
Foreword

Dear Reader,

Despite these tenuous pandemic times, I am pleased to introduce a first-class collection of papers that examine the revolution(s) of our times, both global and local. This is the product of countless hours of effort from my wonderful editorial team and the volunteer readers from the University of Victoria and Canadian International Council — Victoria Branch, and of course, the contributors of this issue.

This edition focuses on examining the politics of coexistence in our transnational world. We begin with returning contributor James Mager with his examination of BC's Bill 41 and Canada's strength of commitment towards Indigenous peoples, showing the potential and pitfalls of this groundbreaking legislation. Next, Kiegan Barron tackles integration and statehood, using the complex minority relations of Moldova and Transnistria as examples. Giulia Gagliano analyzes the discursive logics and the nationalist narratives currently unfolding in Italy, and how such narratives are being mobilized by political and media actors to create anti-immigrant sentiment. Continuing this, Sarah Atkinson focuses on the securitization of transnational migration patterns in the United States, and discusses the implications regarding the growing political polarization in this matter. Our discussion on the United States is further built on by Elizabeth Brown's paper discussing the ongoing debate on felon disenfranchisement and citizenship rights. Our last two papers move beyond the state and explicitly focus on the transnational: Sophia Anderson examines the 2011 housing protest coalition in Israel and how it decentered the state. Finally, Kisha Roxas closes out this issue with an analysis of Babaylan sex and gender discourse within the diaspora of the Philippines, a thoughtful reminder that we carry many under-questioned normative assumptions in our epistemologies.

This issue also marks a full year of my time as Editor-in-Chief at On Politics. Throughout my time, I've always asked myself how I could continue to challenge and push the boundaries of what constitutes the responsibilities of an undergraduate student journal. How can I best encourage a diversity of perspectives? What does building an equitable academic community look like? When will we finally stop using old cover designs made back in 2006?

In retrospect, I'm happy to say that I've made some progress. Balancing the duties of an editor with building new initiatives is not an easy task, but I've established a few things that I hope will last beyond my tenure: a partnership with CIC Victoria, first-year editorial assistants, anti-racism initiatives, and a commitment to broadening beyond the traditional scope of what we constitute as political science.

The partnership between CIC Victoria and the journal is an important intergenerational link of knowledge building, and I look forward to seeing it strengthened over the years. I would like to thank Dr. Chris Kilford and Paul Seguna for the collaborative and encouraging energy that they have brought to the journal.

Quoting the words of one of my predecessors: "I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the process; without you, my job would have been a whole lot harder."

While I may no longer have the honour of building a journal with you — don't hesitate to reach out, even if years down the line. We all have a part to play in this unfolding world, and the load gets a little easier when we walk together.

Michael John Lo
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On Politics
University of Victoria