

## A NOTE FROM THE RESEARCH STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to Volume 9 of the SOAS Journal of Postgraduate Research. This particular Volume has taken a great deal of time, two teams, and a global network of communications to bring to fruition. We are proud the present Volume represents the high quality of doctoral research at SOAS, not only in the scholarship that is showcased here, but in the teamwork, commitment and dedication that has brought this into being.

The Research Student's Association (RSA) at SOAS exists to represent the interests of MPhil and doctoral researchers, as well as provide social activities and events throughout the year. This Journal is very much the pinnacle of RSA achievements throughout the year, and it is with great pride in the Journal team's efforts that we welcome you to this Volume. Completed over two academic years, Volume 9 was originally collated by Roshni Menon in 2015-16 who spent time and careful thought on the theme, the call for papers, and worked with the authors across the year to put together a collection that focused on Identities: Power and politics. In October 2016, Monika Hirmer and Romina Istratii were elected as the new Journal Editors, and not only began their own endeavours to put together Volume 10, but took over the completion of Volume 9. Despite both being on fieldwork, in India and Ethiopia respectively, Monika and Romina, along with a team of editorial support based in the UK dedicated themselves to bringing about both editions, and we would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to Roshni, Monika and Romina, and the editorial team Iris Lim, Juliana Cordeiro De Farias Bosslet, and Jay Carr.

This year marks a particular expansion and renaissance in RSA activity, and this is mirrored in a similar expansion of the Journal's reach and visibility. While the Journal is primarily an electronic Journal, accessed through the SOAS website, this year has seen the extension of cataloguing the articles and collection, working in collaboration with Helen Porter in the SOAS Library. For the first time, the papers are now assigned a Creative Commons (CC) copyright license, along with a DOI catalogue number, making the papers available through the library search function, as well as more widely accessible online. This year has also seen the Journal team explore print options, and we are delighted to be able to offer the authors, editorial team and the Doctoral School a limited print edition of the Journal. This has been achieved with the help and assistance of Steve Redding in the SOAS print room, and with the kind funding of the SOAS Student Union.

Thus it is with great excitement, tinged with no small degree of pride in the achievements of the team this year, that we welcome you to Volume 9, and encourage you to turn the page and dive into the wonderful world that comprises current doctoral research at SOAS. We look forward to the continued success of the SOAS Post Graduate Research Journal.

Clare Williams (RSA Communications) on behalf of the RSA