

Letter from the Editors

Waxing Moon grew out of conversations between the two of us and a number of interlocutors in Beijing, Lhasa, New York, and many other now distant international locales. In the summer of 2017 we held a seminar for young Tibetan and Inner Asian studies scholars at Renmin University where we were graciously hosted by Oyunbilig Borjigidai. The conclusion of the spirited program brought American, Mongolian, Tibetan and Chinese participants to a banquet table singing folk songs over libations. Later that year, we hosted the Beyond Empire and Borders: The 3rd International Conference on the Qing Dynasty and Inner Asia at Columbia University, where established scholars, junior faculty and graduate students participated in a truly global conversation. The spirit of intellectual exchange and camaraderie provided the seed of the project; Waxing Moon is envisioned as a platform for young and established scholars in Tibetan and Himalayan studies from both sides of the Pacific and Atlantic to share their work, with a strong commitment to diversity, multilingualism and meaningful dialogue. With guidance from Gray Tuttle and Lauran Hartley, we partnered with the Columbia University Libraries, and received endorsement from the Weatherhead East Asian Institute. Having worked closely over the past two years with the team at the Center for Digital Scholarship we are now finally able to bring this project into fruition.

We are proud that the line-up for our inaugural issue is testament to these aforementioned values. It is our pleasure to share with you the work of scholars working in English, Tibetan, and Chinese, based around the world. While the future of international research is an imperiled one, we hope that Waxing Moon will serve to fortify existing ties of community in our field and perhaps even nurture new forms of collaboration for the times ahead.

Friends and colleagues who have assisted us in our endeavor are innumerable but special thanks must be reserved for Michelle Wilson, Digital Publishing Librarian without whom this project would not have been possible. We are also most grateful for the work of our production and translation assistants; Celia Bui Lê, our primary typesetter; and Tiffany Yang, our graphic designer who has rendered Nyema Droma's artwork so beautifully for our cover.

Ling-Wei Kung and Riga Shakya, Editors, Columbia University