

## A NOTE FROM THE SOAS RESEARCH STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (RSA)

As this year's elected Academic Officer for the RSA, and a PhD candidate at the Centre for Global Media and Communications, I was delighted to be the key organiser of 'Decolonisation in Praxis', the first joint conference of the SOAS Research Students' Association (RSA) and The SOAS Journal for Postgraduate Research (SJPR).

The SOAS Research Students' Association is the organisation that represents all Doctoral Researchers at SOAS. Its Committee consists of several Officers that are elected within the SOAS Students' Union elections. The organisation sends two members to the Doctoral School Management Group to ensure that students' voices are heard on all issues that concern them, and that students remain aware of any initiative that is taken by SOAS in regards to the doctoral experience. The RSA also represents Doctoral Researchers to the SOAS Student Union.

We are looking back to a very active and successful academic year. During 2017-2018 the RSA President Robyn Waite and fellow RSA Officers have been actively involved in negotiations about issues such as critical changes in visa requirements and work spaces at the Doctoral School

We deeply care about making students' voices heard and our academic voices are part thereof. As such, we wanted to provide a forum for our postgraduate students not only to practise academic skills but also—and particularly—to share and discuss topics that lie at the heart of the vibrant and critically-minded SOAS student body.

This is how the idea of an annual RSA conference was born during the first RSA meeting of the 2017-2018 academic year. With The SOAS Journal for Postgraduate Research aiming to showcase the talent and diverse research interests of SOAS research students, it was only natural to seek their cooperation on this endeavour.

On behalf of the RSA, I would like to thank all the attendants and participants of this year's 'Decolonisation in Praxis' conference, and to highlight the wide array of truly fruitful and stimulating papers and discussions. We hope that the conference will continue to be organised annually in all coming years.

Katharina Schmoll, Academic Officer for the RSA 2017-2018