

Dear readers,

This is the inaugural issue of the Behavioural Sciences Undergraduate Journal (BSUJ), an interdisciplinary, student-led, peer-reviewed academic journal, available online and in print. The purpose of the BSUJ is twofold: (1) to bring students and faculty together in an experience that will foster academic participation and growth, (2) to contribute to an interdisciplinary environment where authors and researchers from many backgrounds can come to gain insight into many areas of study.

The scope of papers presented in the BSUJ is wide. The availability of the resources and process, as well as the access to forefront undergraduate research being done across disciplines, and the perpetual nature of the design inherent within the open scientific community, will ensure successful contributions to future research.

The nature of the review process has led to this first issue of the BSUJ; the authors focus on the ubiquity of heteronormativity within human behavior at an individual, societal and global level, and have lent case examples to investigate the implications of these notions. The journal begins with a paper by Janelle Harms, outlining the argument that heteronormative language permeates our understandings of how humans interact and how this dangerous teaching minimizes the significant other ways of being that exist outside of a heteronormative model.

The second paper's author, Alexander Christison, critically investigates the heteronormative nature of the policies and procedures that have developed around gendered notions of sexuality. Christison argues the marginalizing consequences of the enforcement of these procedures, using Canadian Blood Services' practices as a prime example.

The third paper's author, Alyssa Hartwell, argues that the way health and medicine is understood is constructed within the limited model of heteronormativity, and further describes the implications of this argument toward the consideration of a medical model for the future.

Finally, we close this issue with a paper by Nicole MacInnis, highlighting the problem of human trafficking, which is a problem that exists due to inconsistent law enforcement and inconsistent definitions of what constitutes the trafficking of human beings. The author discusses recommendations for addressing the problem, including suggestions for clarity of policy making and law making, as well as suggests research into underlying factors contributing to the human trafficking behavior of both traffickers and victims.

I'd like to thank all of the authors for their hard work and dedication to this rigorous process. I invite readers and researchers to think critically about these works and contribute by getting in touch with the authors (e.g., inquire, submit a commentary in response to any work, pursuing research questions that may be inspired by this research). The invitation is open to all authors with a focus in the behavioural sciences, and welcomes submissions from all undergraduate institutions.

Thank you for reading!

Famira M. Racy
Editor, BSUJ

