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## Letter from the Senior Editor

Paul Hengesteg

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*If we desire a society of peace, then we cannot achieve such a society through violence. If we desire a society without discrimination, then we must not discriminate against anyone in the process of building this society. If we desire a society that is democratic, then democracy must become a means as well as an end.*  
--Bayard Rustin (1912-1987)

Welcome, *JCTP* readers!

On behalf of the editorial board of the *Journal of Critical Thought and Praxis*, we are thrilled to welcome you to our newest special issue: *Resisting Structures of Violence*. We know you will enjoy the great work provided by the authors and poets in this issue.

The impetus for this issue's topic is not necessarily new to readers, in fact the realities of violence have been around as long as humankind. At times, it can seem as though we cannot escape the endless torrent of hostility that surrounds us. Our board was breathless with grief learning about the shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida in February of 2018. Mourning the loss of yet more people to preventable gun violence got us to thinking about other forms of violence – the continued attack on people of color, “presidential” tweets that ban transgender military personnel, whitewashed curricula, intimidation and bullying, sexual assault on college campuses – and the paltry punishment handed to perpetrators, and beyond. At the same time, the editorial board also did not want to focus solely on the pain and anguish caused by violence; we wanted a way to uplift notions of pushing back against violence in multiple forms. We yearned to hear about healing, love, strength, and survival. We were inspired by the March for Our Lives in Washington, DC, led by the student survivors of the Parkland shooting. Their passion, pain, drive, instant mobility to action were palpable to the *JCTP* board. The cycle of violence continued for us when we learned of supposed leaders in Congress who dismissed their work as a bunch of kids who knew nothing. Thus, the call for papers focused on two central questions: What forms of violence are being experienced both within and outside the academy? How are scholars and activists alike responding to these forms of violence?

This exciting issue contains a wide swath of work. Readers will want to jump into these manuscripts and cite them readily. Ramon Vasquez posits that epistemic violence passed onto our students in schools, is the result of a complex system that Others faculty of color. Using a qualitative design, Nolan Higdon examines the life-factors that promote activism among the millennial generation and how teachers might leverage these factors in their civics classrooms. Dominique Thomas enters the conversation about resisting structures of violence with a presentation of Black Lives Matter as a response to systemic anti-Black violence that we know is so pervasive. Thomas closes with implications of the BLM movement. Adding another important lens to the conversation about violence, Umaymah Mohammad, Isa Naveed, and Dennis L. Rudnick expand upon explicit forms of violence to reveal more implicit practices while critiquing the myths behind anti-Muslim violence. Michael Dieter and Tiffany Haep explore, from a policy perspective, school walk-outs and the way schools (don't) listen to students about issues that matter to them. Relying on their own *testimonios*, three more authors, Edwin

Mayorga, Lekey Leidecker, & Daniel Orr de Gutierrez, question whether institutions of higher education promote or disrupt colonial violence.

Poetry has a long history of providing a response and critical perspective to violence in our culture. In this issue, we are thrilled to showcase the work of Patricia O'Rourke, who questions the usefulness of putting folkx in containers, and shelby eden dawkins-law evans-el's work from endarkened feminist epistemology. A third piece of poetry, co-authored by Liliana Delgado, Morgan Godwin, Wendell Lee, Kathryn Post, & Tatiana Tankhai, speaks to the power women of color have when they stand together. Completing this issue, Jessica M. Adams reviews Chris Linder's new book *Sexual Violence on Campus: Power-Conscious Approaches to Awareness, Prevention, and Response*. Adams posits that higher education's response to sexualized violence can lack effectiveness and champions Linder's call to use power-consciousness as a way to reframe efforts for prevention.

Our editorial board is also excited to announce something new for this issue! For many years, Dr. Isaac Gottesman had been the faculty advisor for *JCTP*, which as you know, is run by a team of graduate students at Iowa State University. Isaac provided guidance and stability for the editorial team at a vulnerable time for a young journal, ensuring we can sustain our operation for years to come. His contribution, like our gratitude, is immeasurable. As such, beginning with the current issue, we will be designating one piece of scholarship that uniquely reflects Isaac's vision for critical thought and the board's mission with the **Dr. Isaac Gottesman Featured Contribution to Critical Thought and Praxis** designation.

Times change, and so do advisors. We are thrilled to be co-advised by two of Isaac's colleagues, Drs. Jeanne Dyches and Noreen Rodriguez. Their support of us has been terrific and we look forward to our exciting relationship for many issues to come. Producing an issue for a peer-reviewed journal, as you all know, takes a team. The board, who are amazingly dedicated unto their own right and deserve endless praise, could not do what we do without the amazing authors who so bravely put their words forward for the world to see. Appreciation is also given to the reviewers who spent time providing quality feedback to their colleagues on ways to strengthen their work. And now, we thank you, our readers, for completing the cycle.

Enjoy this issue on *Resisting Structures of Violence*

Paul S. Hengesteg  
Senior Editor