

## FROM THE EDITOR



**E**ntering my third year as an editor for this journal, I am continually impressed by the insightful, creative and powerful cases presented by the talented student authors that are selected each year. In the midst of other graduate and dissertation-related duties, I find myself consistently prioritizing reviewing these case studies because I enjoy getting to deeply explore topics I would never think to investigate on my own. Often, I'm initially surprised by the issue chosen, but find myself drawn in as I read through each case. These case studies offer a refreshing alternative to other academic research which avoids in-depth analysis of a particular case or example in favor of abstract and quantitative approaches to exploring social issues.

The cases in our current issue center on women in politics, and the representation of women in the media. In exploring the role of women in politics, these authors have chosen to analyze women's leadership in both contemporary and historic settings. One case investigates Eleanor Roosevelt's sponsorship of subsistence housing projects, and questions the limits placed on first ladies to enact social change. Ruth Bader Ginsburg's time on the supreme court, the role of the court, and concerns about her potential replacements are analyzed in another case. The political coverage of Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential race is examined in another. As more women continue to engage in politics, how women's leadership is assessed in comparison to men's is of extreme importance. The divisive coverage of Hillary Clinton brings us to another important theme of this journal, the representation of women in the media.

The power of the media is exemplified in a case which identifies how women accused of crimes are additionally put on trial by social media in a way that particularly focuses on their identity as women, such as in the murder trial of Casey Anthony. One case looks at the underrepresentation of female composers in film and investigates possible causes and current efforts to reduce this disparity. The Miss America pageant is the focus of another case, which addresses how changing social norms put pressure on leadership to remove the swimsuit component from the competition, despite tensions and debates within the organization. In the final case, the effects of the #MeToo movement on publicizing and destigmatizing the experience of sexual violence and creating meaningful social activism are questioned and explored. These cases particularly exemplify the mission of this journal to use real-world dilemmas to explore women's leadership in creating social change.

It continues to be a great honor and pleasure to act as an editor for this journal. It is rewarding to see each scholar's case evolve throughout the months of revision they go through before their case is published. Each case represents months of research, writing, revision, and reflection by the talented Newcomb Scholars selected to present their work in this journal. We hope you learn from and enjoy the cases presented in this issue.

Sincerely,  
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*Jessica Liddell is a 5<sup>th</sup> year PhD student in the City, Culture and Community PhD program at Tulane University. Her work focuses on reproductive justice issues, community-engaged research approaches, and harm reduction models. Her dissertation work explores access to sexual and reproductive care among Native American Tribes in Louisiana.*