

Inter-Text: An Undergraduate Journal for Social Sciences and Humanities

Volume 2

Article 1

Letter from the Editors

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Recommended Citation

() "Letter from the Editors," *Inter-Text: An Undergraduate Journal for Social Sciences and Humanities*: Vol. 2 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://publications.lakeforest.edu/inter-text/vol2/iss1/1>

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Dear Reader,

Our second undertaking in our mission to enable scholarly dialogue, diversity, and development among Lake Forest College's humanities and social science students, this volume of *Inter-Text* represents the true spirit of the academic culture the College strives to achieve. It is our deepest wish that this Journal continues to serve as a venue through which our fellow students can share their valuable perspectives. So, to start, we thank you for your continued interest in and support of our endeavor.

With one volume under our belts, we have labored over the past year not only to live up to but also to exceed the success of *Inter-Text* Volume 1. Reflective of this, we were pleased to offer Spanish- and French-speaking students the opportunity to submit. Though no papers written in French were submitted, you will find in our collection two Spanish articles, which each underwent the same rigorous peer review and editorial process as our English submissions. We feel that being able to include scholarship in multiple languages truly embodies the Journal's mission of intertextual dialogue.

In addition to expanding the Journal's linguistic scope, we were able to use last year's experience to strategically improve this year's process in practical ways. Our editorial process this year was much more comprehensive; following the peer review using a new and intuitive rubric, each article was substantively edited, copyedited, and proofread by at least two editors. Through these changes, we hope that contributing to the Journal was more organized and enjoyable for authors and editors alike. We also implemented a new, web-based workflow for content acquisition, which brings us to the articles we have included in *Inter-Text* Volume 2.

Of nearly forty submissions, we present to you the best thirteen. We were once again moved by the response we received from the campus community. We strived to build upon the legacy of last year's volume and to continue to foster evolving thought, vision, and conversation. Our commitment to provide you, the reader, with a cohesive and tangible collection of incredible literature means that we must actively peruse and scrutinize the work of those who are audacious enough to thrust themselves onto the tightrope of academic judgement. We encourage you to take the chance these authors did and submit your own work to next year's volume, for without submissions, our Journal would be substantially shorter. Here, it is fitting to mention the components of our selection process.

The pieces before you were chosen through a meticulous blind peer review process. The exceptional standard of submitted papers made our jobs increasingly difficult due to the quality and uniqueness of the submissions. Every submission we received was assigned to at least three editors for evaluation, and these editors assessed four major elements

that are central to strong papers: clarity of argument, use of evidence, structure, and language and grammar. We discussed each submission in great depth. This collaborative, yet combative process ensured that all submissions were considered equally. The result of this process—the scholarship in the following pages—spans many fields of study in the social sciences and humanities.

The first piece in this collection is “Romance Novels and Higher Education,” in which Rebecca Reitemeier argues that romance novels, which are typically associated with female readers, have the ability to develop readers’ empathy. In line with gender and women’s studies, in the first Spanish article in our collection, Emma Juettner analyzes a Spanish translation of Jeanette Winterson’s *Written on the Body*. This experimental novel, focusing on a character with no identified gender, was problematic to translate into Spanish since most words are constructed as either masculine or feminine.

Ani Karagianis takes a sociological approach to relationships in her article, “Let’s Talk About Sex, Maybe?,” in which she discusses the important issue of consent and its confusing place in the liminal lives of college students. Continuing with this focus on relationships, our other Spanish article, contributed by Stephany Baca, explores how the relationships portrayed in the Spanish translation of the 1959 comedy, *The Complaisant Lover*, were changed to accommodate censorship regulations under the Franco regime in Spain.

Zach Klein expands the Journal’s consideration of topics of government and international relations as he proposes possible reasons why a nuclear weapons program is developing in Saudi Arabia. In line with this study on evolving perspectives, Jennifer Bolek examines different standards of virtue in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century literature. She discusses how Samuel Johnson maintained his virtue in the face of controversy, as well as how a black man was characterized according to European standards of virtue in the novel *Oroonoko*.

We now move from perceptions of virtue and race in literature to cultural relations in art history. Alexis Heredia explores cultural appropriation of European society by American artists in her article “Primitivism Displayed in American Art.”

Both cultural appropriation and expected assimilation are significant issues in American society. Sarah Boomgarden analyzes the history of traditional jobs that Native Americans worked and how these jobs have contributed to their impoverished socioeconomic status. Ridwaan Ismail also evaluates economic conditions in both social and entrepreneurial contexts in his article, which quantitatively examines the variables that impact CEO salaries and company success by completing a statistical examination of a random sample of S&P 500 companies. Matthew

McMahon discusses the economy from a philosophical perspective, considering René Girard's theories to explain why humans desire objects and determine worth.

McMahon also considered human desire for non-material things, including education and career, which brings us to our next essay. As an African American woman, Jarena Lee faced several challenges in her pursuit of becoming a preacher. Emily Dietrich's analysis of Lee's mystical experiences and spiritual journey demonstrates her process of overcoming these obstacles. In "Innate Mysticism," Zoe Walts also explores religious experience through the lens of a new scientific field known as neurotheology.

In our final piece, Bernard Kondenar considers how religious ideologies inform our view of the impending apocalypse and connects this apocalyptic discourse to the larger discussion of environmentalism. Following these pieces from our authors, you will find four feature articles contributed by our editors in which they review books, a film, and a study abroad experience.

Before you begin reading this Journal, we would like to thank you for sharing in our vision. A journal is undeniably incomplete without an audience to read, question, and savor the voices and opinions of our authors. So it might be said that without you, dear reader, our efforts would be meaningless. We hope you enjoy *Inter-Text* Volume 2.

Sincerely,

The Editors