



**Granite: Aberdeen University
Postgraduate Interdisciplinary
Journal
*Volume One***

**Editorial Introduction: 1st Granite Postgraduate Symposium:
*Engaging the Intersections of Humanity and Technology***

In April 2016, the first Granite Symposium was held at the University of Aberdeen. The day long event was born out of a dual desire for what the Granite Journal could offer its community. Firstly, we sought to give graduate students, across the disciplines at the university, the chance to present their research to peers they may not generally engage with in their studies. Secondly, we wanted to present an opportunity to discuss how graduate students make the shift from student researchers to early career researchers.

To the first end, Granite issued a call across the university for papers that engaged with the questions of humanity and technology. Given that technology shifts our lives daily, and has drastically altered access and research in the academic fields, we were delighted to find six graduate students willing to present short papers that spoke to their research and to our theme. Incredibly, these papers ranged from the humanities to the social sciences to the hard sciences. With attendees from these various fields as well, the question and answer sessions following each paper was ripe with questions to push each presenter's research in a myriad of ways.

To the second end, we were privileged to host Dr. Karen Kelsky as our keynote speaker. Dr. Kelsky challenged the attendees with a frank and honest summation of the hiring process. Students asked questions and Dr. Kelsky provided some hard facts about the necessary requirements for gaining employment in the academy.

This volume contains four of the papers presented at the symposium. We hope that as readers attend to each paper, they will find threads of commonality amid the different disciplines. Academic inquiry is built upon the curiosity fostered by engagement in topics from different viewpoints, and the Granite Symposium contributes to that endeavour and will hopefully continue in the coming years.

Claire Hein Blanton
Aberdeen, December 2016