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## Contents and Editor's Forward

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## Editor's Foreword

This volume of the *International ResearchScope Journal* contains scholarly work produced by our undergraduate authors during the height of the pandemic. Throughout this period, the world witnessed the devastation caused by COVID and, in the case of the U.S., the co-morbidities of poverty and institutional racism, the intensification of border control, and global uprisings against anti-Black racism and state-sanctioned violence. Within higher education, faculty and students both observed and experienced these events while adapting to Zoom classes and experiencing, in many cases, a dimming and diminishment of their social worlds.

I review these sociopolitical realities which are still with us today only to emphasize the individual and collective achievements that are represented in the following articles. Despite writing during different phases of a global state of emergency, these authors have made sophisticated contributions to ongoing scholarly discussions within their fields and their subject matter collectively speaks to some of our most urgent political concerns and phenomena. Kelsey Dietrich's article, "Empathy and Unity in Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West*," examines the ways in which Hamid's critically acclaimed novel, *Exit West* uses magical realism to depict the crises that have displaced people within the global South and to reimagine the xenophobic border control they face within the global North. Daniella Fedak-Lengel's article, "Veterinary Medicine and the COVID-19 Pandemic: An International, Interdisciplinary Study of a Global Wicked Problem," draws on field work that she conducted in Costa Rica and Belize about the relationship between the rise of zoonotic diseases, dramatically typified through the COVID-19 virus, and illegal animal trafficking. Tre Johnson's article, "The Mexican Revolution: An Uneven Path," explores the how proletariat and anarchist movements in early twentieth-century Mexico contributed to La Revolución. Chloe Kozal's article, "Communication from Afar': The Role of Subversive Mail Art During the Argentine Dirty War, 1976-1983," analyzes how Edgardo Antonio Vigo and Graciela Gutiérrez Marx used mail art to protest against the military junta's disappearance of thousands of alleged "enemies of the state." Finally, Elizabeth Westrick's "Neoliberalism's Zombies: Ling Ma's *Severance*, COVID, and Anti-Asian Racism," argues that Ling Ma's reimagining of the zombie figure in her 2018 novel, *Severance*, provides both a powerful critique of neoliberal globalization and depictions of Asian immigrants as both irredeemably foreign to the nation of the U.S. but essential to its economic operations.

I want to thank our colleagues in the Honors College, the departments of English, History, and World Languages and Culture, the International Studies Program, and the School of Media and Communication who served as external reviewers and editors for this volume: Amílcar Challú, Kristie Foell, Stefan Fritsch, Alberto Gonzalez, Lara Martin Lengel, Ted Rippey, and Matt Schumann. I would also like to extend a special note of gratitude to Uğur Bakan in the Department of Visual Communications Design at İzmir Kâtip Çelebi University, Turkey, and Ann Kowalski, Principal of Ann Kowalski Design, both of whom contributed to the redesign of the layout of the *International ResearchScape Journal*. Collectively, they helped shepherd this long-awaited issue to press.

Dr. Rachel Ann Walsh

Editor

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