

Editorial: Graduate Research Without Borders

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Research has no borders. The three articles that comprise this first issue of the Journal of Mason Graduate Research Volume V demonstrate the global reach of our graduate students' work. From the international influences on land right conflict in Cambodia, the global threat of chronic diseases, and evidence of social media censorship around the world, the authors presented in this issue challenge us to think about the aims and scope of our knowledge and the impact of worldwide networks on our research.

While I have the privilege of introducing these articles as the new Editor-in-Chief of JMGR, I must give credit to our outgoing Editors and board members who brought this work through all but the very last editing process. It was their decision-making, editorial oversight, and commitment to the journal that helped publish this first issue of volume five. As the current Editorial Board works to publish more peer-reviewed graduate student research in the future, we remain committed to a supportive, constructive, and timely peer review and publication process with JMGR. We seek to effectively use the talent of our volunteers to refine, hone, shape, and polish our colleague's research in order to showcase the very best and most thought-provoking work by Mason's graduate students.

Certainly, the authors in this current issue have given us much to think about. In Sarah Rose-Jensen's work, we see the intersection of local and global in the struggle for land rights in Cambodia as non-governmental organizations and other outside influences participate with, and on behalf of, local activists. Through an analysis of gender and age, Rose-Jensen also provides a window into how traditionally marginalized populations are mobilized to action. The two case studies presented demonstrate that divergent identities, geographies, and resources shape social mobilization and activism in unique ways.

Brian Sandberg's work on social media censorship also gives us new ways to think about communication and collaboration within and across borders. In creating a new method for detecting online censorship using automatic data collection from Twitter and Tor Network, Sandberg's research could potentially limit the risk for in-country collaborators trying to study social media censorship. In addition, the article attempts to understand how countries may be collaborating with each other to support cross-border censorship of social media. While admitting that more work needs to be done to refine this detection process, Sandberg contributes to our understanding of how researchers can creatively investigate censorship events across borders.

Finally, Ghareeb Bahari's meta-analysis demonstrates the impact of international research on the global health problem of chronic disease management. In this systematic review of the literature, Bahari focuses on recent work that uses measures of self-efficacy to understand how middle-aged and older adults manage chronic illness. The systematic review of the literature finds relevant studies in Australia, Sweden, and the United States, as well as the translation of self-efficacy scales into multiple world languages. As Bahari notes in the introduction of this article, chronic illness is a worldwide health emergency; this article demonstrates that quality, methodologically rigorous, and impactful research is a worldwide phenomenon as well.

In reflecting on this issue, my hope is the collection of articles give our readers a sense of the global possibilities for graduate student research at Mason. JMGR's commitment to presenting interdisciplinary research is just one way that we can cross borders, but the studies presented here challenges us to think even more broadly. As we bring international voices into our literature reviews, bring to light the structures that shape our global communications, and bring ourselves into new cultures and context for our work, we demonstrate that graduate student research has no borders. On behalf of the 2017-2018 Editorial Board, I invite you to engage with the work presented here, think deeply about the global connections in your own research, and continue to return to JMGR as a reader - or potential author – in the future.