

## Letter from the Editors

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SPECTRA Readers,

For the first issue within our tenure as editors, we decided to not release a call with a defined theme. Instead, we chose to let those researchers whose work fits within the scope of *SPECTRA* (the Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Theory Archives) to develop the direction(s) of issue 6.1. The contributions are current and insightful both on their own terms and, we think, in juxtaposition with one another. In typical SPECTRA fashion, the present issue features integrative theoretical explorations, innovative philosophical analyses, imaginative empirical research, and pertinent political science. We find the articles to be especially timely, given the current political and social atmosphere. We are proud that SPECTRA continues to draw a wide array of researchers who apply critical lenses to ongoing concerns.

Dean Caivano and Hailey Murphy consider Heidegger's concept of anxiety through an Arendtian lens, which highlights the notion of courage. Tracing Arendt's Heideggerian influence, the authors argue that "a crucial dimension of existentiality runs throughout her understanding of the *vita activa*, namely one that is rendered possible not merely by action, but through being-courageous to fully reveal the uniqueness of an individual in the public sphere."

Darren Jackson presents a meditation on two modes of time: "the time of being" and "the time of becoming." Exploring the temporal aspects in the works of Jane Bennett and Matthew Scherer as well as their Deleuzian and Bergsonian inspirations, Jackson cautions against prioritizing the closed circuit of the time of being. Against the background of the "shrinking" of time and the "speeding up" of activities amidst increased globalization, the author instead advances a compelling case for appreciating time as one of becoming.

Benjamin Taylor conceptualizes a pragmatic and egalitarian politics synthesizing Bonnie Honig's account of sovereignty with narratives of Chicago's Englewood neighborhood as presented in the *This American Life* podcast. The result is a provocative engagement with the concept of emancipation against the background of urban realities.

Hamza Soufane provides a theoretically informed study on German policies and practices of immigration, observing that notions of hospitality are absent surrounding the political debates. Therefore, using the works of Derrida and Hallie, Soufane engages hospitality as a discursive act, arguing “for a politicization of hospitality that can be achieved by enabling migrants themselves to enter discourse and fill it with their subjective outlook on their own mobility.”

Matthew Millard critiques traditional theories of international relations for their static, ahistorical, and reductive conceptions of the nature of states, arguing instead for a more complex understanding of relations among states and their leaders. Millard focuses particularly on the learned behaviors by states from competitive environments.

Both book reviews, in one way or another, consider the legacy of past works and their continued significance for critical thought.

Lindsay Hein takes on a contemporary reading of Patricia Hill Collins’ *Black Feminist Thought*. Although Collins’ work was first published over a decade ago, Hein observes that a critical reading can illuminate issues black women still face in the United States today.

Raluca Bejan reviews Élisabeth Roudinesco’s *Lacan: In Spite of Everything*, described as bordering between literature and theory. According to Bejan, Roudinesco “insists on the historical importance of the pre-Lacanian ideas,” in grasping the significance of Lacan’s influence. Bejan also highlights Roudinesco’s declaration that if the 20th century was Freudian, then the 21st is Lacanian.

As we continue working on improving SPECTRA’s content and presentation, we welcome our newest colleagues Caroline Alphin and Alexander Stubberfield to the team of editors. Together, we look forward to working on SPECTRA 6.2, for which a call will be released in the coming weeks. SPECTRA would like to thank all authors, reviewers, advisory board members, faculty, and the Virginia Tech library for helping us publish.

Enjoy,

SPECTRA Editors