

Letter from the Editor

Dear MUJSP Readers,

I'm very pleased to present the inaugural issue of the McMaster Undergraduate Journal of Social Psychology. The launch of this journal is the culmination of several months of brainstorming, planning and perseverance by members of the McMaster Social Psychology community. The contents are comprised of the work of students who have achieved great academic distinction.

I conceived the idea of creating the MUJSP in my final year of the Honours Social Psychology Program. My journey began with my futile efforts in trying to get one of my own writings published, leading me to the realization that there was no suitable platform for Social Psychology students at McMaster University. Upon identifying this gap, I tried to craft an appropriate solution that could provide for others the opportunity that was missing for me. In admiration of my peers' achievements, I wanted to create an outlet for them through which they could share their original research. This was a way for me to give back to a program and community that I feel grateful to be a part of.

I was very fortunate in being able to secure the assistance of some like-minded peers and pedagogical support from faculty members for whom I have the highest respect. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the editorial team of the MUJSP. The Assistant Editor, Ranuli De Silva, and the Graphic Designer, Jordan Graber, should be commended for their efforts. The launch of the first issue of the MUJSP is a testament to their perseverance, dedication, and team spirit. I would also like to thank Dr. Tara Marshall, the Director of the Honours Social Psychology Program, for her ongoing support, without which the MUJSP would not have come to fruition. Likewise, I would like to thank Emma Pechmann, Dr. Erica Speakman and Dr. Kathleen Steeves for their support when I had initially approached them with the idea to start the MUJSP. In a similar manner, I'd like to express my gratitude to Olga Perkovic, the Research and Advanced Studies Librarian, and Gabriela Mircea, the Digital Repository Librarian, for providing the platform to create a Social Psychology journal at McMaster University. Finally, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Dr. Sarah Clancy, the Faculty Advisor for the MUJSP. Dr. Clancy has been absolutely invaluable in her mentorship and advice every step of the way. Not only does Dr. Clancy supervise *all* the Social Psychology capstone projects, some of which have been published in this issue, she does so keeping the interests of her students in the forefront. I'm very grateful for her guidance in navigating the field of academic publishing. Without her active encouragement and support, the MUJSP would never have been possible.

The MUJSP was developed to promote a widespread sharing of academic excellence amongst the Social Psychology community. It aims to highlight the original research conducted by final year Social Psychology students and provide them with a unique opportunity to showcase their scholarly achievements. The MUJSP recognizes the importance of research opportunities for undergraduate students and hopes to spark curiosity in prospective researchers.

The pieces you will discover within this issue are among the finest works of undergraduate students at McMaster University. They have met a standard of excellence and demonstrate the dedication and diligence of students in the Honours Social Psychology Program in conducting original research.

All of us who worked to bring this journal to you hope that you will learn from its contents and that you will find something that has practical application in your own life.

Thank you for taking the time and effort to join all of us on this road to discovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Namya Tandon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'N' and 'T'.

Namya Tandon
Editor-in-Chief