

Editorial: Dismantling the Ivory Tower Through Feminist and Queer Intervention

I am thrilled to present this year's volume of *sprinkle* and share the incredible work of the student authors represented in the journal. The process of creating volume 14 in the midst of a pandemic, the Black Lives Matter movement, and a presidential election was complicated yet impactful. Though white supremacy and institutional oppression have always been prevalent in marginalized communities, the persistent abuse of executive power over the past five years has been catastrophic. Now more than ever, taking a stand against patriarchal, racist, heteronormative systems of power is fundamental to sociopolitical liberation. *sprinkle* and those who give life to this journal believe in the potentiality of a better, reimagined world grounded in intersectional feminist and queer values.

Through hundreds of emails, countless hours of Zoom meetings, and daily Slack messages, our team was able to overcome the challenges of shelter-in-place to create this volume—a volume we are all immensely proud of. As full time students, taking on a staff member role for an academic journal can be a big commitment, but our collective passion for feminist and queer studies drove us to this work. Given the diverse backgrounds of our team members, both academically and personally, each of our reviewers brought forth a critical and distinct perspective to the nearly 40 manuscripts submitted to this year's volume of *sprinkle*. In addition to our student members, this volume would not have been possible without our remarkable and inspiring Co-Editors-in-Chief, Dr. Adan and Dr. Ruszczky, who guided and mentored our staff every step of the way.

This journal represents a missing link between higher education and feminist intervention that is so often dismissed and underrecognized in typical academic settings. Rather than revolving around androcentric, white, heteronormative points of view, *sprinkle* recognizes and validates the scholarly, experimental, and creative work of young thinkers who seek to dismiss the myth of objective authority in academia. By rejecting this hierarchy of knowledge, we believe that feminist and queer studies can offer self-discovery, resistance, and change. Reading and practicing theory, however, can be difficult and complicated work; as Philosopher Helen Longino asked: "Is 'doing theory' just a bonding ritual for academic or educationally privileged feminist women?" Feminist and queer literature is often criticised for lacking self-awareness and gatekeeping knowledge from those who aren't as well-versed in highly academic language. *sprinkle's* goal, however, is to break down this ivory tower and uplift the diverse and varied voices of feminist and queer studies. In doing so, theory can be accessible to all and therefore liberating to all. Part of our mission at *sprinkle* is to consider every submission we receive—our team would never dismiss a manuscript at face-value because it doesn't "match" typical academic standards of writing. We are far more interested in how the author examines current events, the world around them, and personal experiences through a feminist and queer lens. By encouraging a variety of voices and writing styles, *sprinkle* allows its authors to be more sincere and innovative in their expression of feminist and queer thought.

As you dive into volume 14 of *sprinkle*, we encourage you to be open-minded: ask yourself the difficult questions our authors are posing, and consider the ways in which you are targeted by, contribute to, or benefit from white supremacist cisheteropatriarchy today. But most of all, enjoy the work of our brilliant student authors and staff members who worked tirelessly to make *sprinkle* happen. By examining beyond the individual, challenging the status quo, and uplifting those with alternative methods of creating justice, real change is possible.

Esmé Lipton
Co-Managing Editor

Reference:

Longino, Helen, and Ruth Doell. "Body, Bias, and Behavior: A Comparative Analysis of Reasoning in Two Areas of Biological Science." *Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, vol. 9, 1983.