Foreword

The present volume heeds a powerful call to address questions around identity formation and cultural shifts in the global digital world. As digital media continue to shape our reality in unprecedented ways, the selected contributions of *Defining Identity and the Changing Scope of Culture in the Digital Age* highlight the increasingly multi-layered and multidimensional relationships between life, media, and identity. Anchored in the rich discourses of intersectionality, the contributions to this volume shape the expanding academic work on globalization and changing understandings of policy, identity, culture and the public sphere.

The selections included in this collection provide important insights for scholars, activists, students and global citizens by creating an awareness of how the intersection of identity politics and digital media has collectively reconfigured our understanding of others and of ourselves. As social scientists and media specialists, the editors have done the heavy lifting of culling and organizing the most relevant and innovative, research in the field. In a contemporary moment where increasing social tensions along gendered, racial and generational coordinates continue to cast their corresponding publics into uncertainty and turmoil, *Defining Identity and the Changing Scope of Culture in the Digital Age* reflects and recognizes the layers of intersectionality required for engaging these critical issues. In a global digital world, the politics of identity and representation produce multiple points of contention in academia and in our broader society. The chapters in this volume deftly navigate the complexities of race, gender, and generational shifts within contemporary culture, directing attention to the way digital media narrate, incubate, and at times directly confront some of the most sensitive topics in the ever-expanding public sphere.

Moreover, the collected works of this volume acknowledge and respond to shifts in political discourse that prioritize an assumption of neoliberalism and hyper-individualism resulting from the illusion of a post-race, post-feminism, and post-age world. At the thematic heart of the volume is a progressive reflection upon the relationship between new media platforms and globalization. The volume includes authors from within the United States and from outside of the US and “the West”. The diverse perspectives reflected in this project facilitate and promote intercultural exchange and understanding and in turn they reflect the editors’ investment in global approaches to the complexities of identity in the digital age. No forward or preface can properly estimate the important work collected here but I am humbled by this brief opportunity to support the work of these astute editors and insightful contributors who remain on the cutting edge of their fields and committed to the requisite critical attention necessary for progressive media research in the 21st Century.

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