Journal Editors’ Introduction

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Please join us in celebrating the first issue of Affinities: a Journal of Radical Theory, Culture, and Action. Our hope is that this journal will be a space where conversations and shared projects among academic, activist, and artistic communities can flourish. Many of us are simultaneously academics, activists and artists; however, there are few spaces where these connections are acknowledged and cultivated. This issue, on Autonomous Spaces, begins the kind of inquiry we hope to see continue in this journal. How are activists, academics and artists crossing the historical boundaries of progressive politics, identities and theories? What are the common paths of groups, movements, communities, and peoples engaged in challenging and creating sustainable alternatives to state and corporate forms? What are the inequalities and forms of oppression that trouble these experiments? We are committed to publishing both academic and activist writing on these and other questions, as well as other forms of cultural production.

Starting a new journal is a tremendous amount of work, and we owe many thanks to members of the editorial board for their guidance in setting up the policies and practices of the journal, to Sean Haberle for his organizational help, to Kevin Stranack, Mohamed Abdou, and especially Eric de Domenico, for their work on the website, layout, and design. We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Enda Brophy, who has put together an excellent cast of contributors on the topic of autonomous spaces, and has been a tireless and joyful co-worker. And finally, we must thank all the contributors to this inaugural issue – their diverse contributions on autonomous spaces have helped to make Affinities the kind of space we had envisioned.

We’d like to hear your thoughts, not only about this issue, but also about ideas for future issues. You can make comments on articles via the website <http://www.affinitiesjournal.org>, or send them to us at affinities@queensu.ca. To learn more about our policies and the project in general, see the ‘About’ item at <http://www.affinitiesjournal.org>