

FOREWORD FROM THE ACADEMIC ADVISOR

The publication of this double issue of *Constelaciones* attests to the creativity, commitment, and resourcefulness of our undergraduate students in Hispanic and Italian Studies. It has been a pleasure to work with Lina Maria Clevenger, Tara Matthews and Lily Trithart over the last three years, in which, amidst the challenges brought about by the pandemic, we collectively worked to find a new name for a journal that aims to bring students together in their pursuit of academic excellence. *Constelaciones* is inspired by the brilliant innovations of the *La Constelación de los Communes*, which aims to create new modes of knowledge creation and mobilization while envisioning a more sustainable and equitable future for everybody.

With that aim in mind, this issue gathers a plurality of contributions that reflect our students' interests in the cultural debates that surround Spanish and Latin American cultural production. A multiplicity of perspectives highlights the centrality of the arts in this vast and complex area of the world. From interdisciplinary perspectives, the articles here showcase their involvement in cultural and gender studies, decolonial enterprises, and an enduring interest in social justice.

As the Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies joins the new School of Languages Linguistics and Cultures, we collectively hope for a brighter and more sustainable future.

Marina Bettaglio