

## Letter from the Editor

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*Dear Reader,*

It is my pleasure to present the seventeenth volume of *On Politics*. This is not just a compilation of undergraduate voices but a testament to the significant role that students play in shaping how we think, work, and play in the world. This particular volume showcases six different undergraduate voices, each on a different endeavour within the ever-changing world of politics.

We begin with Jenna Inch's analysis of the securitization of pipeline infrastructure in Canada. Inch examines the Critical Infrastructure Defence Act, passed by Alberta's United Conservative government in 2020, and its consequences for Indigenous nations, the planet, and future exercises of peaceful civil disobedience in Alberta.

Then, we go to Saiyah Aujla's exploration of the 2020-2021 Punjabi Kisan protests as a case study in leaderless civil disobedience. Aujla critiques our understanding of the American Civil Rights Movement, using the case of Punjabi farmers to reveal the power of nonviolent coalition politics.

Following this, Hector Jardine explores the trajectory of free expression in Canada. Jardine examines anti-hate legislation in Canada and proposes alternative means for combating discriminatory expression without compromising important constitutional principles.

Next, we have Ava Redmond's analysis of the Japanese government's "Comfort Women" system in World War II. Redmond highlights the Japanese government's lack of accountability, exploring this system of harm not only as a historical and contemporary injustice but also as a transnational and ethnonational issue.

Then, Taylor Nishimura examines how Canadian cities are curated, like museums, to tell a colonial narrative. Using Victoria, BC, specifically, Nishimura highlights the Lekwungen people's stewardship of kwetlal (camas) as a form of Indigenous resurgence and argues for a re-storying of urban spaces that celebrates Indigenous presence and creativity while challenging colonial structures and narratives.

Finally, we have Omar Said's critical analysis of the European Union's economic policies, where Said emphasizes the incompatibility of free trade with meaningful climate action. Said argues that the EU's failure to reconcile its economic objectives with sustainable development has intensified environmental degradation in the Global South and worsened the migrant crisis.

I am sad to say that this is my final issue as Editor-in-Chief of *On Politics*. Working with and learning from all the people who have made this journal possible over the last couple of years has been an honour. This collection of exemplary undergraduate scholarship would not be possible without the hard work and dedicated efforts of our editors, proofreaders, reviewers, and, of course, talented authors.

I am so grateful to each and every person who was able to help bring this edition to life here on the Coast Salish Territories. On this note, please enjoy the seventeenth volume of *On Politics*, and from the River to the Salish Sea, may we all, one day, be free.

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