

## LETTER

---

### FROM THE EDITOR

Past editions of the Yonsei Journal of International Studies have enjoyed a variety of topics expanding the field of International Relations by talented graduate students and burgeoning professors over the years. Many have delved into analysis of policy and law to present their cases or utilized speeches by public leaders and statements in newspapers articles as the primary mode of data collection. For this edition, emphasis was placed on expanding the methodologies employed by researchers to present a more diverse exhibition of the field of International Relations' theories and topics. As such, the Fall/Winter 2019 Yonsei Journal of International Studies provides a diverse range of topics regarding the world through the lens of the individual, giving extra consideration to works whose arguments were built primarily from in-depth interviews to make policy suggestions and expand theory. Special attention was also devoted to works accessible to those within the IR community but presented through non-traditional disciplines. In seeking to expand our interactions with the field, we proudly present this collection of eclectic engagements within the expansive discipline of International Relations to educate and inspire robust and interpersonal research methodologies.

Launching this objective in the Papers section is a piece by Paul Antonopoulos. Through his paper entitled "Unlikely Friends? The Consolidation of the North Korean-Syrian Anti-U.S. Alliance and the Syrian War," Antonopoulos seeks to expose the relationship between North Korea and Syria in the wake of the current war. Utilizing on-the-ground interviews and critical analysis of various media sources, he questions claims by existing scholarship that assert a diminished role by North Korea in arms deals with Syria. He later asserts in his concluding remarks that this exchange has led to the formation of a positive relationship between the two countries despite efforts by the United States. Moving south from Syria, researcher Emmanuel Ndhlovu utilizes a mixed methodology involving qualitative and quantitative data to inform his readership on the status of communal rangelands in rural Zimbabwe. Through the framework of Sustainable Livelihoods, Ndhlovu evaluates the necessity

## 6 YONSEI JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

of these rangelands for a community in the village of Mutandahwe as his primary case study and concludes that using such a model for policy and development designs would greatly benefit natural resource conservation in rural rangelands.

Zeroing in on politics of under-represented populations and policy development is a piece by author Mary Vanlalthanpuii in the opener of the Essay section. Through in-depth interviews of Mizo women in the villages of Seling and Reiek, Vanlalthanpuii explores in "Roles of Mizo Women in Formal Political Institutions" the role of female voters in the maintenance of a male-dominated Assembly since the inception of Mizoram as a state in 1987. Through ethnographic means, she explores how religious beliefs and attitudes affect views of the political roles of women, ultimately concluding that religion bears the greatest hindrance for the promotion of women in public affairs. She ultimately suggests that the church should be responsible for promoting an elevated position for women, rather than enforcing traditional values onto Mizo women that hinders their political growth. In the final entry for the Essay section, author Michael Smith provides a riveting thought-piece on the conceptualization of the flaneur in the modern city-space of Hong Kong. Titled "A Stationary Stroll through Hong Kong: An Exploration of the Flaneur in a Groundless City," Smith proposes a means to resurrect the construction of the walking man, aka flaneur, amidst mid-level escalators and growing cosmopolitanism. This status of the city has left the flaneur to be integrated into his environment, transforming his role within a late capitalist state. Smith suggests in his conclusion that the flaneur as a figure of resistance that continues to operate in a state of erasure within the confined space of Hong Kong serves as a means to which we can comprehend the flaneur in other cities of similar density.

Rounding off this edition of the journal is an interview conducted by our junior editor Simone Liew with Project Manager Ruiting Dong of Ranfilms. Dong's interview reveals the nuances behind a burgeoning industry of mutual cooperation between Korean and Chinese media producers. She elaborates on the struggles of communication limitations, budget constraints, expectations by foreign clients, and her predictions on the future state of the Chinese soft power industry. Completing this edition of the journal is a book review by contributor Jin Hee Lim entitled "Bolivian Water War: Active Citizenship and Effective State in Development." Recent Seoul National University graduate Lim provides a combined book and policy review based on one of Duncan Green's most renowned publications *From Poverty to Power: How Active Citizens and Effective States Can Change the World*, asserting that Green's dual emphasis on "active citizenship" and "effective state" in his critique of the World Bank delivers a potent means to analyze the Bolivian Water War in the Chochabamba region of Bolivia. With Green's concepts applied to the Bolivian case, Lim purports that conditions imposed by the World Bank on the Bolivian government towards the water sector undermines what Green classifies as an effective state. She concludes that although the strategy provided by Green in *From Poverty to Power* will not be effective in all situations, the applicability to the case of the Bolivian Water War provides insight into policy effectiveness in the future development of initiatives in the region going forward.

Concluding this letter additionally marks the conclusion of my time with the Yonsei Journal of International Studies, having begun this journey as a junior

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR 7

editor for the Fall/Winter 2017 edition. This feeling is oddly bittersweet; despite its many hardships, working with the journal broadened my understanding of countries, disciplines, methodologies, and topics outside the scope of my own research interests. These in turn have provided me with an education about the world and its' peoples I intend to carry with me as I continue to pursue my studies and the field of academia that I hope to apply to future opportunities in academic publishing henceforth. For this semester's edition, I would like to thank staff editors, Sue (Soo Yeon) Jeong, Aimee Beatriz Lee, Danielle French, Theophile Begin, and Simone Liew for the work they have put in and to celebrate the successful completion of the Fall/Winter 2019 edition of the Yonsei Journal of International Studies. My hope is for the future to utilize effective communication to produce quality editions of the journal for the enjoyment of graduate students and professors alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kendra Hodapp', written in a cursive style.

Kendra Hodapp  
Editor in Chief