

2022

## Editor's Note

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### Recommended Citation

Bennett, Maggie (2022) "Editor's Note," *Pepperdine Journal of Communication Research*: Vol. 10, Article 2.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/pjcr/vol10/iss1/2>

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This volume's theme of "tension and release" unites our articles' many topics, from multiracial identity to gender expression, by posing one question: how should we hold onto or release problematic messages and communication practices? In a pandemic era that repeatedly tests our social expectations, we have been compelled to revisit what acceptable, "normal" communication means. Our authors' contributions offer a window into the competing meanings we give to race, gender, online identity, accountability, and ethics. In this volume's persuasive campaigns, our authors provide compelling cases for transforming our standards for institutional responsibility. Other works reveal how social media has brought new modes of self-expression yet also enables misinformation and bullying online. Authors studying systemic messages about identity expose how our screens and public spaces reinforce narrow images of race and gender.

Through the light shed by each contributor on these complex issues, this year's publication shows the importance of questioning the messages that drive our assumptions, no matter how deeply rooted. For the emerging undergraduates pursuing a path in this broad field, we hope this volume sparks reflection on our imperfect communication systems and our capacity to evolve.

**Maggie Bennett**

*Editor-in-Chief*

*Pepperdine University Class of 2022*