

Dear readers,

In March 2020, days before UVIC had to close its doors because of the COVID 19 pandemic, the annual Germanic and Slavic Studies graduate conference took place. Organized by graduate students from the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, students from all over Canada and the U.S. participated in one of the last in-person conferences of the year. Impressed by the high quality of the conference presentations, the idea of publishing conference proceedings in our graduate journal came to life and is contained in the following pages.

After a break of six years, a small group of graduate students started to learn about publishing an online journal whilst facing the challenges of the pandemic – all work needed to move online, and many of the potential authors, reviewers, and editors were struggling with the academic, emotional or financial effects of COVID 19. Despite the circumstances, our journal started to evolve, papers were submitted, new graduates joined the editorial team. By the end of the term, we are proud to present Volume 3 of *Verges: Germanic and Slavic Studies in Review*.

While the focus of the journal in general tackles Germanic, Slavic and Holocaust Studies, this issue invited broader and more interdisciplinary approaches. Based on the conference topic, most papers presented discuss questions of ideology, identity, and gender from various and interdisciplinary angles. The first papers of the journal discuss ideology and its effects on memorialization and identity development. Eliza McClenagan provides insights on the development of antisemitic ideology in Protestantism and its effects on the position of the Protestant churches in the Holocaust. Giorgia Riccardi's paper focusses on identity building and disruption in (Catholic) Poland in light of recent debates on the role of Poles in the Holocaust, Polish antisemitism, and pogroms against Polish Jews after 1945.

The second part of the journal focusses on the identity development of Indigenous students and academics in educational environments. Chris "Kikila" Perrin discusses the processes of assimilation, colonialization, change, and identity formation within university spaces, while M-A Murphy provides insights into selective remembrance and erasure at a university. In its third part, the journal homes in gender relations. Terhi Hannula discusses modern Hindu nationalism through the perspective of female lead-characters in historical films. Identity formation related to gender norms and patriarchy are also in the center of Gabrielle Parent's research on the online community of Incels. Two more papers focus on the impressive history of women. Esther Hool describes the work of a poet and her translator, and the search for the re-creation of the author's unique sonic dimension in translation. Emma Rodney Drouin presents her work on early nineteenth-century French artist Marie-Gabrielle Capet.

We are thankful to the community of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies – students, graduates, staff, and faculty – who supported this journal in various ways. In particular, we would like to thank the honorary editorial team member Megan Swift, who has supported this volume with her advice, patience, time, and encouragement.

Furthermore, we are thankful to all the authors for submitting their work and wish them well in their future publications and endeavours.

Last but not least, we heartily thank our wonderful editorial team (in alphabetical order); Alan Bancroft, Michelle Brewer, Erin Chewter, Alisha Gajjar-Fleming, Eliza McClenagan, Ayers Mitchell, Giorga Riccardi, and Carolina Vik.

Enjoy your read,

Janine Wulz