

# Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

This edition of Social Dialogue highlights four undergraduate students at the University of Utah who contributed original research articles. Three of these students not only conducted independent research on the topics they explored, but also successfully completed internships at related organizations outside of the university.

Each of these articles explores a social problem which is timely, relevant, and contested. The first takes on the debate surrounding pornography and seeks to better understand whether or not pornography is harmful. In doing so, questions are raised about the effects that pornography has on women, men who regularly engage in pornography use, and relationships in general. The second article provides insight into contemporary domestic violence research. The author was able to engage in participant observation while serving in a domestic violence shelter, which allows her to share relevant examples from our local community. The third article explores conflict through the lens of relative deprivation with a specific focus on Bolivia. The tensions and political turmoil that have spread across this South American nation during the past decade provide many important lessons that the rest of the world can learn from with regard to conflict and resolution. The fourth article provides important insight into eating disorders. The definitions and diagnoses of eating disorders are explored with the intention of suggestions to improve the understanding and treatment of this social ailment.

Each of these insightful authors provides a unique perspective through which to view social problems and concludes by offering recommendations on how future research should tackle these important societal issues. In the tradition of creating an engaging dialogue, and following the domestic violence theme presented in the second article, this edition also highlights two graduate students who demonstrate contrasting views on issues of intimate partner violence.

I am excited to announce the launch of our new extended online edition which can be found at:

**<http://epubs.utah.edu>**

I would like to welcome feedback from any perspective on any of the issues explored in this or any previous editions of Social Dialogue. I hope that this new online format will provide additional opportunities to share ideas and to help us accomplish our ultimate goal, which is to open communication and bridge the gap between academia and the greater community.

Sincerely,

Daniel Poole  
Editor  
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