

Access*: Interdisciplinary Journal of Student Research and Scholarship

Volume 9 | Issue 1

Article 1

2025

Editor's Introduction - 9th Volume (2025)

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Recommended Citation

Hannes, James (2025) "Editor's Introduction - 9th Volume (2025)," *Access*: Interdisciplinary Journal of Student Research and Scholarship*: Vol. 9: Iss. 1, Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.tacoma.uw.edu/access/vol9/iss1/1>

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November 2025

Dear *Access* readers,

I am pleased to introduce to you this ninth volume of *Access: Interdisciplinary Journal of Student Research and Scholarship*. The submissions for this year's volume reflect a level of interest and support for the journal that is more than I could have hoped for following the retirement earlier this year of our founding editor, Margaret Lundberg. We have thirteen articles on a range of topics, showcased here not just in our regular issue but also in an added special issue—focused this year on environmental topics. Offering a special issue each year dedicated to specific topics or disciplines was a vision Margaret originally had for *Access*, and I am happy to present the success of her vision here for the first time.

We open the regular issue with Michael Reid's "Migrant Workers in the Neoliberal Age," which considers the state of international human rights as reflected in the experiences of vulnerable populations such as migrant workers. Presenting migrants from the Philippines in the United States as a case study, the work analyzes their relationship with their home government as a basis for critiquing the demands of global capitalism, the path of neoliberalism, and the threat of neocolonialism. Next, "La Guitarra Trabajadora," from Sarah Garcia, takes a comparative look at the role of music in sociopolitical movements, from folk music in Pinochet-era Chile to the development of *narco-corridos* in Mexico, noting in the former the fundamental resistance against state oppression and, in the latter, the conflict between the state and marginalized communities.

In “Sugar-Coated Subjugation,” Praise Lundgren uses Kara Walker’s Sugar Sphinx sculpture to highlight the exploitation of Black women’s labor and the meaning of the “mammy” archetype in the United States, from the antebellum period onwards, revealing ongoing resistance but also enduring resilience. Krystal Perez’s “The Cost of Belonging” describes the political contours of Puerto Rican identity. The work reflects on the author’s experiences while calling for stronger civil rights recognition and clearer action for Puerto Ricans as American citizens. Then, in “Marxist Analysis of Black Panther,” S. R. Jones explores the ideologies present in the 2018 film *Black Panther*, stressing that despite its success, the film fails to acknowledge an underlying power structure that undermines true social and economic advancement for African Americans.

In “The Intersectionality of Indigenous and Neurodivergent Identities in American Indian Education,” Anna Johansson points to the limited research and lack of clinical recognition of Indigenous perspectives of neurodiversity and, in turn, promotes a better understanding of those perspectives in education and broader American society. To close the regular issue, David Coughran observes in “De-optimizing Distributed Databases for a Military Use Case” that despite progressive research in non-military use-cases, optimizing distributed databases can lead to poorer performance in some contexts. While presenting original empirical data for consideration, Coughran proposes a simple yet reliable framework for implementing and testing military use-cases.

Opening the special environmental issue, “Human Population’s Impact on Ocean Acidification and Consequences” from Andrew Shams examines the threat to our oceans from unsustainable globalized consumption and human population growth that

are supported by induced intensification. Shams calls instead for a more conscious approach to our habits and global growth. Neal Eason follows with “Framing Alaskans and Greenlanders on the Melting Arctic Ice,” which reviews the largest newspapers of Alaska and Greenland, two distant and ostensibly different regions, and draws comparisons in news coverage of anthropogenic climate change and the resulting environmental disruption experienced by both. Then, Gabriel Appleby’s “Climate Change and Carbon Emissions” emphasizes the damage to our environment from greenhouse gas emissions resulting from our reliance on convenient, mechanized transportation. Appleby suggests that, in fact, small, community-driven approaches can be viable responses to what can often seem an insurmountable global problem.

In “Factors Affecting the Distribution of Crab Species Within the Titlow Marine Beach Preserve,” Lauren Jackson compares carapace sizes of Porcelain crabs to help ascertain the health of Puget Sound shorelines and potential economic impacts to regional fisheries. Kathryn Barlow et al. investigate in “Tracking Trouble” the presence and concentrations of potentially harmful algal species in Clayoquot Sound, British Columbia, proposing that warming water temperatures will foster increasing algal blooms that pose risks to human health and aquaculture. Finally, “Temperature or Nutrients?” from Mikalya Mayes et al. presents research on diatom abundance in relation to temperature and silicate changes also in Clayoquot Sound to better understand how climate change can affect the food web through monitoring the effects of frequent marine heat waves on phytoplankton communities.

I am proud of these authors, certainly for the quality of their work, but also for their dedication and patience through the review and editing process as we brought this volume

of Access to publication. I am grateful to this year's review board for their valuable feedback in refining these articles and supporting the authors. I also offer special thanks to both Margaret Lundberg and UW Tacoma's Ellen Moore for encouraging the development of this year's special issue.

Happy Reading!

James Hannes, M.A.

Editor-in-Chief

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