
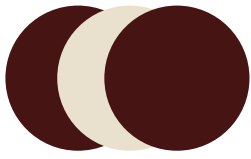




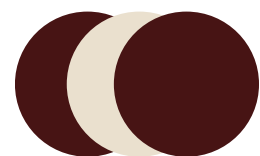
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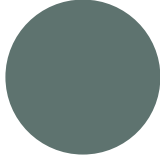
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Sophia *Luminous* is a national-level, peer-reviewed multidisciplinary online research journal for students. It is devoted to the discussion of the innovative, novel, and contemporary areas of research by undergraduate students, postgraduate students, and early researchers from an array of disciplines.



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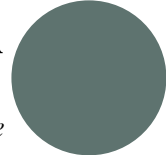


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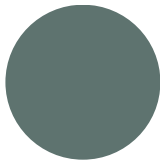
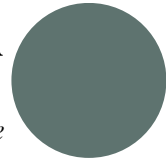


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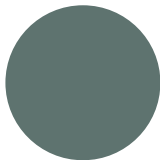
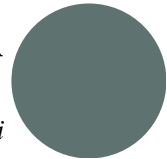


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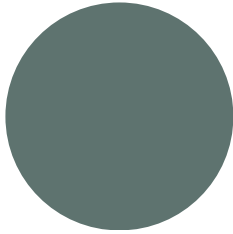


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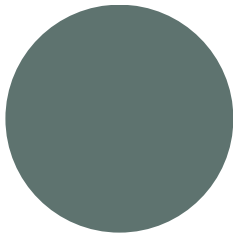
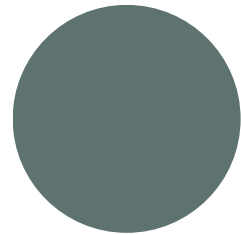
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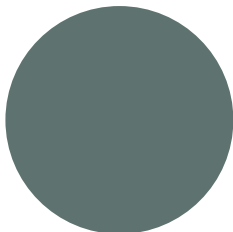
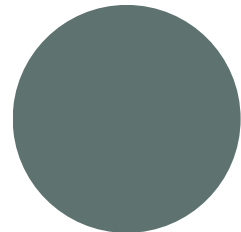
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Student Editorial

Sophia Luminous is a nation level, multidisciplinary, online research journal focused on providing a space to budding academics from the undergraduate to Mphil levels to showcase their research. Backed by a thorough double-blind peer-review process, it ensures that the research is rigorous, significant and innovative. I am proud to present, on behalf of the entire editorial committee, the third volume of Sophia Luminous. In view of the ever-expanding fields of knowledge and the various avenues for research being opened up in recent times through advances in the physical and social sciences, this issue of Luminous was not thematically restricted.

Though research may, on its face, seem like a daunting and even boring task, a hurdle you have to overcome in order to gain credibility, when looked at from a student's perspective, it presents itself as a wonderful opportunity to learn. The thrust of research lies in identifying the gaps in the explanations of the world, its inhabitants and the relations between them, and proposing novel ideas to fill these chasms. What more could a student ask for?

The process of research is inherently collaborative, even if the writer is one. We gain ideas from conversations, observations, our readings, things we overhear, things we didn't want to hear, all of it. Sophia Luminous seeks to provide young academicians with a platform to present just these products of collaboration which speak to the social scientist in each of us. The present volume contains 11 research papers spanning across disciplines from those who chose to be the voice of humanity's collective effort towards progress.

"Kautilya's *Arthashastra* as Diplomatic Literature: Positioning India in a Globalised World Order" by Aditi Basu introduces and familiarizes the readers with the rich political thought of ancient India, in particular, the *Arthashastra* of Kautilya. It explores the lessons and strategies that this ancient text can provide for positioning India as a developing nation of a globalized world order, a topic most pertinent in the conflict-ridden world of today.

"Fifty Shades of White: Purity Culture in Cinema" by Aaditi Paandey explores in depth the adored TV Trope of virgins and their supposed purity. Intertwining movies and real life examples, the paper delves into various theoretical frameworks which offer explanations of the persistence of this ideology.

"Beyond Hunger: Examining the psychological and social impacts of food insecurity in India" by Akshita Sharma explores the psychological and social impacts of food insecurity, in India including its role in perpetuating cycles of poverty, social exclusion, and inequality. It examines both the failures and potential of government initiatives, and underscores the need for a coordinated approach involving policy reform, targeted nutritional support, and

community-driven programs.

“Neurobiological Insights and the Ethics of Pleasure: Rethinking Hedonistic Dichotomies” by Khadija Rizvi proposes a reconceptualisation of the traditional dichotomy between higher and lower pleasures in hedonistic philosophies, informed by recent neuroscientific research on how pleasure is experienced. In a world where pleasure fulfillment seems to be the primary mode of living, this paper explores how to do so within ethical bounds.

“At the Literary Crossroads of Blackness and Queerness in Contemporary America: Race, Trauma and State Violence in the Poetry of Danez Smith and Saeed Jones” by Liya Abi seeks to examine how Danez Smith’s *Don’t Call Us Dead* (2017) and Saeed Jones’ *Alive at the End of the World* (2022) reflect the poets’ efforts to represent the complexities of the Black queer experience in the USA of recent times. By situating Smith and Jones within a lineage of Black queer literary figures before them, it tries to underscore the importance of literary representation in understanding and addressing the multifaceted nature of racialized queerness within contemporary America.

In “Fear Psychosis & Witch-Cults: Analysing the Plight of the Tribal Woman and her Cultural Import under Colonial Rule in Mahasweta Devi’s *Bayen*” Rajeshwari Guha looks at how the narrative of this story unveils the lingering effects of colonialism and the failure of decolonization to address the plight of the marginalized. It highlights the oppressive position of the tribal woman and the creation of the taboo of witch cults and makes use of several frameworks to make original contributions to the discourses of social othering of subaltern women.

Rebecca Mondal, in “Atoms of Discord: Nuclear Proliferation and its Impact on Global Security”, explores the multifaceted effects of nuclear proliferation on the worldwide security paradigm and the success (or lack thereof) of non-proliferation agreements. Through a blend of theoretical analysis and case studies, the paper aims to answer the central question: How does nuclear proliferation impact international security and the effectiveness of non-proliferation regimes?

“Kinship, Reproduction and Care in the Multispecies Community of Octavia E. Butler’s “Bloodchild”: And a Kafka Connection” by Swathi H examines the incongruous distribution of power, care, and rights in the purportedly symbiotic relationship between the Tlics and the Terrans in the short story *Bloodchild*. The paper also focuses on care and mutual responsibility as a way of “becoming-with” instead of merely becoming in the multispecies world of *Bloodchild*, offering insights into how seemingly other modes of being can tell us about our own.

“Adrienne Rich and the Academic Re-Vision: Understanding Othering and Tokenism in Academic Spaces” by Vartika Shandilya explores the idea of the “Other” as illustrated by Adrienne Rich in many of her speeches. Through a close analysis of her works, this paper examines how Rich identifies herself and her audience, which chiefly consists of young female scholars, as outsiders in predominantly masculine institutions. This recognition of

their “otherness” allows them to resist the discrimination that is vetted out to them. The paper underscores Rich’s contribution to raising awareness about female tokenism and the importance of solidarity among all those who have been marginalised to resist systemic bias in a patriarchal system.

“The Return Of/To Otherness: A Reading of James Baldwin’s “Encounter on the Siene”, “A Question of Identity” and “Equal in Paris”” by Vatsal Rohilla is an attempt to understand the construction of otherness in three writings in Baldwin's *Notes of a Native Son* (1955): the essays “Encounter on the Seine: Black Meets Brown”, “A Question of Identity”, and “Equal in Paris”, which were written during his stay in Paris. This paper locates Baldwin's meditative return to his otherness and selfhood in America in his experience of otherness in France, which involves both being othered by and othering others.

Finally, “Analyzing pH and Fluoride Levels Using Instrumental Methods in Everyday Essentials: Varied Health Implications” by Luminar Satla aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of pH and fluoride content in everyday products and potential health effects, utilising pH meters and colorimeters. The goal of this study is to explore the variation of pH of these products and assess the fluoride. Through the application of a pH meter and Colorimeter this research offers insight into the safety and health of everyday products consumed.

Each of these papers contributes to, and enriches, our understanding of the world. By articulating their viewpoints, every single one of these authors participate in the ongoing battle of ideas, an evergreen and eternal field where the only weapon is the intellect and the only winner is all of us.

We sincerely hope that the discourses contained within these pages inspires a new wave of thinkers and writers to build, expand and most importantly, resist. With this hope, I invite everyone reading this to trust their ability and capacity to think and share their insights with others. It is only collectively that we have got this far, and can hope to get somewhere.

Khadija Rizvi

Student Editor

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