

INTRODUCTION TO VOLUME 10

Dear Readers,

Welcome to Volume 10 of The SOAS Journal of Postgraduate Research (SJPR). We are especially pleased to have completed and published this volume because, on the one side, it is the result of much hard work by the entire Editorial Team and, on the other side, it comes with a number of innovations. In order to achieve the highest quality of manuscripts published, we introduced a double-blind review process for article assessment that approximates the rigour of professional academic journals. The Editors and Assistant Editors worked unrelentingly to coordinate this process and ensure that the authors benefited the outmost from it. Our aim was to achieve the highest quality of content that can showcase, once again, the independent and progressive research spirit of SOAS postgraduate students.

We, therefore, want to take the opportunity to acknowledge our two Assistant Editors, Iris Lim and Juliana Cordeiro De Farias Bosslet, who acted as the key points of reference for the review process. As per the double-blind review principle, we, as Editors, communicated only with the authors, while Iris and Juliana were in charge of matching anonymised articles to appropriate reviewers. They assigned articles and guidelines to the reviewers, and sent back to us the reviewers' comments, accompanied with their personal assessments and suggestions. The review sheets were then forwarded by us to the authors, who were asked to revise their papers accordingly. We want to thank Juliana and Iris for their diligent work, including their prompt and creative responses to many challenges that arose during the elaborate review process. We are grateful to have worked with such a committed team of assistants.

Equally, we must acknowledge our reviewers. It is common practice for academic journals not to reveal the names of reviewers, and we abide by this standard. However, we feel that it is mandatory to thank our reviewers for providing timely, informed and meticulous reviews on the manuscripts they were assigned. We strongly believe that their comments have been useful and instructive to the authors, most of whom welcomed them and worked within tight deadlines to address them, improving overall the quality and presentation of their papers.

Another innovation that has marked this volume is the introduction of a logo. The logo comes in the form of tree rings and preserves the colour theme that one can find on the SOAS official website and also in the official layout introduced for the first time in Volume 9. The logo was designed with much thoughtfulness to reflect the values of the SJPR, which can be summarised with the terms: decentring of knowledge, innovation and interaction. We shared these values with the designer and he proposed the idea of tree rings, as the natural continuation of the SOAS tree logo. The multiple circles that comprise the natural tree rings symbolise multiple loci/sites of knowledge-making. The discontinuity of these circular lines reflects interaction and untidiness, representing the exchange and interaction of knowledge from different disciplines, times, places, paradigms and epistemologies. We are so grateful to Daniel Desta, a graphic designer in Ethiopia, for creating such a meaningful logo design and providing us with multiple options to choose from. As researchers working in non-western countries, we have aimed, in this volume with the help of Daniel, and in the previous

volume with the assistance of Nirbhay Sen, to engage partners who are native to the societies we work with, who can bring ideas from a different centre to enrich our thinking and presentation. We hope that the experience of working with us has proven as resourceful to them as it has to us.

We wish you a pleasant reading as you go through the diverse contributions of this year's volume.

Your Editors,

Romina Istratii and Monika Hirmer

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