# sophia
# LUMINOUS

# STUDENT EDITORIAL BOARD

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# Student Editorial

*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 across disciplines. Keeping in mind the various areas of research interest that have emerged, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic, *Sophia Luminous's* first issue is not thematically restricted and focuses on showcasing previously unpublished research papers written by students ranging from undergraduate to MPhil degree.

As students we are encouraged to think critically, to expand the theoretical base of our knowledge. To explore, follow, and criticise threads of thought and schools of belief is one of the most exciting and empowering experiences a student could have. Being encouraged to write it down for others to read is the scary part. Because it also makes you confront the 'why' behind what you're doing. Why am I studying this? What does this speak to inside me?

Good research can sometimes provide you with definitive answers, but the best research often gives you less of an answer and more of a beginning. It sets you on a journey, allowing you to encounter these questions yourself, moulding them to the clefts of our inner life and personal experiences.

We believe that *Sophia Luminous* and the papers in this issue strive to do exactly that: to strike a chord within you, unearthing some previously unexplored or, even better, some hidden question. If we do nothing else but this, we would consider this issue to be a success.

The current issue contains eight research articles across a number of diverse research interests. One such area of research follows the evolution of digital cultural spaces and sub-cultures, navigating the pandemic's influence on the creation of online cultural movements as a coping mechanism following the loss of international academic and social communities. Shadab Zaveri's "The Rise of the Dark Academia Movement", explores the role of digital platforms in the creation of popular culture with a specific study on the digital literary trend of dark academia.

Sweta Sarkar's paper titled "The Past and other Monsters: Construction and Consumption of History in The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt" focuses on the convergence of history and fantasy gaming. With the increasing popularity of virtual reality and gaming functionality, this paper analyses historical relativity as explored in popular high fantasy games and communities and explores the, albeit limited, discourse surrounding the same. This is especially relevant in the 21st century, where digital hyperreality and fixation has taken over a large portion of our day to day living.

The next article is co-authored by Prabhtej Kaur Sabarwal, Rhea Kotrashetti, and Aamatullah Rajkotwala. Focusing on the trauma narratives of homosexual Holocaust survivors, the paper titled, "Many Voices, Many Traumas" explores the domain of trauma studies through a psychoanalytic lens to uncover the fragmented identities that are layered in the select narratives. Using three primary texts for reference purposes, the paper establishes the importance of highlighting lesser known micro-narratives of Holocaust survivors.

Atoshi Sikdar's paper "Black Panther: An Analysis of the Musical Score and the Identity(s) it Creates" critically views the representation of the Black community in popular media, focusing on the ideological messages being captured. This analysis spotlights Marvel's *Black Panther*, looking at the impact and influence of the musical score chosen for the movie. In an age where music holds immense unconscious power over the human psyche, this paper analyses the narratives that are constructed by musical language and selection through the lens of race within the context of the superhero genre.

Methodically looking at the impact of a capitalistic state on art and its creation, the paper "Althusser, Adorno, and the State of Art as an Ideological Framework Under Late-Stage Capitalism" is co-authored by Aaliya Bukhary, Rammanohar Gupta, Ishana Bhardwaj, Chahat Mehrotra. The paper explores the social semiotics of art, especially in this modern digital age, and questions the aesthetics of "high culture" within the larger framework of power and influence as exercised by the ruling class.

The "Twin-Transfusion Syndrome" by Ms. Bhavisha Patnaik notes the impact of fertility drugs and conceiving aid mechanisms, such as in vitro fertilisation, on the likelihood of the child experiencing twin-transfusion syndrome. The paper also breaks down the diagnosis-based Quintero staging system and the potential prognosis in such situations.

"A folk form of Maharashtra: the journey of Lavani with a special focus on Sawal-Jawab" has been co-authored by Manjiri Dhamale, Maithili Sakhrani and Cresilda Vaz. The paper aims to shed light on the Sawal-Jawab Lavani folk form, establishing key distinctions between seductive notions surrounding Lavani and the Sawal-Jawab Lavani form. Approaching the folk form from multiple perspectives, the paper traces the ethnographical relevance of the form and its evolution over time.

Keerthana Iyer's paper titled "Homosocial Spheres in Korea and Japan: A Deep Dive Into Literature and Cinema" aims to explore the influence of South-East Asian literary and cinematic movements on the cultural setting and context. Intersecting ideas of film, culture, and sociology meld into one another in this paper, honouring micro-narratives that destabilise the power of dominant patriarchal groups and allow for marginalised voices to rise up. This is a relevant study of power through the lens of South-East Asian cinema and literature.

Each paper contributes to our understanding of the world; the way it moves, evolves, functions, and finally, simply is. Every critique, theory, and exploration presented in this edition of *Sophia Luminous* contains the potential to expand our understanding (and our questioning) of the world as we know it, providing intellectual spaces to grapple and wrestle with dominant discourses.

We hope that you will be left with all the right answers. And, for those smart enough to know that there is no true answer, may you be left with all the right questions.

Sarah Samuel Mathai
Student        Editor
*Sophia        Luminous*
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