

From the Editors

2020. Our first pandemic year.

Not to be confused with other pandemic years, when diseases ran rampant in parts of the world that perhaps didn't affect us, wherever we happened to be at the time. As I write this, in summer 2021, SARS-CoV-2, also known as Covid-19, is an ongoing pandemic that has affected all corners of the world. It is a virus that has vexed us, both scientists and citizens alike. It has eviscerated economies worldwide. It has separated loved ones from one another. It has impacted travel. It has killed millions of people in its wake.

On March 16, 2020, Germany began its first strict lockdown, shutting down all but essential services, like supermarkets or pharmacies. For university students, this meant the university buildings and libraries were shuttered, and for several weeks, one couldn't even check out or return library books. Student life in many parts of the world was changed forever.

For Volume 3 of *Satura*, we wanted to encapsulate this experience as it was happening. What were students thinking? Feeling? Working on? Did anything inspire them? What were they reading? And so, we released a rather open-ended call for papers. We wanted to open submissions for students to express a range of ideas – from creative writing to book reviews – really anything that was their focus at the time. We also wanted to include submissions from university students around the world.

The volume you are reading now reflects the impact of our pandemic year on university students. We are delighted to present you with a range of creative writing pieces, including the beast fable “Willi's Daisies”, the self-reflective “We Are Handtalkers”, and the emotional “How to Bury a World”. The reviews include Dr. Simon Rosenberg's examination of Troy Bassett's monograph, *The Rise and Fall of the Victorian Three-Volume Novel*, a topic frequently discussed in book history, which also links to Nina Kroesing's article in Volume 2.

We hope you enjoy this special pandemic issue of *Satura*, with health, happiness, and hope for the future.

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