

2019

## Table of Contents and Editors' Notes

Emma Johnson

*Pepperdine University*, [emma.johnson@pepperdine.edu](mailto:emma.johnson@pepperdine.edu)

Kayla Elwy

*Pepperdine University*, [kayla.elwy@pepperdine.edu](mailto:kayla.elwy@pepperdine.edu)

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# *Climate Change*

*Pepperdine Journal of  
Communication Research*

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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 student 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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## Introduction

*Climate* Change. We are all familiar with these words. We hear them everywhere we go. They are in the news, in the books we read, in our classes, and in our workplaces. We hear these words from politicians, scientists, our families, and even our friends or neighbors in casual conversation. But how often do we take the time to think about what they truly mean? What are the implications of climate change?

Quite simply put, Oxford Dictionary tells us that the definition of “climate change” is: “a change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.” While this is true, we wanted to dig deeper into the meaning of climate change in this year’s *Journal*. As a guiding theme for this year’s research, we asked students to consider the type of climate change that was relevant to *their* lives. This could mean environmental climate change, but it could also take new forms in the *political* climate, the *social* climate, or even *Pepperdine’s* climate.

Pepperdine is a changing climate. We are seeing the gradual change in leadership with James Gash appointed to be the new president now that President Benton is retiring. We’ve seen sudden change to our campus in the scorch of the Woolsey Fire. We have seen horrifying change when we lost Alaina Housley in the Borderline Shooting. Some of these changes will have positive lasting impact and some leave a gaping wound. But with the burn came the bloom,

We are so excited to present this year’s research on *climate* change. As always, the students in Pepperdine’s communication division delivered incredible research on their unique and meaningful ideas. We are so proud to publish each and every piece in this year’s *Journal*.

## From The Editors-in-Chief

We are so excited to once again have the privilege to edit this *Journal*. We have been so lucky to be able to work with the remarkable students and faculty of the Communication division. This year’s papers are exceptionally diverse, covering climate change in the environment, politics, culture, gender, generations, and social media.

As we prepare to graduate, we want to express our gratitude for the opportunity we’ve had to work on this *Journal* together over the last two years. We have loved collaborating with many other amazing students and having the chance to publish and share these important ideas. We know that this *Journal* will only continue to get better and better in the future. Thank you!

*Emma Johnson and Kayla Elwy, Editors-in-Chief*  
*Pepperdine Communication Research Journal, 2019*