LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Reader,

It was another tumultuous year around the globe. From the growing protectionist sentiment in the US to the reinforcement of identity politics across Asia and Europe and the triggering of Article 50 in the UK, the world seems to have struggled between rationality and impulse, between informed decision-making and populist rhetoric. Providing meaningful, rigorous research on policy issues is therefore as crucial as ever. This is why we at The Public Sphere Journal are delighted to present this year's edition, which sheds light on many timely policy puzzles – from the link between immigration and low-skilled unemployment in France to the 'China-Africa' myth and the issue of transitional justice in Serbia. Moreover, as new technologies increasingly take center stage in global policy debates, this year's journal features a special section where contributing authors share thoughts on the topic of '*policy-making in the digital age*'.

Since its inception in 2013, the PSJ has been a unique platform for graduate students, academics and practitioners around the world to share the research they have conducted on a wide-range of though-provoking issues. Over the years, the journal's editorial teams have not only worked hard to build which is now the London School of Economics' largest and most renowned international policy journal, but also to shape a community of engaged students and experts alike. This year, we received a record number of article submissions from public policy institutions across Africa, Asia, Australia, North America, South America and Europe. The expansion of our team to over 20 talented policy students from the Institute of Public Affairs' flagship Master

of Public Administration programme enabled us to reach new audiences through our growing online presence.

The eleven articles in this year's edition of The Public Sphere cover a range of topics and regions, and were the strongest in policy relevance, methodology, academic rigour and originality out of this year's competitive pool of submissions. The following pages will transport you to France, the UK and Germany, where various policy discussions take place around the impact of immigration on the labor market and extreme right voting trends; the potential solutions to the UK's immigration system; and ways in which immigrant populations can be integrated more fully through the appropriate use of public space. You will then be able to examine the Chinese model of investment in Africa, analyse the link between dependency and basic income in the region of Madhya Pradesh, India, as well as evaluate the way forward for the transitional justice system in Serbia. A critical analysis of Duterte's war on drugs will give you a deeper insight into the Philippines' controversial strongman's vision on drug policy. In this year's special edition on the topic of "*policy making in a digital age*", our authors provide an in-depth and action-oriented discussion of digital economy measurement, mobile banking in China, drug-monitoring policies in the US and ways to address online violence in Argentina.

We would like to thank our authors for their hard work and dedication, editors for their perseverance through the editing process and the LSE's Institute of Public Affairs for their support in our mission. Thank you for your reading, and enjoy this year's curated selection of thought-provoking papers.

Felix, Rachel, Théo and Josh