

# FOREWARD

Dear Readers,

It has been another turbulent and thought-provoking year. However, thanks to all your support and blessings, for SJPR, it has been a year of growth.

This year, we received a record number of submissions, with fifty being the most we have received since we started. This is attributed to our amazing communications team led by Mariano Errichiello and the Assistant editors Deniz Demirag and Diva Sinha, who liaised with the SOAS communications team to promote the journal on SOAS social media channels and newsletters, which greatly increased the journal's visibility among teachers and postgraduate students. Also, due to the excellent work of our Co-editor of events Emilie Frijns and the Assistant editor Marieke Van Der Maden, we held two successful workshops on "How to get published" to help PhD and master's students with their questions about publications. Moreover, with the tremendous help and support of Professor Lutz Marten, Dr Yenn Lee, and Mr Andres Chavez Ocana from the Doctoral School, we developed long-term strategies and goals for engaging more with the SOAS research community and getting indexed in more academic databases. We also had meetings with other journals hosted by SOAS to take advice regarding the journal's future. Special thanks must be given to Dr Ayman Shihadeh, the Editor-in-Chief of *The Bulletin of SOAS*, for his visionary advice for the journal.

Indeed, this issue has been possible due to the hard work of our review team led by Anna Kensicki and Nina Sun and the Assistant editors Audra Noble, Fatima Rashid, Hannah Elizabeth Louise Campbell, Jane Josee Link, Meiyang Wang, Panggah Ardiyansyah, Ruzbeh Vistasp Hodiwala, Xu Peng, Maya Reus, and Mohamed Taha; thanks are also due to our Co-editor of funding, Julia Stolyar, for making sound plans for our budget and overseeing the process of proofreading and copyediting.

Furthermore, we must acknowledge how much we have benefited from the solid foundation that all the previous editorial teams have built and from the restructuring initiated by the former Editor-in-Chief Federica Gamberini (Issue 13) and her editorial team members Natalia Matveeva, Anna Kensicki, and Yunzi Han. With a more efficient managing structure, a refined review process, and most importantly, a group of people who believe in its value and contribution to the SOAS research community, even with the turbulent “disruption” of the wider environment and SOAS itself during the past two years, the journal is still growing steadily.

Finally, I wanted to save some words for myself. This was my third year on the journal. I started as an Assistant editor during the second year of my PhD and became the Co-editor of review the next year, and then the Editor-in-Chief (outgoing). I have witnessed the journal make remarkable progress during the past three years, from only receiving nine submissions three years ago to fifty this issue. I am very grateful for having been able to walk this journey with the journal. The journal has created such an opportunity for me to learn about academic publishing, running a team, communicating, etc., and it has been a significantly helpful step in preparing me for academic work. I really hope it can continue providing such opportunities for more and more SOAS students.

The next Editor-in-Chief will be Ruzbeh Vistasp Hodiwala. I believe he will bring to the journal a fresh perspective and will lead it to a more exciting direction.

With all my best wishes to the new team and for the future of the journal.

The Editor-in-Chief,  
Yunzi Han.