

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

2018 has arrived and we are happy to share that Asia in Focus continues to evolve! I took a look back over the previous four introductions to the regular Issues of Asia in Focus and at the statistics surrounding the submissions ... there is no doubt that we are witnessing a growth in every aspect with each publication cycle: we are reaching an ever-growing number of early career researchers; the countries of origin and of residence of both the Editorial Team and the authors who submit papers are expanding; and the journal is becoming increasingly visible and accessible.

So far our team of reviewers, which includes members of our Editorial Committee and external expert researchers, has given detailed constructive guidance and feedback to nearly 100 early career academics – quite an achievement for a small journal like ours! As you will have read in the intro to Issue 4 (and if you have not read it, please do!), shaping academic careers is a privilege and a responsibility that our editorial team does not take lightly.

The team started out being entirely Copenhagen-based. As we transition into Issue 6, we have transgressed the borders of Copenhagen and Denmark and now have editors in Sweden, Norway and Finland who all have strong ties to leading academic environments in Europe and Asia. I truly believe that being endowed with such diversity in the team only strengthens the committee: it broadens our collective perspective about how the journal progresses, and expands the views on the potential of the submissions we receive.

With the first few issues, the submissions came primarily from Denmark, Finland and Sweden. Recently we are receiving more from Norway, as well as enquiries from early career researchers attending institutes of higher education in Asian and other European countries. NIAS – Nordic Institute of Asian Studies has for many years been a part of the European Alliance (see www.asiascholars.eu), and after some great talks with the Alliance, we decided to open the journal to submissions from early career scholars who are attending higher education institutes Europe-wide! We are excited to receive submissions from a broader cross section of authors and we are truly look forward to Asia in Focus becoming a leading European journal for early career scholars.

Finally, this year we are joining the Danish open source journal management

and publishing system Tidsskrift.dk (see www.tidsskrift.dk). This is an exciting step for Asia in Focus as well as the contributing authors as it will increase the visibility of the journal greatly and that each article will have its own individual identifier (DOI). This development is also a further step towards being registered in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

I now leave you to enjoy the excellent contributions to Issue 5. We start with **Therese Boje Mortensen** necessarily putting international human rights conventions into a local context, and questioning the normative acceptance of 'institutions as a last resort' when it comes to children in rural India. Staying in India, **Patrick Wenström** then reminds us, importantly, of the value of combining qualitative and quantitative methods in the field of land cover change studies. **Birgitte Egeskov Jensen** then takes us to China for a crucial discussion of social citizenship and how it continues to be strongly determined by the *hukou* system which, she argues, further consolidates rural people's self-image as 'undeserving'. In the final article, we turn to literature – **Jona Barabas** uses concepts from queer theory and Confucian philosophy to succinctly examine the main character's approach to the relationships in his life.

Enjoy the read, and do share the journal with your peers and networks both inside and outside of academia!

All the best and a somewhat belated Happy New Year!

Nicol Foulkes Savinetti

Managing Editor of Asia in Focus