

Letter From the Editor

Dear readers,

As I was discussing JCTP with an acquaintance recently, I was asked, “So, what does JCTP do anyway?”

Excitedly, I spoke a little bit about our mission, our social justice values, and how we are a graduate student-run, peer-reviewed journal that is also inter-disciplinary. As my audience’s eyes started to glaze over, I stopped and simply said, “Look, we share important ideas.”

As we find ourselves in the midst of the 2016 election season, I am struck by the plethora of issues that face our country. Some politicians are willing to fight for individual’s rights (women’s rights, immigration, raising the minimum wage, affordable education), and then we have some politicians who are intent upon making it worse. We have presidential candidates who are deliberately spreading fear and anger against minority religious and cultural groups, seemingly running on a platform of hate. It can be overwhelming.

However, each letter that I write as editor of this journal inspires me to reflect upon the amazing research that I have had the opportunity to learn about from our authors. Not only do our authors offer important ideas and glimpses into others’ experiences, they also offer a thoughtful space for reflection and an opportunity for change.

First in this issue, we present Abigail Barefoot’s careful analysis of the coverage of the sexual assaults during the Occupy Wall Street movement: *Victim Blaming, Protest, and Public Space: News Coverage of Occupy Wall Street’s Sexual Assaults*. She also discusses the effects that this coverage had on those who experienced those sexual assaults.

Then, Amanda Stewart gives us a nuanced look into the lives of Trans Individuals in the Chicago area in, *Survival, Activism, Feminism?: Exploring the Lives of Trans* Individuals in Chicago*. Using extensive interviews, Stewart explores the struggles and decisions many Trans individuals face.

Our third piece is one that instructors will find helpful, especially when trying to have open, honest conversations about race in the classroom: *Whiteness FAQ: Responses and Tools for Confronting College Classroom Questions*. While these conversations can often be very difficult, authors Naomi W. Nishi, Cheryl E. Matias, Roberto Montoya, and Geneva L. Sarcedo offer teachers this list of questions and answers based upon the current literature.

Lastly, we wrap up with a book review by Evan Burger, who discusses *Radicals in America*, by Howard Brick and Christopher Phelps.

We hope that you enjoy reading these articles as much as we have, and we hope you feel emboldened to share some new ideas and perspectives.

Remember, "Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions" -Oliver Wendell Holmes

Yours,

Danica Schieber