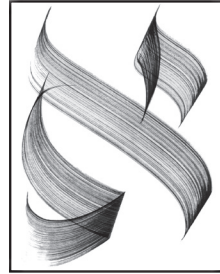


# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



**Jillien Keim Malott**



*When you only have a hammer, you tend to see  
every problem as a nail.*

- Abraham Maslow

The world is far from one-dimensional, and analyzing it within the confines of a single lens guarantees distortion and, quite often, unnecessary hammering. Since its inception in 2004, the *Aleph Undergraduate Research Journal for the Humanities and Social Sciences* has honored the world's multifaceted complexities through its interdisciplinary publications. This issue celebrates *Aleph's* fifteenth year of weaving together seemingly unrelated articles to create a comprehensive and diverse snapshot of the human experience.

This 2018-2019 *Aleph* issue is our largest to date, comprised of an array of nine unique articles. The vibrant front and back covers bridge together these publications, physically binding and interconnecting them. Although they stem from various backgrounds, this year's topics interweave and complement one another. The issue evolved into one with themes of education, identity, and control — matters that are made all the more poignant given their relationship to present-day topics of concern. From the local levels of UCLA's very own campus community, the broader city

scope, and the global perspective, each article stands to build on those before and after it.

While reading this issue, I challenge you to look at the texts with a critical perspective — when connections seem obvious, question the lens you are using; when connections appear non-existent, ask yourself if that is really the case. *Aleph* strives to tell a story that makes our readers ponder what new perspectives can form when you meld the iron of a hammer with other tools.



**Jillien Keim Malott**  
*Editor-In-Chief, 2018-2019*

