

## Foreword

The contents of this final issue of *The Conrad Grebel Review* (CGR) typify the journal's mandate to advance thoughtful discussions of theology, ethics, peace, society, history, and culture from broadly-based Anabaptist/Mennonite perspectives. The first article launches an ecclesiological critique of the concept of obedience in the Schleithem articles while the remaining three all engage in extended constructive critiques centered in different ways around the work of Miriam Toews, particularly her book *Women Talking* and its more recent film adaptation by Sarah Polley. Taken together, these engagements with violence, trauma, and survival seem to collectively articulate a decidedly less assured vision than the one that Walter Klaassen, the CGR's first Editor, spoke of when the journal launched four decades ago, which is not to suggest that such a vision is necessarily also a less hopeful one. I offer this observation both to pay tribute to the significance of the CGR and, perhaps, to suggest that in times that feel more uncertain, spaces like the one the CGR was able to cultivate are vital. In this sense, I hope that the conversations in the pages of the CGR will continue to be generative and that discussions about how to reimagine the kind of work that the CGR sought to do will also bear new fruit.

I am also particularly pleased that we've been able to resurrect our long-dormant "literary refractions" category for this final issue. We also have some reflections on the development of the CGR's literary refractions here alongside two other reflections on the broader history and impact of the journal. As such, I will refrain from adding to those reflections but I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to the wonderful team of folks that have worked on the journal in the past number of years: Christian Snyder, Scott Voss, Bekah Smoot-Enns, Mariia Smyrnova, Susanne Guenther Loewen, Rebecca Steinmann, and Maxwell Kennel. I also want to thank Conrad Grebel University College and the current editorial board that consists of Troy Osborne, David Y. Neufeld, Jeremy Bergen, Melanie Howard, and Joe Wiebe as well as a broader team of consulting editors. I also want to give special mention to the numerous unpaid expert peer reviewers who enabled the CGR to consistently publish scholarship of the highest quality. These anonymous peer reviewers are, in my view, the unsung heroes of the CGR and, perhaps,

of academic publishing more generally. As editor, I had a singularly unique view into the extent to which these folks offered their considerable expertise in ways that constructively built up and strengthened the work of others and in the case of the CGR these others were often younger scholars or graduate students. It was a great privilege to witness this from the inside and I cannot emphasize the depth of my gratitude for the time and care with which these folks voluntarily took on this often-unrecognized task enough.

A final word of thanks to the authors who trusted us with their work and to you, dear reader, for coming along on the journey.

Kyle Gingerich Hiebert  
*Editor*