

Editorial: Undergraduate knowledge production as transformative pattern-making

“To refuse to participate in the shaping of our future is to give up.”

-Audre Lorde, *Learning from the 60s*, 1982

Now more than ever we need new voices to inspire, transform, and shape the future. *sprinkle* is committed to undergraduate and early-career graduate voices not just because we know they produce knowledge, but specifically because of our belief that our authors and creators can imagine alternative ways to knowing justice. Amidst two public health crises: a global pandemic and an ongoing epidemic of police brutality in the United States, where both have unearthed racial and socioeconomic disparities in health, education, and employment, among other arenas, we are seeing college activists, high school students, and NCAA athletes, among others, lead the world-shaking movements calling for the abolishment of the oppressive systems we are currently under. Youth across the globe are demanding the rest of the world to realize we are closer to liberation than what dominant societal institutions propagate. Drawing upon on the works of legends like Angela Davis, Huey P. Newton, James Baldwin, Berta Cáceres, Grace Lee Boggs, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, and more, young abolitionists now are shattering the façade that the struggles of the “past” were simply left there. Through this rejection of a one-dimensional progress narrative that is often tagged onto the struggle for liberation, a palpable feeling of hope is being spread across borders by emerging and experienced activists alike—that there has always been a way out of the interlocked violence of structural racism, capitalism, and neoliberalism. With the tools laid out before us, there is ample room for all people to unite for a better future.

sprinkle recognizes not only that emerging voices are capable of producing new ways of knowing justice, but they also imagine designs and strategies to achieve a future where we and subsequent generations will live in peace, good health, and freedom. This is essential work. Our authors and creators published in Volume 13, in each of their unique styles, represent the diverse ways in which feminist, queer, and trans studies dismantle and deconstruct oppressive systems. The way in which we as emerging scholars and activists utilize these tools, and participate in existing conversations on abolition and liberation, sprouts new tendrils of connection and communication, which will inspire the growth of coalitions and community empowerment. In her presentation “Race to the Future? Reimagining the Default Settings of Technology and Society”, Ruha Benjamin says that once we gain consciousness of and accept that we are “pattern makers” – active participants in systems that socialize, normalize, and instigate dominant narratives and processes in society – we will be able to identify and break break cycles of the status quo and “weave new patterns” (2020). Inherent within feminist, queer, and trans studies, where the aim of the work is to critique or demolish white supremacist cisheteropatriarchy, each spark of an idea, whether it be for a thesis, a poem, or a painting, is the beginning of a new pattern. Anti-racist, decolonial, trans, and Feminist activists at all levels are reimagining what justice, free from the patterns of inequity, violence, and policing, looks like. In 2020 we have seen that when disruptors, dreamers, healers, and educators – that is to say, again, radical pattern makers – come together, their coalitions produce the power to dismantle even the most seemingly permanent forces and

symbols of inequity, including those notorious artifacts of the histories and contemporary legacies of structural racism in the United States, such as statues and monuments dedicated to the Confederacy, the California Missions, and police precincts across the country.

When reading through *sprinkle*, I call upon you to act upon the ways in which you can support the existing work of organizers fighting white supremacist cisheteropatriarchy and how you can be a pattern maker within your spheres of influence. As we build coalitions and mobilize towards making imagined paths to liberation into healing patterns that can be sustained in daily life, the existing socialized patterns of violence will crumble.

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Reference

Benjamin, R. (2020, June 4). *Race to the future? Reimagining the default settings of technology and society*. Presented at the Cal Poly College of Liberal Arts Teach-ON Conference, San Luis Obispo, CA.