

AFTERWORD

Since its launch in 2005, the SJPR has always been run entirely by postgraduate researchers at SOAS, and each volume has been a product of scholarly passion and professionalism of its volunteer editors. This latest volume once again showcases our vibrant postgraduate research community and their commitment to a better future. The overall theme, “Opportunity in Crisis”, suits to celebrate this timely collection, where nine contributions collectively explore paths forward in the extremely turbulent times we live in.

Challenges facing us as a society today, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, racial and gender injustice, and climate disasters and armed conflicts around the world, require international and interdisciplinary collaboration, particularly insights from the social sciences, humanities, and arts (or the SHAPE fields, as the British Academy proposes to term¹). This collection, covering a dozen different regions in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and topics ranging widely from green bonds and indigenous farming to legal, religious, and artistic pluralism, brings to the fore the importance of valuing and drawing on diverse perspectives and underrepresented voices in navigating the current global turbulence.

It is my privilege to add a few words to close another excellent set of articles. I congratulate the authors and editors in their forward-thinking work.

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¹ The British Academy (2020). This Is Shape <https://www.thebritshacademy.ac.uk/thisisshape/>