



## LETTER

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FROM THE EDITOR

The “Call for Papers” for the fifth issue of *Papers, Essays and Reviews* brought in a flood of submissions representing every continent. It has been a great pleasure for the PEAR editorial staff and me to read through the many excellent pieces we received. I am delighted that the efforts we have made in trying to promote this medium to young scholars have paid off, especially here in Korea. This has been in no small part thanks to our relationship with the Korea International Studies Association, which will be holding its third annual convention in the fall of 2011.

In our *Papers* section, the contributions revolve around the United States and South Korea. In the first paper, Eric Han looks at US sanctions against Myanmar in the period 1990-2010. He finds that the sanctions have been inef-

fective in curbing human rights abuses and proposes alternative methods for the US to achieve its goals. Next, Rizwan Ladha examines the forms of legal agreements used by the US in the area of arms control, noting the flexibility in its approach which has allowed it to insulate its arms control agenda from domestic politics. In the final US-themed paper, Emily Pease links education failures to militancy, and offers insight into how the US is attempting to influence education policy in the Middle East, North Africa and Pakistan.

There are two papers which deal with South Korean policy, in the areas of energy security and development aid. The first paper by Marie-Claude Poirier highlights the importance of energy security for resource-poor countries like South Korea. She examines issues on both the demand and supply side, finding that the policy of diversification of supply can be advantageous. Catherine Smart's paper analyzes South Korea's aid practices in relation to OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) requirements. This is very timely since South Korea is hosting the fourth DAC High Level Forum in November 2011.

The *Essays* section is made up of a trio of very distinct pieces, which are, however, unified by their application of interesting concepts to international studies. The first, by Allan Quiñanola uses Thomas Kuhn's idea of "sciencehood" to examine the field of area studies. He argues that the challenge to area studies by rational choice theorists and postmodern scholars heralds a scientific revolution for the field. The next essay by Oreva Olapke applies biological definitions of specie interaction to the relationship between China and African states. By looking at Chinese presence in several industries, the author finds evidence of both parasitism and mutualism. The final essay of the section, by Majid Rafizadeh, analyzes the application of power in the Islamic Republic of Iran through Foucault's three modes of control.

The *Reviews* section once again offers an interesting variety of critiques. Lizette Serna reviews Frederick Cuny's *Disasters and Development*, first published in 1983. She finds that the issues raised almost 30 years ago are still relevant, and that the field of disaster relief has not offered anything significant in that time. Amy Russ reviews Ellis Krauss and Robert Pekkanen's history of the Japan's Liberal Democratic Party. The final piece by Myriam Cransac is a review of an entire issue of the French journal *Critique Internationale* dedicated to South Korea's Sunshine Policy, giving an interesting insight into French perspectives on Korean affairs.

This has been my second and last season at the helm of PEAR. This will also be the final issue for several senior members of staff. I am confident that the next generation of PEAR editors will be able to sustain the journal's momentum

and guide it to the next level. Without the hard work from the PEAR staff, this project would not be possible. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to our advisory board and in particular to Professor Matthias Maass. I hope our readers have enjoyed reading the journal as much as I have enjoyed producing it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, likely representing the name 'Stephan Gill'.

Stephan Gill  
Editor in Chief