

A NOTE FROM THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL

Dear all,

I feel very honoured to have been asked to introduce the most recent version of The SOAS Journal of Postgraduate Research (Volume 10). The Journal revolves around the theme of change, which is tackled in true SOASian fashion from a range of empirical, theoretical and disciplinary backgrounds and approaches.

Change, of course, is everywhere around us: from SOAS restructuring on a micro level, to BREXIT and climate change on more macro levels. In the context of higher education, research and knowledge production, we are not only confronted with neo-liberalisation and austerity, but acutely need to find ways to deal with 'fake news' and the fabrication of facts for dubious political ends.

At this particular time of change and political and economic challenges, doing a PhD and being an early career researcher is probably more difficult than any other time over the past decades. But, at the same time, doing a PhD now also comes with a set of responsibilities and opportunities to challenge some of the negative changes we have been witnessing, while trying to contribute to positive and constructive changes.

The publication of the journal coincides with the beginning of a new academic year, a year marked by many challenges inside SOAS, in the UK and globally. While we will continue to have discussions about restructuring, improvements in the Doctoral School, rules, regulations and procedures, it is so important to keep an eye on what brings us all together in the first place: our intellectual curiosity, our commitment to critical thinking and analysis, our political passions and struggles and our love of research and writing.

While I congratulate all of you who have contributed to this issue, I would like to extend my special thanks to the co-editors Monika Hirmer and Romina Istratii who made it all happen. Being involved in several journals myself (*Feminist Review* and *Kohl: A Journal of Body and Gender Research*), I know about the time and labour that goes into producing a journal. It involves many hours of careful reading, chasing authors, and editing. But is also involves vision and intellectual rigour and creativity. It is inspiring and uplifting to see that vision and commitment, and I hope that we will see many more high quality editions, either put together by Romina and Monika, or editors who will follow in their foot steps.

I wish you all a productive and healthy academic year of 2017/2018.



Nadjie Al-Ali

Head of Doctoral School