

THE EDITORIAL TEAM



MARIA BAKARDJIEVA

Editor in Chief

Dr. Maria Bakardjieva (she/her), Professor and Chair in Communication and Media Studies at the University of Calgary. Her research examines the social construction of communication technologies and the use of digital media in various cultural and practical contexts with a focus on user agency, critical reflexivity and emancipation. She has numerous publications in leading journals and influential anthologies. The books she has authored and co-edited

include *Internet Society: The Internet in Everyday Life* (2005), *Socialbots and Their Friends: Digital Media and the Automation of Sociality* (2017), *Digital Media and the Dynamics of Civil Society: Retooling Citizenship in New European Democracies* (2021), and *How Canadians Communicate* (2004 and 2007). Between 2010 and 2013, she served as the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*. Her current projects investigate the role digital media plays in citizen engagement and democratic participation. Dr. Bakardjieva teaches courses in communication theory and research methodology, communication technology and society, digital media and democracy. She works to promote undergraduate research activities in Communication and Media Studies and engages in knowledge mobilization and community outreach intended to advance the public understanding of issues related to Communication and Media Studies.



SKYE BAXTER

Managing Editor

Skye (she/her) is currently in her third year of a combined degree, studying Communications, Political Science, and Statistics. Over the summer, she was awarded the PURE Research Grant from the University of Calgary to conduct a political critical discourse analysis, which sparked her love of research and academic writing. With a special interest in political communication, feminist media studies, rhetorical analysis, the politics of representation,

and literary studies, Skye takes a great interest in understanding the role that communication plays in social identity and collective discourse. She eventually hopes to pursue a career that combines her passion for writing, research, and community involvement.

**MELISSA MORRIS****Communications Development Specialist**

Melissa Morris (she/her) is the founding Managing Editor for The Motley. She graduated with a BA (Honours) in Communication and Media Studies in Spring 2023. In addition to her role with The Motley, she is the Director of Student Affairs for the Students in Communications Club. In the first two years of her undergraduate degree, she published two papers in the Agora Undergraduate Journal, and won a Student Writing Award. Her Honours thesis

include *Internet Society: The Internet in Everyday Life* (2005), *Socialbots and Their Friends: Digital Media and the Automation of Sociality* (2017), *Digital Media and the Dynamics of Civil Society: Retooling Citizenship in New European Democracies* (2021), and *How Canadians Communicate* (2004 and 2007). Between 2010 and 2013, she served as the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*. Her current projects investigate the role digital media plays in citizen engagement and democratic participation. Dr. Bakardjieva teaches courses in communication theory and research methodology, communication technology and society, digital media and democracy. She works to promote undergraduate research activities in Communication and Media Studies and engages in knowledge mobilization and community outreach intended to advance the public understanding of issues related to Communication and Media Studies.

**RUNE BHATTACHARYA****Peer Editor & Peer Reviewer**

Rune Bhattacharya's (he/him) career goal is to pursue a Master's degree in Communications. In his free time, Rune is an avid reader and collector of comic books and graphic novels. His main academic interests include political communication, and researching misinformation and disinformation in right-wing media. Rune is fascinated by the world of conspiracy theories and his guilty pleasure is to analyze and research fringe conspiracy theories. His

favourite food items are vegan and vegetarian. He also has a tail-less cat named "Oni" who is his best friend and companion. Rune feels very happy to be able to contribute to the Motley Undergraduate Journal's continued success.

**NATASHA BODNARCHUK****Peer Reviewer & Peer Editor**

Natasha Bodnarchuk (she/her) is a peer reviewer and copy editor for The Motley Undergraduate Journal. She is in her fourth year completing her degree in communications and media studies with Honours. Natasha's autoethnography, "I Was There Too..." was published in the second issue of the Motley and is about challenging aspects of digital efficiency and practicality. When Natasha's not studying, she can be

found reading, writing, or doing something outside. She is thrilled to get to read more students' work in the third issue.

**BRANDON EBY****Peer Reviewer**

Brandon Eby (they/them) is a trans nonbinary 4th year undergraduate student in the department of Sociology at the university of Calgary. They have participated in independent research through their work on the paper 'The Role of Antiziganism in Brexit', have participated in research projects as a research assistant, and have participated in campus community building through numerous clubs. Eby

has also been involved in campus organizing around food security efforts with Food Justice Now and Students for Direct Action. They are planning on pursuing a master's degree in Sociology after their undergraduate degree. They are interested in Activist informed research, with a special focus on decoloniality, challenging and disrupting existing power structures, the lived experience of Roma in Canada and Ukraine, and Queerness. Eby aspires to participate in Community informed, activist sociology, and is heavily inspired by decolonial and activist scholars, such as Margareta Matache, Marquis Bey, David Graeber, and Sara Ahmed.



LUKE POMEROY PYE

Peer Reviewer & Peer Editor

Luke (he/they) is a third-year Media Communications student, and Assistant Researcher at the University of Calgary, and is a proud citizen of the Metis Nation of Alberta region 3. He works with the Motley as a reviewer, editor, and previously an author. He is inspired by the opportunity to give undergraduate communications students a platform to showcase their exceptional work. Luke is working towards a degree in media communications and has also started pursuing a minor in museum and heritage studies and hopes to use what he has learned to spread awareness of indigenous issues and to showcase the Metis culture.



TAYLOR VAN EYK

Peer Reviewer

Taylor (she/her) is a 4th-year communications and new media student at the University of Calgary. She is Anishinaabe from southern Ontario and currently pursuing a career in human relations. As a peer reviewer at the Motley Undergraduate Journal, she contributes her knowledge of racialized, culturally sensitive scholarship to help determine sound and effective studies. In her free time, she explores themes of First Nations' feminisms and personal growth through visual art. Assisted by her 5-pound Pomeranian, Lana, she hopes to make informed art, contribute to spaces of Indigenous knowledge within communications, and earn a master's degree in the coming year.



SEBASTIAN VASQUEZ GUTIERREZ

Peer Reviewer

Sebastian (he/him) is a copyeditor and peer reviewer who started in the fall of 2023. He has always been interested in Investigative journalism; his inspiration began growing up in Colombia, where he saw how corruption can damage a society and wanted to make things right. Sebastian wrote for different newspapers where he talked about his struggles, such as being an International student at UofC and interviewed other students in my exact position, which shaped the inspiration behind his work as well, after being part of an investigation journalism program at the Queensland University of Technology where a group of journalists investigated the gambling industry in Australia where they infiltrated different casinos and the corruption that goes behind the industry, made him passionate about various types of Investigative Journalism, where he hopes to pursue a career.