

## Note from the Editor

I am thrilled to introduce volume eight of *Dissenting Voices*, a student engineered e-Journal collaboratively designed, authored, and published by undergraduate Women and Gender Studies majors as an extension of their Women and Gender Studies Senior Seminar at The College at Brockport.

*Dissenting Voices* grows out of a course learning structure where Women and Gender Studies students reflect upon their undergraduate experience in the discipline, and through engagement, activism, and synthesis of acquired knowledge, establish a theoretical foundation to inform future feminist practices. Course readings comprise students' discipline-specific interests, enabling an intellectual forum in which students dialogue on a women and gender focused topic. This work culminates in a meaningful capstone project grounded in contemporary and emerging feminist scholarship.

*Dissenting Voices* volume eight showcases eight authors who tackle a wide range of topics salient to Women and Gender Studies. In "Opening Voices", two essays introduce the volume, both exposing the pervasiveness of sex and gender oppressions. Essay one blends fiction with theory in a complex reading of reproductive justice. Essay two examines ways gender bias operates in electoral politics. "More Voices" centers the volume where four authors scrutinize sexism across religion, feminist epistemologies, popular culture, and animal rights. Essays in this section include a timely look at ways dominance of western feminism obscures the contribution of Egyptian female scholars, an analysis of ways Hollywood feminisms complicates women's rights, research interwoven with fiction on the intersections of Ecofeminism and veganism, and an ethnography on questions of sexual equality growing up Jehovah Witness. In "Closing Voices", two essays bookend the volume. Authors in this section capture women's vulnerability as survivors, the first to illness as treated under male medical models, and the second to gender-based violence as realized in the context of family and war-time abuse.

Brave. Creative. Radical. Unapologetic. Imaginative. The writers here are committed to the gender equality causes for which they write, passionate in their resolve to see these

gender equality causes forward. The photo essay at the end of the volume evidences some of this resolve as students enacted many of their topics across the semester. Adding to this, the journal cover portrays an artistic rendition of each author holding a sign that communicates their feminist activism. Their words rise up from their signs to frame the sun. Pause and watch closely for their cues. And listen carefully to their voices. If walking near or around this progressively-minded group, you might hear the adage, “When Pigs Fly,” the “when” in reference to what is seemingly impossible. For the authors here, that impossibility is no longer impossible. Because pigs are flying, offering us hope in the face of despair and belief that we can amend even the most broken systems of inequality. Bridging theory with praxis, *Dissenting Voices* preserves the authenticity of student voice, sanctioning a wide range of ability and talent that students’ senior seminar coursework engenders.

In my early role as Brockport’s Women and Gender Studies Director and faculty developing a new Women and Gender Studies senior capstone course, I had what seemed a pipedream in conceptualizing a student journal. Semesters of dynamic student activism and thought inspired me to imagine a women and gender studies publication that would bring to light undergraduate creative agency realized on the cusp of feminist knowledge. *Dissenting Voices*, as named and populated by its 2012 student founders, and pioneered onward by this 2019 class, is this dream forward.

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