

Introduction to the Western Journal of Graduate Research

Welcome to the 14th issue of the Western Journal of Graduate Research. The Western Journal of Graduate Research was an initiative that began in 1993 by the Society of Graduate Students. It functions as proceedings of the Western Research Forum, the largest interdisciplinary graduate student conference at Western University hosted by the Society of Graduate Students and organized by the Academic Committee.

This year, the theme of the Forum and Journal was “Mosaic” to highlight the interdisciplinary scholarly research that takes place in the Western community. The value of these platforms is to challenge discipline-specific boundaries and appreciate the importance of cross-departmental learning and collaboration: interdisciplinarity. The Society is quite excited to showcase the latest interdisciplinary research in this issue of the Journal through the online platform, Scholarship@Western.

I would like to take this time to thank the organizers of the Forum, especially Ysabel Domingo, and of this Journal, especially Hadir AlQot and Joyla Furlano, for overseeing and ensuring high quality of the Forum and Journal. I would also like to acknowledge and provide my sincerest gratitude to our volunteers, our keynote speaker, Dr. Pam Bishop, the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for providing us a place for the venue, the Grad Club for providing food and space over lunch, and the Society of Graduate Students for making both this Journal and the Western Research Forum. Lastly, I would like to thank our panellists and presenters, whose work has been collected and highlighted here.

I hope the tradition of excellent graduate work will continue, and highly recommend graduate students to be involved with the Western Research Forum 2018.

Jina Kum

VP Academic, *Society of Graduate Students*