

Publication Chair's Editorial - Insights and Innovations: An Array of Scholarly Advancements Emerging from the University of Calgary

It is with great pleasure that I present the inaugural publication of the Peer Beyond Graduate Research Conference, organized by the Academic Committee and the Office of the Vice President Academic of the Graduate Students' Association at the University of Calgary. This issue comprises 27 distinct and impactful entries (including short papers, extended abstracts, and postal papers) that span a wide array of disciplines and thematic areas ranging from education, health and medicine, public health, psychology and mental health, biological sciences, humanities, social sciences, engineering, and business and economics. As a graduate student-led publication, this collection showcases the wealth of scholarly thoughts and interdisciplinary inquiries that characterize our academic community.

Each contribution offers unique perspectives that push the boundaries of existing knowledge while remaining grounded in rigorous methodological approaches. The issue opens with a contribution from Blair et al., who examine the intersections of technology and education, encouraging researchers to integrate public feedback with the process of knowledge generation and results dissemination. Heathcote et al. bring attention to the underrepresentation of neurodivergent perspectives in collaborative learning literature, while Mackie calls for explicit teaching of meta-strategic knowledge to better equip preservice teachers. Nogueira challenges assumptions in online education research and proposes more human-centered approaches to digital learning. The reflections by Chowdhury Rahul propose the recognition of cultural backgrounds in the academic integration of South Asian international students in STEM programs. Till and Taimoor's contribution critically examines Canada's conflicting commitment to multiculturalism and incessant changes in student visa policies, highlighting the impact on international students' experience across the country.

Several contributions present advances in health and biomedical sciences to improve human well-being. To mention a few, Salim et al. explore the potential of Remote Ischemic Conditioning in the treatment and recovery from traumatic brain injury. Stile's innovative study employs the predictive power of computational models created from single-energy computed tomography to determine bone stiffness in shoulder arthroplasty. Armstrong's investigation into central pain in knee osteoarthritis delves into the analysis of neurochemicals in pain-processing centers of the brain, with the potential to help people before and after knee replacement. Other contributions delve into environmental concerns, like Mahdavian's visualization of environmental racism and Franks' study on Bull Trout population structure, aiding species management and biodiversity conservation. While Oladele's contribution also bridges deep historical inquiry with contemporary relevance, providing insight into modern environmental challenges.

Equally noteworthy are entries that investigate social, cultural, historical, and political dimensions: from McIntyre's exploration of Western Canadian settlement, Ayris' examination of colonial and post-colonial discourses in public health, to Okyere's emphasis on decolonial and relational perspectives that center lived experience and cultural resilience, and Sissay et al.'s investigation of neolithic resource exploitation in Portugal. The volume concludes with engaging work on intersectionality in political science by Habtegergesa, neurodivergent emotion detection by Jha et al., and investor sentiment in stock market performance by Shaukat. Together, these contributions represent the intellectual vigour, innovative thinking, and critical inquiry that our graduate researchers bring to local and global challenges. They offer rich and transdisciplinary insights across time and contexts that exemplify the scholarly advancements emerging from the University of Calgary.

We are deeply grateful to the authors for their rigorous contributions and to our reviewers for their careful consideration and invaluable feedback. Their work not only enriches the academic conversation but also provides insights that extend beyond the page, influencing practice, policy, and future research.

We hope this collection inspires continued dialogue and collaboration across disciplines, fostering a deeper understanding of the diverse challenges and opportunities we face in today's world.

----- Ayoola Oladele (Publication Chair)