

## THANKS

We would like to thank Boston College, the Institute for the Liberal Arts, and the Office of the Dean for the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences for the financial support that makes this issue possible.

## QUESTIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact the journal at [elements@bc.edu](mailto:elements@bc.edu). All submissions can be sent to [elements.submissions@gmail.com](mailto:elements.submissions@gmail.com). Visit our website at [www.bc.edu/elements](http://www.bc.edu/elements) for updates and further information.

## COVER

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## PERIODICITY

*Elements* is published twice an academic year in the fall and spring semesters.

## ELECTRONIC JOURNAL

Elements is also published as an open access electronic journal. It is available at <http://ejournals.bc.edu/ojs/index.php/elements>. ISSN 2380-6087

The information provided by our contributors is not independently verified by *Elements*.

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Elements, Undergraduate Research Journal, Volume 13, Issue 1, Spring 2017

Boston College, 140 Commonwealth Avenue, Service Building 103,  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467  
Printed by Flagship Press, 150 Flagship Drive, North Andover, MA 01845

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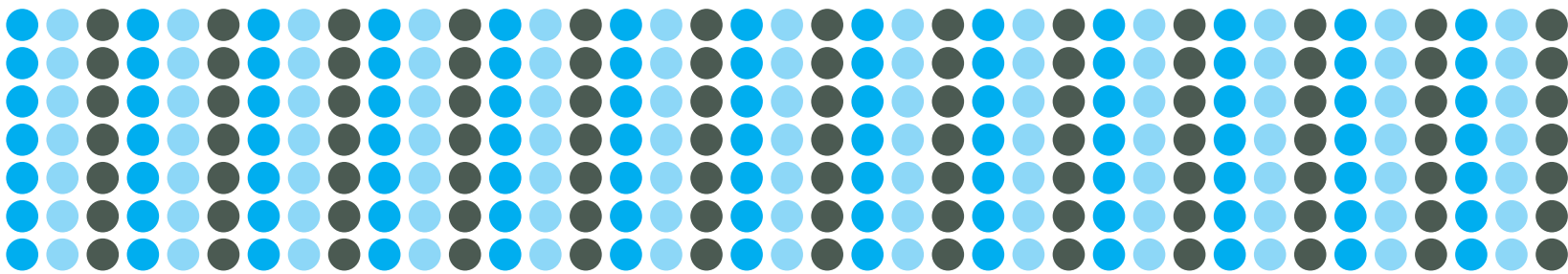
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

In light of the current political, social, and cultural turmoil in which many countries around the world find themselves, it has become increasingly important for academic research to posit questions that strive for truth and progress. Recently, one of the most significant developments has been the spread—both conscious and unconscious—of false information throughout society, which has resulted in seemingly irreconcilable disagreements on basic facts. The lack of agreement over these basic facts has allowed statements to be made that perpetuate various misconceptions, and the articles published in the Spring 2017 issue of *Elements* demonstrate a commitment to challenging these falsehoods and the status quo through academic research.

Several articles touch upon issues that are salient to ongoing political and cultural discussions within both the United States and throughout the rest of the world. The cover article, “A Pageant Politicized: The Rise of Intersectional Activism in 1968,” questions and explores the role of the media in portraying a falsely antagonistic relationship between the Women’s Liberation Movement and the Black Nationalism Movement. Author Haley Cormier analyzes the ways in which the media was able to pit the two movements against each other, emphasizing the profound influence that the media has within society. Breck Wills, Samina Gan, Patrick Sheerin, and Jordan Mindlin’s article, “Brain Circulation: A Case Study of High-Skilled Immigration from India,” touches upon a central topic of the 2016 U.S. presidential election: immigration and employment. Wills, Gan, Sheerin, and Mindlin discuss the increased migration of educated, high-skilled Indian laborers to the United States and the effects that this has had on the economies of the U.S. and India. Carly Barnhardt’s article, “Avert the Gaze: An Anti-Self-Portrait of the Disabled Female Body,” focuses on artist Laura Swanson’s challenge to traditional understandings of disability and gender through art. Finally, “Confronting Cultural Imperialism: Limitations of Secularization and Western Feminism in the Muslim World,” explores the concepts of Western cultural imperialism and its role in the Middle East. Author Emma Howe challenges the widespread notion of a backwards, oppressive Muslim world, and instead causes us to reconsider ways in which Western thought has attempted to impose its ideals onto other countries.

Analyzing literature can often shed light upon the political and cultural climates of both the time when the work was written as well as the present. Sabrina Black’s article, “Writing in a Surveillance State: Otherness in Chris

ta Wolf’s *What Remains*,” examines the positions in which writers found themselves under the surveillance of the German Democratic Republic state, and this topic of surveillance and censorship of writers and intellectuals is one that offers daunting implications for today. Author Monica Coscia considers the concepts of truth, justice, and modernity within *The Brothers Karamazov* in her article, “Trial and Error: The Malleability of Truth in the Conviction of Dmitri Karamazov.” She concludes that the failure of Western court systems to seek and recognize truth prevents justice from taking its course within Russian society. This relationship between truth and justice is particularly important to the present, especially when considering the increasing prevalence and proliferation of false information and news.

Often times, research can call attention to and question aspects of society that are either taken for granted or forgotten. Elizabeth D’Altrui’s article, “Curb the Thirst: Efficacy of Bottled Water Bans in Reducing Plastic Waste,” discusses the need to reduce the use of the common plastic water bottle through policies, while Zackary Park’s article, “The Road to a Cure: Characterization of a New HIV Antibody,” reminds us of the complex (often unacknowledged) research that is required to develop and improve life-changing medicine. Meanwhile, Kyle Baranko’s article, “The Point of Payment: A Comparison of Commercial Behaviors Across Regions,” studies the ways in which informal economies operate across several countries and are marginalized by the government, and author Caitlin Sullivan examines the cost and inefficiency of incarcerating the elderly in her article, “No Country for Old Men: An Economic Analysis of the Incarcerated Elderly.”

*Elements* seeks to support undergraduate research that is diverse and of the highest quality, and we also strive to facilitate discussions that inspire you to reflect upon and ask questions about society. We hope that the articles published in this issue of *Elements* will spark such conversations.

Sincerely,

Annie Kim

ANNIE KIM  
Editor in Chief