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## Editors' Preface and Acknowledgements

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*disClosure: A Journal of Social Theory*

**No. 24 Market Failures, Famines, & Crises**

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**James A. Wren** has spent much of the last decade confronting the creative process. He holds a PhD in comparative literature from The University of Washington, a DPhil in modern Japanese literature and cultural studies from Niigata University (Japan), and a DSc in immunogenetics and Silk Road Studies from The Chinese University of Mining and Technology (P.R.C.). Hitherto, he pursued a career in medicine, before moving into literature and language at Rhodes College and The University of Hawai'i and has widely published in the areas of modern Japanese and Indonesian literature, as well as in Pacific Island Studies, medical history and narrative theory.

## Collective Members

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**Delmar Reffett** is a PhD student in the English Department at the University of Kentucky. His research develops insights of psychoanalysis and Frankfurt School theorists towards understanding literary aesthetics, particularly those involved in the literature of Britain's Modernist period. He is currently working on an account of the modernist novel that makes use of the Freudian notion of "the Death Drive."

**Ashley Ruderman** earned her certificate in Social Theory in conjunction with her MA in English at the University of Kentucky. She is now a PhD student in Gender & Women's Studies. Ashley's research attends to the complexities of passing, particularly LGBTQ passing, in American culture.

**William Stroupe** is a J.D. student at Georgetown Law who holds MAs in French and Diplomacy & International Commerce from the University of Kentucky. His research examines the international legal theory of state sovereignty and the construction of the "society of states" through a postmodern lens.

**Kiara Wessling**

## **Editors' Preface**

Grace Cale and Lydia Shanklin Roll

The twenty-fourth edition of *disClosure: A Journal of Social Theory* presents the theme of “Market Failures, Famines, and Crises.” Within its pages, we hope to present the opportunity to explore ways of understanding and interpreting times of financial uncertainty and instability through an interdisciplinary lens.

In this issue, you will find scholarly articles and creative writing that explore the topics related to the journal theme. The range of articles presented cover content from reevaluations of current research on markets to fiction inviting us to question how markets and the economy shape our perceptions and life experiences. The journal includes scholarly articles and essays, works of fiction and poetry, and interviews with prominent scholars in fields relating to social theory and this issue's theme.

The collection of scholarly articles and essays in this volume cover a range of topics that critically examine different aspects of market relations. Ulmer's photo essay provides us with a closer look at how markets influence the gold mining process in the Amazon. Luke takes a step into the macro perspective to ask whether the market is truly colorblind as its proponents claim. Janoski then guides readers to critically examine and challenge dominant theories of just how these markets truly work. Sharpe provides a meaningful reflection on the relationship between the United States and the 1983 Ethiopia Famine. Finally, Phillips provides an exploration of American capitalism.

Fiction and poetry provide a creative lens through which to explore the impact of markets on the lives of individuals and communities. Sherry explores the affective meanings of the market through four poems, This is carried further by Joshi's short story, *A Town Without A Market*. Banh provides reflections on the Hong Kong Democracy Movement in two poems. Wren's six visceral poems explore issues related to crisis, trauma, and personal failures.

Finally, the Spring Lecture Series of the Committee on Social Theory gave our Collective an opportunity to discuss many issues related to market failures, famines, and crises with leading scholars from a variety of disciplines. The interviews with Drs. Greta Krippner and Peter Temin explore topics such as the lessons from the Great Depression, financialization, and how to bridge social theory with the study of how seemingly abstract economic forces have real effects on human experiences. An additional interview with Professor Margaret Archer allows us to take a step back, to think about social theory and social theorizing more broadly.

## Acknowledgements

A journal such as *disClosure* is first and foremost a collective endeavor. It was also, for us, an opportunity to learn the editorial process. We are grateful for the support provided by our advisors throughout. Marion Rust, Director of the Committee on Social Theory, Lisa Cliggett, Interim Director of the Committee on Social Theory, and Jeff Peters, Faculty Advisor to *disClosure*, provided guidance as we navigated the process and put the 24<sup>th</sup> issue together. Additionally, we would like to thank Eir-Anne Edgar, the Social Theory Research Assistant, for her availability to always answer questions.

All aspects of the journal are online, from the call for papers to publication. This would have been nearly impossible without the dedicated efforts of Adrian Ho, Director of Digital Scholarship at the University of Kentucky Libraries, and our team at bepress, especially Michelle Barron.

We would like to thank the editors of *disClosure* 23, Rachael Hoy and Christina Williams, for their support and advice.

To our editorial collective—thank you for your dedication and commitment. It has been a privilege to work with all of you in putting this issue together.

Last year's ST 600 course, entitled "Market Failures, Famines, and Crises," co-taught by Drs. David Hamilton (History), Thomas Janoski (Sociology), David Freshwater (Agricultural Economics), and Arnold Farr (Philosophy) was the guiding theme for this year's issue. We'd like to thank these professors and our visiting scholars, Peter Temin, Greta Krippner, Cormac Ó Gráda, and Alex Callinicos for their contributions and for starting the conversations presented in this issue. It was a powerful and fascinating learning experience, which would have been impossible without them.

Finally, we wish to thank the contributors. We are excited to present and publish your work, without which there would be no 24<sup>th</sup> issue.