

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Editorial Letter, Issue 2.1

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Welcome to the second issue of *Community Change*!

Community Change is an online, peer-reviewed journal that explores multiple approaches to democratic development and change. We conceive of Community Change as an interdisciplinary space in which graduate students and emerging scholars from various academic backgrounds and scholarly approaches delve into ideas related to theoretical conceptions of “community change” - its strengths and aporia - as well as examine specific practices, actions, and projects orientated around impacting communities.

In our inaugural issue's Call for Papers, the editors sought works which explore notions of community change in light of complexities, transformations, and challenges in recent decades of intensified economic, environmental, and political instabilities. Titled “Culture and the State: Explorations in Community Change,” articles in this second issue critically interrogate various community building initiatives. These works aim to locate where change is (or is not) happening, why, and in what ways. The authors and articles explore a range of conceptions, issues, and locations, including sustainability, democracy, art, gender, and race.

Opening this edition is an interview by Community Change editors Jared Keyel and Mary K. Ryan of Dr. Wornie Reed, Director, Race and Social Policy Center at Virginia Tech. This interview explores where our country stands today, post-Obama's presidency and in the midst of emergent authoritarianism across the EuroAtlantic. Dr. Reed's interview is a provocative discussion of race, inequality, and democracy in the time of President Trump.

We then move to three thought-provoking pieces from Ward on Re-Locating Haraway, Moayerian on Cultural War and Development in Trumpian Era, and Talukdar on Sustainability: What, Why and How? Each of these articles take a different approach and theoretical angle to explore contested interactions between the popular development discourses and democracy (Ward 2018), community cultural development initiatives and social justice (Moayerian 2018), and regional planning strategies and sustainability principles (Talukdar 2018).

We close this edition with two intriguing book reviews by Bruggeman of *Art Can Change the World* and Salmon of *Is Racial Equality Unconstitutional?*

Competing Interests

The authors have no competing interests to declare.

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