Disease Prevalence and Politics: A Study of Chagas Disease in Bolivia*, looks closely at the prevalence of Chagas disease among indigenous citizens of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Dickson’s account of health and politics examines the intersection of race, class, and national identities, and the very real roadblocks they create to indigenous citizens’ access to equitable and affordable healthcare.

As a recent installment of the film franchise, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* carries important messages about social identities, noted by author **Brooke Dochnahl** in *Psychoanalysis and Star Wars: The Force Awakens: What the Film Says about Gender Ideology*. Dochnahl applies psychoanalysis, Freud’s substructures, and Jung’s archetypes to three characters in the film, questioning the extent to which these characters uphold (or challenge) dominant ideologies about race, class, and gender.

Like film, advertisements are also steeped in dominant ideologies and cultural norms. In her article *Selling Togetherness: Family Vacation Advertising*, author **Zandria Michaud** performs a critical semiotic analysis of three contemporary TV family vacation advertisements, uncovering advertising agencies’ commodification of family identity for profit. While these advertisements promote memorable family “togetherness,” Michaud argues that deeper ideologies of governmentality, patriarchy, and globalization lurk below the surface.

In a reflection on identity as static and resistant to change, **Lucas Waggoner**, author of *Perpetual Change: Moving beyond Object Dependent Identity*, synthesizes a variety of academic disciplines and media in order to disassemble classical notions of identity and challenge them. Waggoner argues that change may in fact be the key to identity-creation and

orienting the construction of our identities around change can serve to reconcile existential crises in our modern world.

Our final article, *Just a Coincidence? Whether Intention in Artistic Expression Alters Significance: An Analysis and Comparison of Herman Melville's Moby-Dick and Matt Kish's Moby-Dick in Pictures: One Drawing for Every Page*, offers author **Brit Barnhouse**' critical examination of these two texts, particularly the ways they intersect. Barnhouse ask us to consider whether the patterns and details uncovered between the two texts reveal something about the authors' identities and intentions, or whether those patterns are merely coincidence—and whether it makes a difference.

Before you read their work, I'd like to offer my sincerest congratulations to our incredible student authors. You worked hard all summer—answering emails quickly (even though some of you were on the other side of the world at the time), responding to reviewers' comments with enthusiasm and revising accordingly, jumping through logical and grammatical hoops to make your meaning as clear as it could be, and taking papers that were already well-written and uncomplainingly doing what was asked of you in order that your ideas could be heard and understood by new audiences. You are all rock stars in my book!

I'd also like to offer my gratitude to my assistant editors, Tori Olive and Beck Adelante, for your support and willingness to take on whatever I asked of you. (Thank you both a million times!) Tori and Beck, along with our amazing board made up of faculty, TLC and library staff, and TLC peer tutors, worked diligently worked throughout the summer, through multiple periods of review and revision. Many, many thanks for your support. This second volume of *Access: Interdisciplinary Journal of Student Research and Scholarship* would not exist without you!

Thank you,
Margaret Lundberg
Editor-in-Chief