

LETTER

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *Papers, Essays and Reviews* marks a departure from previous issues in that we have not attempted to group our submissions around a unifying theme. As we continue to receive record numbers of submissions, this has allowed us to considerably broaden the scope of our inclusions. In this issue, pieces range from questions regarding the extraterritorial prosecution of child sex tourists to how Iran's doctrine of *Velayat-e Faqih* is being reconceptualized by contemporary thinkers and a review of Hwasook Nam's study of a unique Korean shipbuilding labor union in the Park Chung Hee era. Despite the variety of this issue's contents, however, we

hope that readers will not be put off from considering the pieces in relation to one another. Academia often creates disciplinary boundaries for itself. While such boundaries are at times necessary, they can also restrict our thinking and encourage narrow-minded conceptions of the world around us. As such, we hope to offer our readers an environment in which diversity of thought is celebrated, and in doing so give ourselves a broader understanding that may throw new light on our own research interests.

In this issue, diverse contributions from a number of disciplines offer unexpected and intriguing commonalities. Analyzing the traditional role of Burmese monks, Syed Mohammed Ad'ha Aljunied takes a historical approach to the changing socio-political climate and the impact of the military junta's actions on the monks' societal role. The relationship between state and religion is also tackled by Josiah Marineau in his essay reviewing the debate on the *Velayat-e Faqih* in Iran. While democracy and Islam are commonly thought to be opposing ideologies, Marineau's summary of the theoretical debate reminds us that the two in fact can be considered compatible. In these pieces, Buddhism and Islam are both straddling the divide between state and religion in ways that cause us to reevaluate our received wisdom regarding the role of religion in politics.

The difficulties in the enforcement and implementation of legislation appear in several papers. Angela Lee approaches the salient issue of child sex tourism in Asia and the difficulties in establishing a legal framework with which to effectively prosecute offenders. In her analysis, differing criteria and legal standards between states are yet to be overcome when dealing with international crimes such as child sex tourism. International standards and expectations form the backdrop of Holly Stephens and Kyle DeRosa's paper on Korean environmental institutions. OECD "standards" and expectations of developed nation responsibilities towards environmental problems are increasingly being applied to Korea, yet the historical legacy of institutional and economic development continues to hamper their implementation. Also, Erica Rosenfield evaluates changes in US foreign policy and analyzes the promises made by Obama and the difficulties that have emerged in fulfilling these. The problem of effecting change both amongst and within nations is tackled through different disciplinary approaches, constructing new avenues of thought.

Land management and administration is a central issue in two papers on Costa Rica and China. Odette Mucha, Kimberly Lyon and Hannah Skelly analyze the Payments for Environmental Services program (PES) in Costa Rica, which attempts to achieve both poverty reduction and environmental improvement. Through PES, land holders are paid to refrain from developing their land and to manage it in environmentally responsible ways instead. Meanwhile, the unclear definition of land rights and the separation of use rights and ownership rights are the target of Baofeng Dong's paper on the two-tier land tenure system in China. To achieve the goal of industrialization and to improve the rights of farmers and open

possibilities for migration, Deng argues that land rights should be better defined and reformed. In both papers, different administrative goals can be seen achieved through governmental policy. Finally, Luis Botella and Joseph Mondello offer reviews of two recent publications in the field of Korean history. Touching on the space for democratic struggle within a labor union under Park Chung Hee's authoritarian rule and the question of agency in the migration to North Korea of Koreans resident in Japan, these reviews are informative and raise questions for specialists and non-specialists alike.

Having worked at *Papers, Essays and Reviews* for three semesters, it has been a privilege to watch at close hand the creation and development of the Yonsei GSIS Journal of International Studies. Yet, *Papers, Essays and Reviews* would not be able to succeed without the active participation of all our contributors and hard-working staff. As students at Yonsei GSIS, we relish the opportunity to interact with peers from around the world and to share with and encourage each other's research. It is through the enthusiasm of our many contributors and their desire to share their research that *Papers, Essays and Reviews* continues to flourish. We hope that readers of this issue will be inspired in their own research and go on to share their findings with fellow graduate students.

Holly Stephens
Editor in Chief