

Editors' Note

In the eleventh issue of the *Undergraduate Journal of Humanistic Studies* we are pleased to present the following three papers, which consider identity and community formation, definition, and exploration. These excellent undergraduate research papers, though written in very different disciplines, are all concerned with how people in communities construct group identities, and what it means to be a member of a community.

In "Far Apart but Never Closer: Diasporic Unity in Twelfth-Century Jewish Travel Literature," Aaron Forman (Carleton College) analyzes the work of two twelfth-century Jewish travel writers, Benjamin of Tudela and Petachia of Regensburg. While Benjamin's writings focus on describing and placing Jewish communities throughout his travels, and Petachia relates the oral traditions and significant sites he encountered, Aaron argues that both authors nevertheless use their narratives to connect Jewish communities from Europe to the Levant together by their shared traditions, cultural memory, and Judaism.

In "Touching Queerness: Performing Utopia in a Public Bathroom," Adar Kamholtz-Roberts (Macalester College) explores how site-specific dance can bring new meaning and queer utopias to spaces of control and discipline like gendered bathrooms. As a complement to his paper, Adar choreographed and performed a dance in a gendered bathroom on the Macalester campus, which can be seen here.¹

In "The Polish Law and Justice Party's Strategic Approach to Its Relationship With the European Union," Isabel Colyer (Saint Louis University) explores the fraught relationship between the European Union and Poland's currently dominant Law and Justice Party. Isabel argues that the Party uses populist tropes to position the European Union as "above" and "outside" of Poland while using targeted economic benefits and nationalistic rhetoric to appeal to its core base of supporters.

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¹The link is also provided here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cb79yN5oxJNTYnh0WdcQF-skE9K531XB/view>