

Access*: Interdisciplinary Journal of Student Research and Scholarship

Volume 8 | Issue 1

Article 1

Editor's Introduction - 8th Volume (2024)

Margaret L. Lundberg

University of Washington Tacoma, margal3@uw.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.tacoma.uw.edu/access>

Recommended Citation

Lundberg, Margaret L. () "Editor's Introduction - 8th Volume (2024)," *Access*: Interdisciplinary Journal of Student Research and Scholarship*: Vol. 8: Iss. 1, Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.tacoma.uw.edu/access/vol8/iss1/1>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Teaching and Learning Center at UW Tacoma Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Access*: Interdisciplinary Journal of Student Research and Scholarship by an authorized editor of UW Tacoma Digital Commons. For more information, please contact taclibdc@uw.edu.

October 2024

Dear *Access* readers,

It is with considerable pride—in the work of our authors, our dedicated team of reviewers, and my amazing staff (small though we may be)—that I introduce the eighth volume of *Access: Interdisciplinary Journal of Student Research and Scholarship*. It is hard to believe that seven years have passed since our first issue 'went live' in October 2017, and nearly eight years since I started developing my idea of establishing a student-centered research journal on the UW Tacoma campus. I could never have imagined all that has happened in the years between then and now: two contentious election cycles, the disruptions of a global pandemic, and the expansive growth of this journal.

Over these last seven years, I have worked with five different assistant editors and almost two dozen reviewers; together, we've read more than 100 submissions and ultimately published (counting this issue) 46 papers whose authors represent some of the best writing at the University of Washington Tacoma. Those same papers have been—to mid-October—downloaded more than 50,000 times, by more than 2900 institutions (and numerous individuals) in 172 countries around the world.

Access has had a much wider reach than I could *ever* have hoped for.

I have no doubt that this volume—showcasing six articles covering a wide range of topics—will only add to those numbers. I'd like to introduce those articles and their authors here:

First, we have Brigid Fuhri's analysis of First Amendment rights in school libraries in *Island Trees and Free Speech: The Consequences of the U.S.'s Current Philosophy on Speech*. A Law and Policy major, Fuhri examines the constitutional precedent of *Island Trees v. Pico* (1982) and subsequent cases, pinpointing the differences in philosophy behind court rulings on free speech in school libraries from other First Amendment cases. In evaluating whose free speech is prioritized in such cases, Fuhri highlights the need for a balanced approach to preserving constitutionally protected free speech in instances of library censorship.

In *Justice Beyond the Dreamhouse: An Ecofeminist Analysis of the 2023 Barbie Movie*, Communication major Morgan Page examines the depiction of feminism and the treatment of environmentalism in the record-breaking film *Barbie*. Through applying an ecofeminist critique, Page emphasizes the intersectionality of capitalist consumerism, the commodification of women's liberation, and environmental degradation. Page further uses this critique to draw attention to the broader role of Barbie dolls in feminist

discourse ,as well as the environmental impact of Mattel's ongoing commercialization of the decades-old brand.

Sophia DeGregory, a recent graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Sciences examines a surprising discovery of a connection between autoimmune disorders and immunodeficiencies in *Connecting Autoimmunity and Immunodeficiency Through Mutations of CTLA-4: A Literature Review*. DeGregory has examined recent research exploring an overlap between these diseases, isolating a key player in both conditions: the CTLA-4 gene, which helps regulate the immune system. By understanding how CTLA-4 is involved in both conditions, DeGregory concludes, researchers could develop treatments to target this gene, thereby relieving disorders resulting from both autoimmunity and immunodeficiency.

In *Finding the Monster in Us: A Semiotic Analysis*, recent UW Tacoma graduate Alexandria Mathena took a sociological approach to uncovering the true "monster" in Jordan Peele's film, *Us*. Using semiotic analysis to explore both the intended and unintended ideologies of the film, Mathena examines such themes as alienation, anomie, deviance, bureaucracy, class, and race, to offer a deeper understanding of how these ideas play out in the film. In analyzing these elements, Mathena discloses what Peele's film teaches us about society through its complex symbolism and social commentary.

Jumping on the Bandwagon: 'The Bandwagon' as a Vehicle for Sociopolitical and Philosophical Conversations, reveals Hart Williams' examination of *The Band Wagon* (1953), a classic Hollywood musical directed by Vincente Minelli. Despite its respected status, there has been little academic discussion about this film, possibly because it lacks the typical extravagance of other musicals from the same era. Williams—a UW Tacoma Arts, Media and Culture major, concentrating on Film and Media—explores the various ways *The Band Wagon* employs self-reflective to create an introspective viewing experience, even as it touches on some of the sociopolitical issues of the time. By exploring elements like absurdism, camp, noir, and gender portrayals, Williams highlights the film's importance and adds to the conversation about musicals as a meaningful philosophical genre.

Finally, in *Evaluation of Washington State's Senate Bill 5599 Concerning Runaway Transgender Youth*, UW Tacoma undergraduate, Cobi Clark, examines the complexities of the bill through a policy framework assessing the effectiveness, efficiency, fairness, and ethical implications of SB 5599, which allows the state to shelter runaway youth without notifying parents if the child is seeking or receiving gender-affirming care.

Raising key questions about the rights of minors *and* parents, Clark, who is carrying a triple major in Policy Analysis; Politics, Philosophy and Economics; and Mathematics, suggests the bill should include clearer guidelines on age restrictions protected health services, as well as requiring a public vote to better align the law with voters' values.

I would like to send a huge thank you to these six authors for their perseverance (and patience) through multiple rounds of reviews and edits; each article reveals the results of your hard work. Many thanks, also, to this year's *Access* review board—and all the reviewers who have worked with me in the past—who worked diligently throughout the summer to guarantee that our student authors received the encouragement and comprehensive feedback that truly helped their writing shine. I hope you are as pleased as I am with the outcome!

Finally, I would like to offer my deepest appreciation to my associate editor, James Hannes. James has worked with me on *Access* since 2019; it is into his capable care I entrust the future of this publication.

Happy Reading!

Margaret Lundberg, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief

James Hannes, M.A.
Associate Editor
Access: Interdisciplinary Journal of Student Research and Scholarship