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Letter from the Editor

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Welcome to the Fall 2018 issue of *Culture, Society, and Praxis*! The Spring 2018 semester brought many new beginnings for our journal, with an entirely new student editorial staff and new faculty advisor. I arrived at CSU Monterey Bay in Fall 2017 from Duke University, where I taught first-year writing, so I was especially thrilled when Dr. Juan José Gutiérrez invited me to collaborate with him on this fantastic project. We were fortunate to have a team of dedicated and hardworking student editors, who have revised the journal's mission statement, solicited a variety of contributions, and shepherded those submissions through the publication process.

The theme we've chosen for this issue, "Coming of Age in the Age of Trump," encapsulates a wide range of issues that affect our editorial staff, our authors and artists, and our readers. As we were brainstorming themes, we discussed the struggles that young people have faced in the current social, political, and economic context, as well as social movements that have arisen to address these struggles, like the Women's March, Black Lives Matter, #metoo, March for Our Lives, and activism surrounding immigration. We're excited to present a set of academic writing and visual art that speaks to these themes.

Gabriela Joseph's article, *Cosmopolitanism in Silicon Valley: An Analysis of Identity and Community*, addresses attitudes toward social and cultural diversity in the technology industry. Joseph's work engages with important questions of belonging, identity, community, and global citizenship within an affluent, culturally diverse industry. As xenophobia and racism continue to plague US society, and as the gap between the wealthy and poor continues to grow, Joseph argues that "the people of the United States are in gridlock, not because of cultural differences, but [because of] economic disparity (p. 22)."

I am personally excited to include Sarah Zion's work, the first in a series of papers from my Communication in the Social Sciences course's media literacy assignment. First, my class read sociological and psychological research on what media bias is (and is not). We also met with a librarian to discuss the construction of "reliability" and "authority" in varying contexts. Using the [Media Bias Chart](#) as our starting point, students chose a current social or political event and compared media coverage of that event from four different outlets. Students chose one partisan perspective, then selected articles from each of the chart's four horizontal categories: "news," "fair interpretations of the news," "unfair interpretations of the news," and finally, "nonsense damaging to public discourse." Based upon their original analyses of these articles, students were asked to make recommendations of how one can become a well-informed consumer of media. As we are bombarded with mistrust of the media and efforts to stifle journalistic investigation, Zion's course paper and resulting article is thoughtful, insightful, and offers important lessons for us all.

We are thrilled to continue our engagement with artistic and multimedia work by publishing a series of photographs and artwork. First, in *POTUS: Pinata Test*, Helen Davis presents a reflection and photographic documentation of her class' political performance art at Monterey Peninsula College. Then, in *Riding Through the Puddle*, Carlos Castro presents evocative images of the lives of immigrant and undocumented workers in East Salinas. Finally, our cover

image features a set of self-portraits from members of Undocu-Otters, a student organization for undocumented CSUMB students and their allies.

Fall 2018 brings even more new developments for us, as we welcome new student editors and transition CSP to a new website. This new site, hosted on the CSU Monterey Bay Library's Digital Commons, will give us a modern, enjoyable experience for readers, authors, reviewers, and editors alike. For their support and advocacy through this transition, we would like to thank Deans Ilene Feinman, Andrew Drummond, and Frank Wojcik; librarians Sarah Dahlen and Ryne Leuzinger; library digital resources specialist John Brady; former School of Social, Behavioral, and Global Studies (SBGS) administrative support coordinator Rachel FitzJohn; SBGS Chair Ruben Mendoza; and our SBGS faculty colleagues.

Stay tuned for our next issue, published on our new home on the web!

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