

Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

This issue marks the opening of Volume 2 of the *Journal of Kink and Community* and introduces our first rolling publication.

This issue is intentionally open in both structure and scope. Articles will be published on a rolling basis as they complete peer review and editorial review, reflecting the reality that knowledge production in kink and BDSM communities does not move in neat batches or uniform timelines. Care, education, and meaning-making happen across clinical settings, classrooms, community spaces, and lived experience, often simultaneously. This issue is designed to hold that complexity.

The contributions in this issue explore kink and BDSM as they intersect with care across contexts. This includes, but is not limited to, mental health practice, professional education, community-based work, ethical reflection, and research grounded in lived experience. Together, these pieces engage questions of knowledge, bias, stigma, consent, training, and responsibility, while resisting narrow or pathologizing frames.

The first article published in this issue examines mental health providers' perceptions of BDSM and kink, highlighting gaps in education, the role of consent and communication, and the persistence of trauma-based assumptions. It offers an important entry point into broader conversations about competence and care that extend beyond clinical settings alone.

As this issue develops, we welcome submissions from clinicians, educators, researchers, practitioners, and community members whose work contributes to deeper understanding of kink and BDSM across relational, institutional, and cultural contexts. We are especially interested in work that bridges divides between formal scholarship and community knowledge, and that takes seriously the ethical implications of how kink and BDSM are discussed, taught, researched, and practiced.

Volume 2, Issue 1 will remain open for rolling publication through the coming cycle, after which the issue will close and be archived as a complete record of this phase of inquiry.

We are grateful to our authors, reviewers, and readers for participating in the ongoing work of building scholarship that is rigorous, accountable, and rooted in community.

Yulinda Renee Rahman, PhD

Editor-in-Chief

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