

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Redefining Allegiance and Activism

One of the joys of attending an international program is the opportunity to learn from students from all over the world. It's enriching and exciting to learn from the perspectives of others and get out of the bubble of your own experience. Through the journal, I have been able to not only learn from students within my program, but also international scholars from all over the world. This issue welcomes papers from countries as diverse as Sri Lanka, Singapore, the Philippines and the US. This diversity in background is reflected in the diversity of topics and outlooks published as well. This issue covers a lot of ground, from questions facing our international community such as mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policies and the future of QUAD as well as cultural analyses of literature, translation and even romantic love. Additionally, this issue's interview features a former K-pop audition program contestant Leung Cheuk Ying (Cherena). As K-pop continues its ascent as a global force, the questions surrounding its integration of foreigners and foreign audiences will only become more and more relevant. As a Hong Konger auditioning for a Korean program, Cherena has many interesting insights to share.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the junior staff editors, Liam Quinn, Vanessa Le, Lo Wing Tung Bonnie, Aldrin Joseph Aldea, and Nazihatul Afifah Hamid for their hard work on this issue. Since it's my first semester being the Editor-in-Chief it was essential for me to have a good team to support me. Thank you for your dedication and willingness to put in the work so that these papers could be the best versions of themselves. It was a pleasure to work with you this semester.

Additionally, thank you to our contributors for giving us the opportunity to publish your work as well as working hard on your revisions. I wish you a fruitful career in academia, or whatever path you end up pursuing. Thank you for joining our community of international scholars, I hope you enjoyed the process and that you can learn something new from reading the papers of your colleagues!

Hannah Kim
Editor-in-Chief