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Greetings, colleagues, and thank you for picking up the December 2018 issue of CCC. This issue reflects some of our field’s most advanced thinking in how we theoretically conceptualize the work we do. We begin with V. Jo Hsu’s "Reflection as Relationality: Rhetorical Alliances and Teaching Alternative Rhetorics," which invites us to reimagine our understanding of alternative rhetorics within writing pedagogy. Specifically, Hsu encourages us to revision our pedagogies as opportunities for fostering "rhetorical alliances" that enact (and analyze) relationality among different communities. Then, working more intricately with the notion of agency in “Composition Is the Ethical Negotiation of Fantastical Selves,” Ira J. Allen complicates our understanding of relationality by interrogating how conceptions of self in our field are often caught between poststructural / posthuman theories and more traditional notions of the writer as individual agent. Understanding the self as itself a fantastical construct is less a cause for concern for Allen than an opportunity to reflect on how we ethically conceive of the writing self and thus engage with other writers and thinkers.

Those writers and thinkers, however fantastical our notions of agency might be, are always embedded in material and economic contexts. James Rushing Daniel poignantly considers the precarity that many students face...
as a function of the debt they accumulate in the pursuit of collegiate education. Writing in "A Debt is Just the Perversion of a Promise: Composition and the Student Loan," Daniel urges us to bring the issue of debt into the writing classroom as a subject of critique. Also advocating for a shift in thematic emphasis in the classroom, Shannon Walters argues for a more nuanced approach to disability pedagogy that is focused on appreciation of disability. Her essay, "Muscular Drooping and Sentimental Brooding: Kenneth Burke's Crip Time-War Time Disability Pedagogy," offers rich historical and theoretical context for this approach.

And finally we present Katrina M. Powell’s review essay, “Reconciling Past and Place through Rhetorics of Peacemaking, Accountability, and Human Rights in the Archives,” which takes an appreciative look at a few recent books in our field, including Mira Shimabukuro’s Relocating Authority: Japanese Americans Writing to Redress Mass Incarceration, Rasha Diab’s Shades of Sulh: The Rhetorics of Arab-Islamic Reconciliation, and Cynthia Haynes’s The Homestick Phone Book: Addressing Rhetorics in the Age of Perpetual Conflict. As with the aforementioned articles, Powell’s review—and the authors’ books she considers—take a probing look at issues of agency and rhetorical activity at a complex sociopolitical and economic moment. As usual, our December issue also includes the CCCC Chair’s Address, which for the 2018 convention was delivered by Carolyn Calhoon-Dillahunt, as well as the 2018 CCCC Chair’s Letter and Jessie L. Moore’s CCCC Secretary’s Report for 2017–2018. I wish you all good reading and all the best for the holiday season.

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