

Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader

When *Asia in Focus* was first established, it was a time of increasing awareness of and engagement with Asia, both inside and outside of academia. At that time, I was a guest researcher at NIAS and in close proximity to the great minds who came up with the initial concept (Rakel Haslund-Gjerrild and Inga-Lill Blomkvist). I thus had the pleasure of being part of this start-up from the very beginning. I am so excited about the initiative for several reasons, some of which I would like to share.

My own academic path led me from the study of Europe, to the study of the Nordic region, and in the later years to the study of Asia, but the history, diversity and the cultural wealth of the region has fascinated me since childhood. It is a pleasure to be able to read and engage with such a diverse group of captivating writings about social, political and cultural phenomena in Asia. I am now curious to see how the intra-action between the three regions will pan out, and I regard myself as somewhat privileged to be able to view this interconnectedness through the work of early career scholars, as well as through the comments and feedback from more established academics.

Perhaps the part I appreciate most about the journal is that it targets early career scholars. By providing not only a forum for publishing, but also a learning environment for authors, the journal is a valuable source of education. Our editors take great care to give guiding feedback which thus far has been highly valued by authors who have submitted papers.

Working on the journal has also been a learning process for us in the Editorial Team. In the first issue, we were focused on building up the team and establishing the 'brand' so to speak. During the course of the second issue, we focused on streamlining the editorial process. We introduced blind reviewing, and we have greatly expanded our network of external reviewers. We have also paid closer attention to smaller details in order to achieve a more polished final product.

Asia in Focus is based on voluntary work and two issues per year is as much as we can manage. In the future however, we would like to extend an invitation to external editors to edit a special issue based on a particular theme. This could be papers from a conference, a project, or a group of scholars interested in the same issue. We want to maintain some level of flexibility and allow for creative thinking outside of the academic box, so get in touch if you have an idea.

To conclude, I would like to relay how happy we have been for the very positive response to the journal from the academic community in the Nordic region and abroad. It is tough to be visible in the information society of today and especially so in academia. While we appreciate being able to use NIAS' networks, we ask that you help us spread the word even further so that the knowledge we are sharing reaches climes near and far and, importantly, both inside and outside of academia.

Kind regards

Nicol Foulkes Savinetti
Managing Editor