

## Letter from the Editors

Dear Reader:

The Global Studies Society is excited to present the very first publication of *MUNDI*, Temple University's first globally-oriented undergraduate research journal. We want to encourage academic excellence by expanding Temple students' opportunities to disseminate the research they've invested their time, energy, and spirit. With *MUNDI*, Latin for "of the world," we want to showcase the brilliant global perspectives of the College of Liberal Arts students.

In Spring 2019, Megan Maxwell approached her fellow executive board members of the Global Studies Society with an idea: creating an academic journal to exhibit undergraduates' globally themed work. At the time, no such avenue existed. Motivated by a lack of opportunity to publish their undergraduate research, GSS nurtured her idea to fruition the following year. Megan has since graduated, but a part of her legacy lives on through *MUNDI*.

*MUNDI* would not be possible today without the encouragement of Danielle Scherer, Assistant Director of the Global Studies Program, and the guidance of Mark Pollack, the Director of the Global Studies Program. In particular, we appreciate Professor Pollack's enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication to student writing and academia. We also want to extend a special thank you to Annie Johnson, Assistant Director for Open Publishing Initiatives and Scholarly Communications, and Alicia Pucci, Scholarly Communications Assistant, for their first-hand expertise and advice. Finally, we want to thank the entirety of the Global Studies Society executive board for helping us review submissions, offering editorial advice, creating cover art, promoting this journal, and providing moral support. We could not have done it without any of you.

We are humbled by the 50+ submissions we've received. This year, we're overjoyed to feature 24 papers in *MUNDI*, 7 of them Global Studies capstones. We want to express our gratitude to all our contributors who put up with rounds of editing, requests for different file formats, and copyright concerns as we fine-tuned our methods in anticipation of further publications. Thanks to your patience, this process should go a little more smoothly for the next issue.

We are incredibly proud and delighted to share with you the results of our hard work, and that of our contributors. We hope you enjoy.

Sincerely,



Alvira Bonsu

Editor-in-Chief, *MUNDI*



Anastasia Shchurin

Editor-in-Chief, *MUNDI*