

2018

Table of Contents and Editors' Notes

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Queer Muslim

International Syrian

The Story Buddhist

Woman that Hasn't Been Told

Agnostic

Intercultural Japanese Alcoholic First Generation

Communist Independent Gay Polynesian Handicapped

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ist Kurdish Armenian Genderqueer Pacific Islander Volume 6 April 2018 Swazi Orphan

Muslim Latinx ADHD Trans Bipolar Native Ace Buddhist Agender Jewish Veteran Depressed Rural Inter

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Mission Statement

The *Pepperdine Journal of Communication Research* seeks to pursue truth and academic excellence in the field of communication by recognizing outstanding student scholarship that explores interpersonal, intercultural, organizational, and rhetorical communication. Through rigorous peer-review, the annual *Journal* strives to contribute to ongoing discussion in communication studies by publishing student papers that investigate a variety of contemporary topics and issues.

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"Nothing makes my heart flutter like a good story, especially the visual kind. The photo presented is a portrait of my younger sister, Charlsy. As soon as we stepped outside at 7pm to begin shooting, it started to rain. With the help of a flimsy umbrella and lots of dedication, we ended up with this image that looks almost effortless. I am thankful and mostly honored to have my work featured in this year's journal. I am continuously reminded that a story shared carries with it an insurmountable amount of potential."

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Introduction - The Story that Hasn't Been Told

As was said best by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in her TED Talk entitled, *The Danger of a Single Story*, “When we reject a single story, when we realize that there is never a single story about any place, we regain a kind of paradise.” (https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story) Adichie reminds us that no narrative has just one perspective. Luke 6:20-23 also offers a lens. As part of Jesus’ pronouncement of his ministry and the Upside Down Kingdom,¹ these Beatitudes bless the poor, hungry, suffering, and downtrodden. Collectively, they give people who were previously voiceless acknowledgment and the power of narrative. Their voices matter.

However, the story that hasn’t been told is *not* just about looking at marginalized groups. Our goal with this year’s journal is to offer space for *anyone* who is part of a narrative but has been historically left out or not given voice. Consider the context of Jesus’ narrative in the Bible -- we hear the story from the disciples and people who knew the disciples or knew Jesus, but we don’t get to hear the story from Jesus’ perspective, the Roman empire’s perspective, or a Pagan perspective. How would the Bible have been different if their perspectives were also included? What would their perspectives look like? How would the story we know change? How would our own or others’ stories change? *How do we effectively communicate perspectives that have yet to be told?* This year’s journal seeks to answer these questions through the telling of new perspectives.

The research that has come out of Pepperdine University’s Communication Division this year has been remarkable! Our students have done an excellent job of telling the stories that have yet to be heard. This year’s *Journal* is a platform for new voices and offers diverse perspectives on important topics, on the story that hasn’t been told!

From the Editors-in-Chief

We are truly excited and honored to have the opportunity to work with so many brilliant students this year. The journal has been a truly collaborative effort. Each submission, whether it was selected for the *Journal* or not, has told a powerful story and expressed its voice. Although not every submission was selected for publication, we hope that each of these stories presented here and online (<https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/pjcr/>) have the same impact on you as they had on us. We are excited to include a wide range of topics. There are so many stories that have yet to be told. In this year’s *Journal* we shine the spotlight on the generational cycle of alcoholism, shame culture and “comfort women,” Third Culture Kids, ethnocentrism, sexual self esteem in relation to the church, and refugees. These submissions stood out and show off the outstanding work of the Pepperdine Communication Division. Thank you for reading, and we will see you all again next year!

Kayla Elwy & Emma Johnson, Editors-in-Chief. Pepperdine Communication Research Journal 2018

¹ The Upside Down Kingdom is a reversal of power that Jesus proclaimed in his Sermon on the Mount, favoring the powerless (i.e., weak, hungry, poor) over the more powerful of the day.