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Editor's Note

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Editors' Note

Our second volume is dedicated to current crises and issues revolving around food and sustainability. From growing organic and locavore movements, battles over genetically modified organisms (GMOs), irradiated tomatoes and threatened ocean fisheries, to the depletion of freshwater aquifers and widespread drought, food and water have come into ever-sharper focus as key environmental issues of our time. While journalists, political activists and community leaders have attempted to address these challenges, this issue will showcase papers that explicitly seek to show how work in the humanities may play a key role in illuminating the highs and lows of food and sustainability and help chart a course towards an environmentally just and sustainable future.

In this issue, authors will be discussing a wide range of issues such as the green/blue possibilities between Taiwan and Pacific Islanders, water in Native American spirituality, solutions to our bread problem, and food issues taken on by contemporary art. Similarly, our poetry section also confronts the deep-seated issues that affect our food supplies and geopolitical landscapes. Indeed, food has a primordial place in all of our lives, and as the world threatens and distorts our food supply, it is galvanizing to know that the humanities are once again on the vanguard of these issues.

It would be difficult to go to press in this season, without acknowledging the incredible historical moment in which we find ourselves. In our continued movement toward an ecologically sustainable future, there are unprecedented political cross-currents that seem intent on marginalizing, if not outright undermining this important work. It is our fervent belief that

the perspectives offered in this volume can help to cut through the noise of overheated political wrangling and, we hope, help to inspire a sincere and abiding appreciation of just how interconnected we all are with the earth and with one another. Viewed in this light, our resolve will be strengthened to find solutions together to the destructiveness of our current world landscape, and to become more resilient today and into the future.

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Photograph by Susan Wansink