

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Reader,

We are delighted to present you with our 2018-19 edition of *The Public Sphere Journal*. This year's journal is dedicated to the theme of "Sustainability in Policymaking". 2018 has proved to be a watershed for many in their awareness of the severity of climate change and the urgency with which individuals and governments must act. In October, leading scientists warned that we only have twelve years left to tackle climate change in their Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s landmark report. Meanwhile, in response to research demonstrating that major reductions in meat-eating are necessary to avoid climate breakdown, figures in the UK suggest that a third of all Britons have stopped or reduced their meat consumption. Sustainability is an ever-present issue in popular discourse and public understanding, and yet often it fails to translate into the policymaking process and into policy outcomes. Explaining, and producing solutions to, this failure should be at the heart of any policy agenda going forwards, across the world.

The enormity of the challenge has ignited intellects across disciplines, reflecting both the intertwined nature of the policy challenges and the required sophistication of our responses. Accordingly, the eleven articles in this year's edition cover an impressive scope of topics, from behavioural approaches to electricity consumption, to gendered analysis of the oil palm industry, to urban walkability, among others.

Since *The Public Sphere Journal* was launched in 2013, it has undergone significant growth every year, to the point at which it is now the London School of Economics' largest and

most renowned international policy journal. This year was no exception, and saw the journal continue to expand its student body within the newly-formed School of Public Policy, with nearly 30 editors helping to extend the PSJ's reach through its print, online and podcast outlets. In response to the growth of our student team, this year we implemented a selection process for contributing editors for the first time, as well as democratising the senior editorial team through elections.

This summer we revamped our website and our online editors continue to work hard producing timely, engaging and thought-provoking material throughout the year. In November, we launched The Public Sphere Podcast, with our first mini-series exploring issues of social media, fake news and big data.

None of this could be achieved without the tireless work of the PSJ team, and for that we thank them deeply. We are also grateful for the continued support from the School of Public Policy, in particular Paul Sullivan and Asmaa Akhtar. Finally, we would like to thank our authors for their brilliant submissions and congratulate them on being published in this year's journal.

We hope you enjoy reading the journal as much as we enjoyed producing it.

Mary, Aman and Andrew