

Editor's Introduction

Jen Wingard

Peitho 20.1, our Fall/Winter 2017 issue, is being released during a fraught political and cultural moment. We are ten months into one of the most divisive presidential administrations we have ever witnessed as a country, one that is demonstrably changing how political rhetoric and even policy-making are performed and circulated. We are in the midst of recovering from some of the largest, nearly simultaneous natural disasters we have seen: uncontrolled fires in the West; super-storms in the Gulf and the Caribbean; and earthquakes across Mexico. And finally, the racial divides in our country are becoming ever more visible, and more visibly dangerous, for people of color. Our earth, our polis, our communities: all are weary, and yet we must continue the struggle.

The work in this issue intends to assist us all in the struggle, by making us re-see how even foundational feminist work needs to be challenged during difficult times. Whether it is through adding the voices of those previously unheard, as we see in Kelly Blewett's and J.P. Hanly's work on Ursula Nordstrom and Ann Eliza Young, respectively; or rethinking the challenges posed when we engage in pro-choice discourse and/or trigger warnings in the classroom, as discussed by Timothy Ballingall and Stephanie Phillips and Mark Leahy; or, as Jennifer Young and Laurie McMillian note, our need to consider how certain seemingly feminist texts can actually do more harm than good; each piece in 20.1 asks us to recalibrate our notion of feminist rhetorical practice, and challenges us to do so at a time when the stakes could not be higher.

Finally, I would like to note some good: As I begin the middle of my second year as editor, the submission rate of the journal has grown. As such, I have brought on an editorial assistant to help with the workload. Rachelle A.C. Joplin, a PhD Student at the University of Houston will be working closely with me. Additionally, I would like to officially recognize Suzanne Bordelon, Professor at San Diego State University, who has taken on the role of the chair of the editorial board since Lindal Buchannan has rotated out. I look forward to working with both Rachelle and Suzanne over the next few years to help *Peitho* continue to grow and thrive.

Here's hoping I see many of you at Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s) in Dayton, OH, Oct 4-7, 2017. And I certainly hope you will have a chance to catch up on the latest issue of *Peitho* during your travels.

In solidarity.

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