

2023

Editor's Note

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Recommended Citation

Purdy, Morgan (2023) "Editor's Note," *Pepperdine Journal of Communication Research*: Vol. 11, Article 2.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/pjcr/vol11/iss1/2>

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This volume's theme of "illuminate" unites our articles' many topics, from gender negotiation to cross-cultural disputes, highlighting the complexities that communication practices hold in different contexts. As mainstream media continues to dominate in this digital age, we must revisit communication issues that have often been pushed aside. Our authors' contributions offer a window into the various intersections of communication practices, including gender negotiation, cross-cultural disputes, mediation effectiveness, and intersecting identities.

The papers in this volume provide compelling cases for transforming our standards for institutional responsibility and examining general negotiation practices to level the playing field in gender communication. Other articles reveal how colonialism can strip people of self-identity and how intersecting identities can impact people's self-advocacy ability. Additional pieces take a deep dive into mediation and how it can be a peaceful means to resolve a dispute over cultural artifacts, and the influence of empathetic language in the workplace.

Through the light shed by each contributor on these complex issues, this year's publication shows the importance of understanding the messages that drive our assumptions and interactions. 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. By examining the complex intersections of communication practices, we can better represent diverse voices and foster more effective communication practices for all.

Morgan Purdy

Editor-in-Chief

Pepperdine University Class of 2023