

In the fall of 2016, Newcomb students and co-editors Katie Lauve-Moon and Jennie Barker published the first edition of *Women Leading Change: Case Studies on Women, Gender, and Feminism*, giving the young academics of the Newcomb Scholars program a space to share their research and writing about feminist leadership. Carrying forward the history and legacy of Newcomb College, students have used the journal to study and center women leaders. Students look behind them at the women leaders upon whose shoulders they stand, analyzing individuals and topics as diverse as 20th-century scientists who were excluded from academic canon, leadership through the AIDS crisis, and nursing in the Civil War. They have made sense of the world in which they were entering adulthood, exploring contemporary feminist leadership through three presidential cycles, Hillary Clinton's political run, ecofeminist movements in Kenya, the devastation of Cancer Alley in Louisiana, the COVID-19 pandemic, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg's career, the rise of #MeToo, and the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. And in each case, they have asked themselves and their readers to look forward, wondering how they can take the lessons of these women with them into their own careers.

Today, in 2026, we look back at the tenure of the journal and find inspiration in the work of this decade of scholars. We also look at the world in which we are entering adulthood to find a political, social, and academic landscape that seems to be on the brink of change. The topic of gender is constantly in mainstream discourse. The political landscape has shifted greatly in the last decade, as is the nature of the world and society. Our journal must shift its focus to thinking more expansively about gender and embracing the intricacies of femininity, masculinity, and everything in between and beyond those categories. It is time, then, for the journal to look forward, and evolve along with the world. This year's final volume of *Women Leading Change* will close the current era, and the 2027 volume will mark the beginning of a new phase of gender-centered scholarship.

The journal has served as a launching point for students to develop unique scholarship, hone their research and writing skills, and pass on that knowledge to their younger peers as editors and leaders. The authors whose writing is found in its pages now work in medicine, law, business, non-profits, activism, and the arts, bringing the skills they have gained through these pages with them while they serve as leaders across disciplines and industries. As the final editors of *Women Leading Change*, we look back on their leadership with respect and gratitude, and look forward to joining their ranks. We take immense pride in bridging history with current realities, keeping a constant eye on the future.

Sincerely,
Carlotta Harold and Sydney Soganich
Co-Editors of *Women Leading Change*
Class of 2026