

# Foreword

## EXPLORING STRANGE NEW WORLDS

Ideally, the academy should be a place of intellectual discovery where the universe is the only limitation. Dr. Crawford has presented a collection of experiences on the subject of mobbing that allows us to look deeper into the academy for the cancerous nature of the academic mobbing enterprise. It is the belief that each chapter can be viewed as part of the metaphorical experiences of Star Trek, namely the "...voyages of the starship *Enterprise*" (Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, 2016, 0:15-0:18).

The character of Mr. Spock would remind Captain Kirk that human beings are imminently *illogical*. For any of us who have seen the concept of mobbing at work, keeping with the Star Trek analogy, the intellectual description of the voyages can be found in the chapters of this text, *Confronting Academic Mobbing in Higher Education: Personal Accounts and Administrative Action*.

The challenge of this book is to acknowledge that these accounts are like the voyages of Star Trek's *Enterprise* but, unless the academic community from Boards of Governors through Faculty Promotion and Tenure Committees and even the Faculty Search Committees choose to suggest that these voyages are real and do occur for many of our academic colleagues, then we stand the chance of having two of the most memorable Star Trek phrases to have been captured through the series to endure on our halls of academy; specifically Spock quotations that "Logic is the beginning of wisdom, not the end" (Clarke, 2015, 0:40-0:44) and, "Highly illogical" (DarthNub, 2007, 0:18-0:20).

To the outsider, it might seem improbably or highly illogical for academic mobbing to be a reality. The chapters presented herein allow us to consider the contributors as members of the academic Star Trek voyage, seeking to contribute to the body of knowledge in the universe, but finding that adventures may await that make the episodes of immediate danger portrayed in the episodes of Star Trek seem like a nursery rhyme.

As the reader constructively reads these episodes in the lives of the contributors, consider your role as a member of the university setting or other organizations wherein a breeding ground for academic mobbing can become a culture of acceptance. Perhaps, the Opening Monologue for the Original classic Star Trek Series can be considered.

At its best and its worst, the operational existence of our work in the academy can be characterized through the words spoken by Captain James T. Kirk, wherein the full quotation as pulled from the voiceover introduction to each episode being:

*Space: the final frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise. Its five-year mission: to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no man has gone before. (Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, 2016, 0:05-0:30)*

In fact, Geraghty, Palumbo, and Sullivan (2014) suggests that fans can engage with Star Trek in complex ways; therefore, it is suggested that the higher education institutions are a gift to the world and should be eradicated of tangible instances of academic mobbing.

At our best, we should be seeking to take these stories and working to eradicate their existence from the academic *Enterprise* (Gregory, 2000).

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## **REFERENCES**

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