

# UC Santa Barbara

## Global Societies Journal

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# Global Societies, Global Futures

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During the preparation to publish the fifth volume of *Global Societies Journal*, the editorial board took the opportunity to reflect as a group on the mission of our journal and our hopes for its readers. This allowed us to think back over our processes and question the extent to which we have been able to achieve our goals, and what precisely those goals are.

When we first began, we were fully based in the UC Santa Barbara campus, amidst the world-class faculty of the Global Studies Department. Three years ago, under the guidance of Professor Eve Darian-Smith, faculty mentor to the journal and former chair of the Global Studies Department, we expanded our purview to include all campuses in the University of California system.

Our UC focus is neither accidental nor constraining; undergraduate and graduate students throughout the nine campuses of our system rarely consider ourselves as part of the same community, but we are.

This year, we extended our call for papers to major colleges and universities throughout California and beyond the state in our efforts to create a truly global community that reflects the nature of *Global Societies Journal* and the widely diverse scholarship that it aspires to showcase. It is often the case that our conversations stay confined in our own insulated worlds, however, regardless of this fact, we are working on similar topics, themes and concerns, and can gain a great deal from each other's scholarship. Providing a venue for broader conversations with our peers is our fondest hope, and a driving purpose of the *Global Societies Journal*.

Specifically, the creation of an independent online magazine of social and political commentary, *Global Square*, is in line with this purpose and provides both students and the general public a space for free expression and a site where features and opinion pieces on world affairs and issues of global importance can be shared. *Global Square* was founded out of the students' initiative in 2016 who wished for a space where they could freely express information, views and opinions to facilitate multicultural dialogue, global connections and promote inter-cultural understanding.

Through our journal, which reaches a larger population of young scholars and the creation of the magazine, we wish to further encourage individuals who seek to come to terms with the particular forms of life that have come about through the processes of globalization. The meaning of that common term is hotly contested, some seeing it as a positive force for empowerment and change, others a means of continued imperialism and domination.

Members of our editorial board come down on both sides, which has translated

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into a blend of perspectives both in our review sessions and our published volumes. It has not been our hope to seek a final answer to such concerns, but rather to do our part by encouraging the debate and introducing students within the UC system to some of the difficulties our growing interconnectedness poses. Highlighting the inequalities it produces, the groups it marginalizes, and the means of its successes will hopefully serve to increase our readers' awareness of matters well-known and obscure.

With this in mind, we sought out high quality scholarship that looked to recapture lost voices, decenter colonial and triumphalist narratives, and spread the perspectives circulating throughout California and elsewhere. The professors of the UCs and other major California colleges are renowned for their critical scholarship and provocative insights, just as our pages are filled with reflections on and engagements of their material from some of their top students.

Our focus on the work of young scholars has allowed the lessons of faculty to be filtered through younger, eager eyes, whose voices are often more accessible to their peers. The different article types we publish are sophisticated reflections of those lessons, often bringing them into interesting new contexts to offer different, global, and often challenging perspectives.

By publishing the work of young scholars, we seek to provide exceptional students with a place to share their hard work, but also to use those students as a means to spread their own education beyond their campus borders. This is what the new and redesigned *Global Societies Journal* stands for and what it aspires to carry out through subsequent issues in the years to come.