

INTRODUCTION TO VOLUME 11

Dear Readers,

Welcome to Volume 11 of the SOAS Journal of Postgraduate Research (SJPR). We have had an exciting year at the Journal, filled with meaningful explorations, productive collaborations and hard work that builds upon the progress made in previous years.

This year's theme *Decolonisation in Praxis* has been a formidable one and has provided us with rewarding contributions and fruitful collaborations. Through the exploration of decolonisation, the Journal has extended its outreach among the student body and faculty and has built a stronger presence at SOAS. This has resulted in a collaboration with the Decolonising SOAS Group, which has generously covered part of the Journal's publication expenses this year. It has also fostered the conditions for organising an unprecedented conference jointly with the Research Students' Association (RSA), which has deepened the outlook of this volume regarding the conceptual ramifications of a discourse of decolonisation in western academia. We are honoured to be able to issue this volume at a time when SOAS is taking concrete steps toward promoting a more critical attitude and pedagogy vis-à-vis the decolonisation debates that are on-going in the British academic scene and elsewhere. We strongly feel that the contributions by SOAS students on this topic can inform these internal initiatives and strengthen them in relevance and effectiveness.

For the past academic year the Journal continued its commitment to the double-blind peer-review process to best showcase the critical and independent research ethos of the SOAS postgraduate student body. One of the innovations of this year was the establishment of an Editorial Board with the objective to advise the Editorial Team and to contribute technical pieces toward the professionalisation of the student body. A call was sent out early in the year to recruit post-graduate students with publication or teaching experience, the only requirements for the post. The Editorial Board also provides a platform to previous Editors-in-Chief to remain involved as Advisors for the years after their retirement from the role. This can ensure that the know-how is not lost with each change of team and is passed on to future Editors transparently.

Additionally, we are excited to announce that the Journal now has an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN). This is an internationally recognised number for identifying serial publications and we hope that this will support the growing professionalisation and visibility of the Journal.

The upgraded current volume would not have been possible without the hard work and support of our team of Assistant Editors (AEs), who coordinated all the stages of the review process. We were lucky to receive expressions of interest for the role from many enthusiastic candidates. This has allowed us to recruit a larger and more diverse team which worked tirelessly and responded eagerly to our unrelenting commitment for improving the Journal's editorial process and the quality of our annual publication. Federica Gamberini, Florence Shahabi, Natalia Matveeva and Atsushi Ikeda have been invaluable to this Volume and we thank them for their commitment, teamwork and dedication.

Likewise, we would like to thank our reviewers for upholding the quality of the manuscripts published through their informed and meticulous feedback. Their consideration

of our tight deadlines and their openness and critical attitude toward the innovative and daring manuscripts have contributed to give this volume more depth and nuance.

In the same breath we need to thank our layout designer, who is supporting us for the third consecutive volume. While, the general presentation of the volume follows a consistent format, some referencing and stylistic choices were left to the individual authors to decide in order to respect the specific needs of their various disciplines.

Looking ahead, Romina and Monika would like to bid farewell to the readers as they embark on new projects. After having worked with passion and dedication on the Journal since 2016, bringing about its professionalization and expansion, both Editors-in-Chief are now completing their work at the Journal. Monika and Romina are leaving the guidance of SJPR in the hands of their Co-Editor-in-Chief, Iris Lim, whose expert direction it is hoped will continue to benefit the Journal's growth and contribution to knowledge. Romina and Monika will become members of the Journal's newly founded Editorial Advisory Board as part of new measures put in place to ensure the transfer of know-how within the Journal.

Last but not least, we would like to take a moment to remember our wonderful friend and Journal team-member Juliana Cordeiro de Farias Bosslet who passed away in the previous year. Her dedication, humour, and intelligence were greatly missed during the preparation of this volume. We want to express our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

We thank you for taking the time to peruse Volume 11. We hope that you will find the broad-ranging contributions as instructive, engaging and refreshing as we did. For any inquiries or comments please do not hesitate to reach us at: rsa_journal@soas.ac.uk.

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