

Welcome! We're happy you're here. We are excited to launch the inaugural issue of *(un)Disturbed: A Journal of Feminist Voices*. The idea for this journal emerged from conversations with our larger research network, Feminist Think Tank, at the University of Waterloo that we've been having since the early 2020s, around the desire for an intergenerational space to share scholarly feminist ideas outside of the strict double-blind peer-reviewed structure, particularly for undergraduate and students. Coupled with the fact that, as many of us know, our students write such compelling and passionate work that deserves to be seen outside of the classroom, *(un)Disturbed* was born.

(un)Disturbed reflects our shared desire to bring feminist voices at various points in our scholarly and activist careers together to map what feminist thinking and action can and does look like in the present moment. Our hope is that the work presented here invites others who are interested into dialogue with us to, ultimately, build even larger networks of thinkers, makers, and communities of support. This journal aims to uphold principles of care-ful solidarity and a commitment to social justice as our cornerstones. After all, at Feminist Think Tank we like to describe ourselves as follows: We are intersectional, we are intergenerational, and we are intentional. We are undisturbed.

Feminist Think Tank (FTT) is a research collective led by journal editors Dr. Shana MacDonald (Associate Professor, Communication Arts) and Dr. Brianna Wiens (Assistant Professor, English Language & Literature), and advances research on intersectional feminist design, digital culture, and networked activism by creating space for interdisciplinary crossovers and idea-sharing. FTT holds a commitment to intervening into discourses of white supremacy, misogyny, queer and transphobia, and ableism, largely through creating spaces to gather and build community to encourage each other in our navigation of the sometimes inhospitable spaces and experiences of the internet, of academia, and of everyday life. As both a space of peer encouragement and of research, FTT provides students and researchers with opportunities to advance their knowledge through participating in critical reading groups, brainstorming sessions, research review, data jams, and research-creation opportunities. Together, we talk, think, and make.

Aligned with the overall ethos of FTT, *(un)Disturbed* arises as a testament to the feelings of being troubled, annoyed, and interrupted by the various issues that continue to plague feminists today; it is a place of naming how we are often disturbed by what we face across different sectors of our working and personal lives. At the same time, the index of “(un)” in “(un)Disturbed” emphasizes how undeterred we are by the tasks that face us, joining together as we do in communities of solidarity and resistance. Drawing on prolific feminist writer and thinker Sara Ahmed's “feminist snaps” that suggest a sudden, decisive, and often transformative shift in consciousness, a break away from the heteropatriarchal norm, this journal seeks to offer space for both emerging and established scholars to reflect on, analyze, create, critique, and think through the significances of our commitments to feminist activism. We invite emerging scholars to contribute, engage, and

shape the dialogue around gender and gender identity, power, oppression, and intersectionality as activists, artists, and scholars. We also invite established scholars to share insights from their experiences to model possible pathways forward. Often, in an academic setting, the ever-evolving issues and complexity of our personal experiences moving within feminism are underrepresented. Knowing this, *(un)Disturbed* fosters an environment where readers can feel represented, learn more about feminist issues, and have access to both scholarly and creative outputs. To that end, we invite you to engage in what our contributors present in this first issue and encourage you to find a place for yourself within these pages, both as a part of our community and, hopefully, in future issues as a contributor.

In this first issue, we invited members of FTT to consider the long-standing feminist maxim of “the personal is political” (Hanisch 1972) in the current moment. We are grateful for their generous and thoughtful contributions that stem from this initial prompt. As founders of FTT, our work has always hinged on this concept, as it usefully allows us to understand that our personal experiences are informed and shaped by structural and institutional forces that operate within the confines of gendered, and largely patriarchal, white supremacist, cis-hetero, capitalist, and ableist ideologies. In recognizing how we are structured by power, we are able to name that which hurts us (hooks 2000), see clearly the matrix of domination (Collins 1990) that constrains us, and find our voice to speak back to power. This also allows us to know that we are, first, not alone and, second, these constraints and hurts are not our fault and we don’t need to bear them alone. There is power in communities, even if provisional, contingent, and shifting. They give us the landing space, even if for brief moments, to feel the warmth of connection and recognition, and build ourselves in more steadfast ways for the more equitable, feminist future we hope to shape.

In solidarity,
Bri and Shana

References

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