

MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

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In every era, knowledge finds new ways to speak. In our present time – defined by rapid digital transformation, evolving identities, and competing narratives of truth – the role of scholarly work extends beyond documentation. It calls us to interpret, to question, and to illuminate the deeper meanings beneath the surface of everyday realities. This Special Issue of the *SUKISOK Journal of the Arts and Sciences* embodies that responsibility by bringing together works that critically examine society while bridging lived experience and academic insight.

The contributions in this volume explore language, media, gender, politics, and education as interconnected dimensions of culture in motion. Language is presented not merely as a tool of communication but as a force that shapes identity, power, and institutional life. It serves as mirror and shield – reflecting histories and ideologies while simultaneously influencing how realities are constructed and understood.

The digital landscape likewise becomes a significant site of inquiry. Through analyses of memes, political narratives, and online discourse, the scholars reveal how humor, symbolism, and storytelling shape public consciousness. These studies remind us that meaning in digital spaces is negotiated swiftly and often subtly, urging readers to become more discerning participants in their mediated environments.

The issue also offers a critical examination of gender representation and discursive imbalance, demonstrating how linguistic patterns can normalize certain identities while marginalizing others. Such scholarship underscores a vital truth: social transformation must be accompanied by linguistic awareness and responsibility.

In addressing the challenge of misinformation, particularly through the lens of pre-service teachers' capacity to detect fake news, this volume confronts a defining question of our age – how do we remain competent and ethical in an era of information abundance yet fragile truth? The answer lies not only in skill, but in discernment, humility, and cultivated judgment.

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Collectively, these works affirm that the arts and sciences are complementary pathways toward understanding the human condition. They connect theory with lived experience, the local with the global, and reflection with action.

May this Special Issue inspire meaningful dialogue, critical engagement, and a renewed commitment to scholarship that serves society—not only by explaining the world, but by elevating it.