

Agora Volume 11

1: Agora Conference Proceedings

2: Student Writer Awards and Scholarship Winners

This volume of *Agora*, our eleventh, is the product of a great amount of determination on the part of the contributors and editors. As the finishing touches are being put on this volume, we are in partial lockdown because of COVID-19. The Black Lives Matter protests have affected many of us here and, and we are wondering when, or even if, our world will return to something familiar. The pandemic necessitated the cancellation of this year's *Agora* conference for the first time in its history, thus making the conference proceedings issue a simulation. It would have been easy for everyone to pass on this year's journal but the editorial team of *Agora* wanted the journal to happen—for recognition of student work, for some form of consistency in these uncertain times, for a belief that this journal matters to students, their families, and to their academic community of instructors and classmates. The students who were not able to present at a conference still got a chance to be able to publish their work. In ordinary circumstances, the work of both the writers and the editors deserve congratulations. This year, a standing ovation is in order.

We followed as best we could our standard procedure for editing. Our student editors worked closely with authors represented in Issue 1 on making their work publication ready. They ensured that citations were present and accurate, research was fact-checked, and all text was copyedited. They also copyedited the essays in Issue 2. This was detailed, painstaking work that they undertook for almost two months on their own time in order that the journal could be published.

This is our first completely online journal, put together remotely and edited by the talented student editors listed below. The journal will continue to be available in an open-access format at the Red Deer College Library's Online Repository for an indefinite period of time. We on the editorial team thank the generosity of the library and of Teneil Vuori, the librarian who worked patiently with us to be able to offer this journal publication wide access in a time when print copies would have posed considerable difficulties. We also thank the Department of

Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Arts and Sciences, and the Red Deer College CAT Fund for their various levels of support.

What follows is a list of the people who made this journal happen. It is in lieu of a proper Table of Contents; you who are reading this are encouraged to read as many different papers as you'd like to and see the diverse and rich intellectual inquiry that has come out of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences this year. In Issue 1, the conference proceedings, there are essays analyzing English literature, applying sociological theory, presenting research in psychology and explicating philosophical issues. In Issue 2, we present the essays and creative work that won awards and scholarships from the department. Since we also have to forgo a proper awards ceremony this year, this journal also stands as a congratulations to excellent work.

A disclaimer: posting online, unlike publishing a hard copy, can erase a sense of the past. Everything looks like it has been written a day ago, even if it stays online for ten years. The writers publishing in this venue are presenting ideas and research that are snapshots of this moment in their lives and their intellectual journeys. Their ideas may change with the passage of time, so they ask that future readers not assume that any ideas in these pages are being held in perpetuity.

And our usual disclaimer: while we generally adhere to a consistent house style in our editing, we also respect the disciplinary styles of the various papers.

Agora Vol. 11 Editorial Board

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