

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

May 1, 2023

Columbia University, New York, NY

Dear readers,

It is an honor to present our third issue of the *Columbia Journal of Asia* (CJA). Volume II, Issue 1 features creative and scholarly pieces by undergraduates and recent graduates from across Asia and the United States, presented in three sections: creative works, which include art, poetry, and prose; notes, which are brief academic essays; and articles, which are long-form research papers. These works, which span history, political science, literature, and the arts, enliven questions and musings on identity, the fraught nature of labels and categories, and individuals' and communities' consequent efforts to straddle and transcend these siloing boundaries. These articles and various discussions amongst ourselves helped us formulate our thematic focus for CJA this year: "Genealogies of the Orient(al)." We believe that the extraordinary works in this issue and the activities we've been able to conduct this semester have carried forward CJA's goal—to be a space that critically engages with Asian narratives and their importance in (re)defining the ways in which we approach the humanities and social sciences.

This semester represented a new chapter for CJA; it was the first turnover of the editorial board, which brought with it so many opportunities to push CJA out of its comfort zone. This semester, we co-hosted an International Mother Language Day workshop along with CU Bangla and the Sapna Project, and took our editors to the MET's Asia exhibits. Community and cohesion are central to what we do at CJA, and on that note, we owe everything to the community members who helped make this issue possible.

We would like, first of all, to thank our faculty advisory board for their support and guidance: Dr. Manan Ahmed, Dr. Neferti X. M. Tadiar, Dr. Manijeh Moradian, Dr. Isabel Huacuja Alonso, Dr. Jungwon Kim, Dr. Timsal Masud. We'd also like to thank our wonderful Managing Editor and Director of Peer Review—Fatima Ahmed and Ashfah Alam—and the incredible editors who populate our masthead, create our joyful community, and make our journal possible. The outgoing executive board, Columbia Libraries Publishing, and our graduate peer reviewers have been incredibly supportive throughout this semester, and we are extremely grateful for all their help. Finally, we'd like to thank our writers and artists who fill our pages with their light, thoughtfulness, and honesty—you make us up!

With excitement,

Armaan Bamzai CC'25 and Durga Rajiv Chaloli GS'25

Editors-in-Chief, *Columbia Journal of Asia*