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## EDITORS' NOTE

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Dear Reader,

Welcome to second issue of the 'Public Sphere Journal'!

This year we sought to retain the same breadth of topics and analytical techniques covered in our previous issue but with one important change. We wanted to produce a journal with current policy relevance, compiling a set of articles that were varied yet coherent, and that would allow our readers to make a little more sense of this increasingly complex and turbulent public policy landscape. With this goal in mind, the 'Crossroads' theme for the current issue was a natural choice.

The theme reflects the current state of the world characterized by widespread political, social, and economic change. Developments in countries like the US, China, France, Russia and Egypt etch a new political landscape that will have far-reaching global implications. Ongoing conflict in the Middle East and North Africa threaten the grip of democracy and weaken expectations of progress and freedom that accompanied the Arab Spring. The world economy too remains gloomy at best, with the US and Eurozone struggling to stay afloat under mounting debt and pressure from national constituencies. Meanwhile, developing countries in Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Africa continue to emerge as global leaders, oftentimes challenging the power balance status quo and conventional notions of growth and development. At this time of global transition and increasing uncertainty, we find ourselves at a *crossroads* where the outcomes of a shifting political and economic order will prove decisive in shaping our collective futures.

The articles selected do full justice to the idea behind this issue, which is to throw light on the transitions we are witnessing in the world today. China asserting its international dominance through negotiations for the Olympic games on one hand, and European countries struggling to keep the union integrated on the other, are together fairly descriptive of changing power dynamics. There are also other equally important phenomena within national boundaries that act as a catalyst for change. This aspect of the theme is covered by articles ranging from policy recommendations for adequate supply of nutritious food in Chicago that could radically change the existing market structure in food supply chain, to changes in voting patterns due to immigration and increases in ethnic diversity in the United Kingdom. Our contributors have utilised analytical tools as distinct as econometrics and game theory, often blending theory with data and finding the right balance to provide thoughtful policy guidance.

Wherever your interests in public policy lie, we are sure that you will find The Public Sphere Journal 2014: Crossroads a stimulating and thought-provoking read. We certainly have.

Enjoy reading!

The Public Sphere Team