THE EDITOR'S LETTER, #2

Government is the most powerful influence today because government spends about $2.5 trillion a year, and every dollar carries the power to affect our culture and behaviours through laws, regulations, grants, entitlements, and tax credits.[1]

How much of our lives are influenced by governments and our surroundings?

Following the widespread of misinformation surrounding modern culture today, the need for understanding oppression within places is so important. The ability to comprehend and question assumptions and evaluate evidence consistently is a vital aspect that makes us human. This skill allows us to form our own opinions and conclusions, however, that skill can be too powerful that forces attempt to diminish that ability to control you.

Our special edition of Literary Cultures considers the implications in which control and conflict are presented within public spaces. The idea that individuals and communities must live through oppressive states and situations as they are used as tools of which challenge the stream of human consciousness.

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[1] Schlafly, Phyllis, "How the Government Influences Our Culture," *Northwestern University Law Review,* vol. 102, no. 1, 2008, pp. 491-494.

The articles in this special issue explore a wide range of interpretations from Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 and the censorship of books which leads to society to abandon complex thought to All the Light We Cannot see which evaluates the effect of which the coastal city of Saint-Malo set during the Second World War acts as a dynamic and relational space that imposes on the characters.

Despite the wide variety that our authors have undertaken, they all conform to the common subject of control and conflict in public spaces and forces you to question the way we may be regulated, and our actions that are subconsciously altered.

We hope we were able to challenge your way of thinking and help encourage you to reconsider how you interact with your surroundings.

Enricko Cabuga

Managing Editor and Editor in Chief