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In Memoriam: A Beacon of Resistance and Hope

The second volume of the Canadian Journal for the Academic Mind is dedicated to Professor Refaat Al-Areer, a distinguished Palestinian writer, poet, professor, and activist. Born in Gaza City in 1979, Al-Areer has always said that his life and work were deeply influenced by the Israeli occupation.

As a professor at the Islamic University of Gaza, Al-Areer's dedication to literature and creative writing inspired countless students. His vision extended beyond the classroom through the co-founding of We Are Not Numbers, an organization that empowered young Gazan writers by pairing them with experienced authors, harnessing the power of storytelling as a form of resistance and resilience.

On 6 December 2023, Professor Alareer was murdered in an Israeli airstrike in northern Gaza, along with several members of his family.

In honouring Professor Refaat Al-Areer, we acknowledge his unconquerable spirit, his contributions to literature, and his enduring legacy of resistance through storytelling. His words and actions continue to inspire and resonate with all who strive for justice and peace.

If I must die, vou must live to tell my story to sell my things to buy a piece of cloth and some strings, (make it white with a long tail) so that a child, somewhere in Gaza while looking heaven in the eye awaiting his dad who left in a blaze and bid no one farewell not even to his flesh not even to himself sees the kite, my kite you made, flying up above and thinks for a moment an angel is there bringing back love

If I must die let it bring hope let it be a tale.

- Dr. Refaat Alareer (2023). "If I must die, let it be a tale"

CONTENTS

In Memoriam: A Beacon of Resistance and Hope If I must die, let it be a tale	
Honouring Indigenous Knowledge	ii
Letter from the Editorial Board	V
I. PUBLIC AFFAIRS	1
A Critical Study of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: Prospects and Perils Thalia Bueno	3
'Canadianism,' the Welfare State, and Policy Growth: Assessing the role of identity on the healthcare privatization discourse in Canada Diana Gabrielle Koujanian	21
II. ARTS & HUMANITIES	55
Canadian Broadcasting Policy, Capitalism, and CanCon: Balancing Economic and Cultural Objectives with the Online Streaming Act Christine Rose Cooling	57
The Internet as a Democratic Hellscape: How Social Media Violates Natural Law Claire Crawford	
III. NATURAL & APPLIED SCIENCES ······	95
Unravelling the Intricacies of Telomere Replication: A Molecular Conundrum Neelabh Datta	97

Honouring Indigenous Knowledge and Fostering Decolonization

The Canadian Journal for the Academic Mind recognizes that it is headquartered on the traditional, unceded land of the Omàmiwininiwag, Anishinabewaki, Kanien'kehá:ka, and Haudenosaunee nations.

We honour the rich knowledge systems and cultural contributions of Indigenous peoples and aim to create a space that values Indigenous ways of knowing and being. We acknowledge the detrimental impact of colonization on individuals, communities, and knowledge systems. By seeking to decenter dominant Western paradigms, we aim to embrace diverse epistemologies, methodologies, and research approaches. Our goal is to challenge traditional boundaries, promote cross-cultural dialogue, and dismantle systems of oppression embedded in academic structures.

Together, we can forge a scholarly community that reflects our shared commitment to equity, inclusivity, and positive change. Join us in our collective endeavor to reshape the academic landscape, advance knowledge rooted in justice, and create a more equitable future.

Canadian Journal for the Academic Mind 2.1 (2024)

Letter from the Editorial Board

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to present the second volume of the *Canadian Journal* for the Academic Mind (CJAM). The enthusiastic response to our inaugural issue has been both humbling and inspiring, and we are thrilled to continue fostering a platform for the exchange of innovative ideas and groundbreaking research. As we navigate a world marked by unprecedented challenges and transformative change, the role of academia in generating knowledge, fostering critical thinking, and driving innovation has never been more crucial.

Academics are the architects of our future, with their research illuminating pathways to a more sustainable, equitable, and just world. By probing the depths of human understanding, they equip society with the tools to address complex local and global issues.

Education is the bedrock upon which progress is built. It equips individuals with the tools to understand complex issues, to question the status quo, and to contribute meaningfully to their communities. CJAM is dedicated to amplifying the voices of students who are at the forefront of this intellectual journey.

Building upon the foundation laid in our first volume, we are committed to expanding the scope and impact of CJAM. This issue showcases a diverse range of scholarly contributions that reflect the dynamism and complexity of the academic landscape. We are particularly proud of the participation from both undergraduate and graduate students, whose fresh perspectives and original thinking enrich our journal.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the authors who entrusted us with their work, and to the dedicated peer reviewers who generously shared their expertise. Your contributions are essential to the journal's success and to the advancement of knowledge in your respective fields. We also wish to acknowledge the ongoing support of our faculty advisors, whose guidance and mentorship continue to be invaluable.

The articles within these pages represent a diverse range of perspectives and disciplines, reflecting the interconnected nature of the challenges we face. From New Public Management to Telomere replication, from Canadian broadcasting policy to artificial intelligence, the work presented here offers valuable insights and potential solutions.

As we look to the future, we are excited about the potential for CJAM to become an even more influential force in the academic community. We invite researchers, scholars, and students from all disciplines to submit their work for consideration. Together, we can shape the intellectual discourse and contribute to a more informed and engaged society.

We extend our gratitude to our authors, reviewers, and mentors for their continued commitment to academic excellence. Together, we are shaping the future.

Yours sincerely,

Nir Hagigi, Editor-in-Chief, Carleton University
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