

Editorial: *Sprinkle* throughout the Years

Throughout my three years with *Sprinkle*, I can say with certainty that both the journal and the cultural context for the journal have changed. When I originally got involved with the *Sprinkle* Editorial Board back in 2015, helping out felt like a cool, nerdy, and niche thing to do. The prospect of creating some kind of social change back then also had its appeal, but only after seeing the changes over the years have I fully come to understand the potential impact for a journal like *Sprinkle*.

At California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where *Sprinkle* is edited and printed, marginalized and non-traditional students have long experienced an unwelcoming campus climate. Recently this unwelcoming campus climate has come under more intense scrutiny, even gaining national media attention. Although it's promising that these conversations have been happening and have brought many groups and individuals together, it's also created tension on campus, if not outright hostility at times.

Within the larger scope of the United States, we've also seen several threats to limit free speech in the past year, including the repealing of net neutrality and the passing of FOSTA/SESTA, both of which impact marginalized individuals most severely. With all of these tensions at play, it becomes increasingly important for journals like *Sprinkle* to keep sharing, fostering community, and providing space for nuanced knowledge production within feminist and queer studies. When so many of us are busy having to defend the very existence of safe spaces, queerness, or social justice centered fields, it becomes harder to allocate energy to create knowledge within these fields.

It is amongst all this chaos and tension that I thank all the authors for finding the time, emotional energy, and dedication for creating the pieces showcased in this year's volume. I am continually amazed with the nuance, sensitivity, and fascinating topics authors contribute each year. Just in

my time with the journal, I've seen the content grow far beyond the narrow scope of sexuality and gender and more holistically address other identity factors such as class, race, and immigration status. This doesn't seem like a shift away from conversations about sexuality and gender, rather an enrichment of them, bringing more depth and complexity to the fields that better reflects the complexity of the overlapping systems of oppression present in the world. I am excited to see how the fields continue to grow and how *Sprinkle* plays a role in elevating traditionally silenced voices as a part of that growth.

Once again, thank you to the authors for your hard work, as well as the Cal Poly Women's and Gender Studies Department, the Freire Project, and the rest of the *Sprinkle* Editorial Board for their continued support.

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