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Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Editor

Though this issue of *Acta Cogitata* may look largely similar to past issues, the conditions that produced it are unique. Finding ourselves in a worldwide pandemic changed the ways we did philosophy, in both format and content. The struggle that burdened countless people cannot be overlooked, and in times such as this philosophy must persist and articulate responses to injustices and widely promoted falsehoods. In recognizing the suffering endured this past year, we sought out silver linings from which hope could spring and in such conditions this iteration of the journal was produced. I want to recognize each person involved in this journal as a contributor to the positive movement forward. We adapted to new formats, as our Undergraduate Conference each author took part in was entirely online for the first time, but this had the benefit of making it accessible to authors from different parts of the world and country. From the obstacles of this past year we have found new and beneficial ways of thinking and acting and that is something we can be grateful for.

As with past issues, my goal was to represent diverse interests within philosophy. In spite of this diversity, or rather in virtue of it perhaps, a common thread emerged this year in which each contribution to this journal represents a looking-forward: an observation of the shortcomings of traditional discourses and society-at large, and a constructive project that seeks to move us forward. In each article, our authors make forceful, critical arguments that challenge us to encounter our collective future in a new way, whether that involves a different orientation toward language, viewing our own productivity as an expression of humanity, or seeing relics of past injustices as sites of potential resistance.

Without the support of colleagues and faculty, this iteration of *Acta* could not have happened. I want to thank Lauren Williams for heading up the task of organizing the undergraduate conference and ensuring the process of bringing the conference and journal to fruition was done properly. I must thank my advisor and Editor-in-Chief Dr. John Koolage as his guidance was and will continue to be crucial to this journal. Above all, I thank everyone who engaged in this journal and the undergraduate conference as each individual provided unique value and made this experience what it has been.

Mac Neaville, Student Editor