

**JGH**

The Journal of Global Health | Columbia University

Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

Perhaps the most fundamental aim of the global health field is that of worldwide health equity—of investigating and uplifting marginalized communities. Marginality and illness, after all, are oftentimes interconnected, and even at times equivalent. Margins may be delineated along physical lines, such as the national or the geographic, and sometimes fall along more invisible borders, such as the social, political or the economic.

The demographics of marginality can be temporally demarcated as well. In *Illness as Metaphor*, Susan Sontag once wrote, “Everyone who is born holds dual citizenship, in the kingdom of the well and in the kingdom of the sick. Although we all prefer to use the good passport, sooner or later each of us is obliged, at least for a spell, to identify ourselves as citizens of that other place.” Passage into a marginalized space, whether it be into illness or some other underprivileged position, can be unpredictable. But there is some point during the human life span in which we all inevitably dwell in a marginal community, where we lack the autonomy to advocate for our own health.

Childhood is one such period, and perhaps the most universally experienced one at that. In the Fall 2018 issue of *The Journal of Global Health*, you’ll find investigations into child health, and the challenges, experiences and risks conferred onto children by their marginal societal position. You will read about policy solutions in New York State to address traumatic childhood experiences and the future health problems such experiences entail; the state of maternal and perinatal healthcare in central Senegal; and the impact of academic stress and parenting styles on the mental and social well-being of school-age youth in Hong Kong. The research in this issue of *JGH* deals with other sorts of marginality, too, and the challenges they pose to the goal of health equity. Topics range from the affordability and accessibility of malarial treatment in several African regions, to the health experiences and stigmas associated with sexual minorities affected by HIV/AIDS in India.

Everyone has at one point or another found themselves on, in Sontag’s words, “the night side of life, a more onerous citizenship,” whether it be illness, childhood, old age or a more explicit sort of social marginalization. So, we hope that the work in our latest issue, the product of hard work by our authors and board members, demonstrates the essentiality of practicing empathy and giving voice to those who cannot speak for themselves. Now in its eighth year of publication, *JGH* continues to use its international and multimedia platform to help researchers from around the world address the health inequities that affect those citizens who dwell in a wide range of marginalized groups and communities.

Emily Sun & Hyunsoo Chung
Editors-in-Chief, Fall 2018



Emily Sun



Hyunsoo Chung