From the Editor

Scrambled. That is how I describe the last 12 months since the first issue of QRME was published. I have scrambled around for months working, curating QRME, being a dynamic family member, raising a child, caring for our two rescue dogs, going up for full professor, coordinating the music education program, and the list goes on. And then everything kicked into even higher gear when we were sent home from our respective schools (my partner is a teacher also and my child is school-aged), and we were required to move to online instruction within one week due to COVID 19. So I scrambled more in order to make homeschooling work, to share spaces so we could all work from home, to meet with colleagues and students on various internet platforms, to make videos and content which never existed except in my head prior to now, and to make sure my students were alright, and remained healthy and engaged.

And then all of that scrambling came to a halt as I became aware that Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd were murdered. In fact, I can best describe it as the complete and utter cessation of everyday life: it occurred in both real time and slow motion simultaneously. I could not continue scrambling around when Black women and men, Ahmaud, Breonna, and George to name three of the most recent, were dying at the hands of others.

So I have spent the last weeks paralyzed by angst and overwhelming emotions. I have barely scraped enough brain power and motivation together in order to get through the day to day requirements of life, with little ability to articulate how horrified and worried I have been. My emotions have ranged from grief, sadness, and despondency to rage, terror, and disgust. I have been immobilized and completely shut down by the fear that one of my loved ones would be next to lose their life. You see, one of my very best friends in life and the maid of honor at my wedding is Black. My best friend from PhD school is Black. And one of my beloved longtime
colleagues is Black. Their families are Black. My students are Black, and Brown, and Indigenous, and Jewish, and Muslim, and members of the LGBTQ+ communities. And yes, they are MY students. I claim them because I love and care for them. And I cannot imagine losing any one of them to the violence that has been and continues to be perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and on all those who are marginalized.

So what does violence against marginalized populations have to do with qualitative research and this journal, QRME? It’s taken me several weeks to figure that out, and here it is. As a researcher and an Editor, I have a voice to tell their stories and state their truth. As a White woman, I have a platform to share the stories of my loved ones and my students. I can continue to learn about how music functions and what it means in the lives of marginalized children and adults, and those who are especially at risk of racism, anti-Semitism, and hate. I can educate myself and others and then in turn, as a White person, I can do a better job of recognizing and stamping out racism everywhere it exists in my life. I can use my power to speak up and write for others who have no voice. I can be a better advocate and a better ally. Will you join me?

Jennifer S. Walter, Founder and Editor-in-Chief