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Editor's Preface and Acknowledgements

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Volume 29

Populism

Edited by Aimee Imlay and Matthew Wentz

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Cover art: 2020, Colin Penndorf. Colin has been a lifelong artist, developing his skills in the trades of performance, music, and the visual arts. Colin is the Fine Art Director for the 567 Center, a small gallery and art studio in Macon, Ga. He is the President of the Ocmulgee Artist Guild, a collaborative artist collective also run out of Macon, Ga. His biggest goal is to shift the traditional gallery style of the past into new, immersive art experiences designed with community and collaboration as key components in attracting new and diverse art lovers. Colin would like to give a special thank you to Jessica Whitley for her help with this photographic series.

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Harry F. Dahms

2019 – 2020 *disClosure* Collective

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Editors' Preface and Acknowledgements

Aimee Imlay and Matthew Wentz
Editors-in-Chief, *University of Kentucky*

The 2019-2020 *disClosure* collective is thrilled to present the 29th volume of *disClosure: A Journal of Social Theory*. This volume focuses on theories of populism and brings together a wide range of perspectives relating to the phenomenon, experience, and study of populism. The recent uptick in populism signals political, economic, and/or social unrest across the globe, yet, populism remains a phenomenon that is difficult to define. Our goal with this volume was not to define populism. Instead, this issue engages conversations about the various types and origins of *populisms*, as it is our belief that the development and definition of populism is both historically and socially contingent.

The articles, artwork, and poetry contained in this volume illuminate the various conceptualizations and understandings of populism as well as the historical and social conditions which foster populism. Topics include left-wing populism in the United States, the relationship between populism and truth, national populism, the theoretical and ontological roots of authoritarian populism, and much more.

We present interviews with the four scholars invited to the University of Kentucky's Committee on Social Theory 2019 Spring Lecture Series: Chip Berlet, Paulina Ochoa-Espejo, Kenneth Roberts and Maria Pía Lara. In addition, this volume contains an interview with Nancy Maclean, the Fall 2019 Social Theory Distinguished Speaker. In these interviews many themes emerged including the importance of a conceptual distinction between types of populism, the relationship between billionaires and the erosion of liberal democracy, right-wing extremism, the emergence of populism in the United States and the link between 'the People' and populism.

This volume is a result of the conversations inspired by University of Kentucky professors Stefan Bird-Pollan (Philosophy), Carol Mason (Gender and Women's Studies), Yanira Paz (Hispanic Studies) and Carlos de la Torre (Sociology) in the Social Theory 600: Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Social Theory capstone course during Spring 2019. The course explored populism from a historical and comparative perspective and shaped the development of this volume. We are indebted to the professors' expertise and perspectives in this course.

We wish to extend our gratitude to Stefan Bird-Pollan who served as the faculty advisor for the *disClosure* collective this year. We thank you for your invaluable support, guidance and for introducing us to Han Woo Ri where we will be sure to enjoy many more meals in the future.

We would also like to thank the University of Kentucky's Committee on Social Theory for its support, particularly the Committee's Director, Tad Mutersbaugh. We also thank Adrian Ho, Director of Digital Scholarship at UK Libraries for his support throughout this process.

We are grateful to the *disClosure* editorial collective members who graciously worked on this journal on top of research, coursework, teaching and personal responsibilities. Finally, thank you to our contributors and artists for sharing your perspectives and your work with us.