



From the Editor

Dear colleagues and friends,

I am delighted to bring to you the final issue of 2019, with works submitted by authors based in Singapore, Germany, and Hong Kong. This issue features a research paper, a reflexive piece on interdisciplinary training, and two concept notes that focus on work and on studying 'Asia'.

In the first paper contributed by Monamie Bhadra Haines from the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, she writes on the various challenges faced by different social actors – the state, activists, rural communities, among others – toward responding to competing visions of technological innovation and democratic sensibilities and ideals. Calling these overlays and negotiation of ideas as 'civic epistemologies', Haines deliberates upon how such epistemologies interact with processes of nuclear establishment and nation-building, concluding that science has been recruited as a proxy for broader socio-political agendas.

The second paper is written by Athel Hu, currently a Sociology Instructor with the National University of Singapore. She documents her multidisciplinary training in counselling psychology and in Sociology, and reveals how such dual-disciplinary exposure has served her in good stead to embark on an academic career focusing on the domain of mental health. Durkheim and Freud, among others, have therefore been instrumental in Hu's career development both as an educator and as a budding academic.

Christiane Brosius and Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka, respectively from Heidelberg University and Bielefeld University bring to us their concept note on Shaping Asia in the third paper. According to the authors, this is an interdisciplinary networking initiative that recruits scholars from Germany and Asia to rethink 'Asia' in its various permutations, constructions, and processes in times past and present. Anchoring the network on three key conceptual routes of connectivities, collaborations and comparisons, Brosius and Pfaff-Czarnecka aim to advance scholarship on cultures and societies in and of Asia to consider and respond to challenges – both in historical and contemporary contexts.

The final submission in this issue is co-authored by scholars based in different universities in Hong Kong. Ben Iaquinto and colleagues take on the role of

rappporteur and record the happenings of a recent international symposium with the theme 'Worlds of Work: Implications of Urbanisation, Technology and Sustainability'. This event was organised as part of the University of Hong Kong's Cities 2050: Urbanisation, Sustainability, and Mobility cluster in the Faculty of Social Sciences. The three-day symposium was also jointly organised by the British Sociological Association's Work, Employment and Society journal. Exploring such themes as migration and work, education/training, social life, and labour rights, as well as creative and technology industries as the future of work, the conference attracted scholars from the UK, Asia, and Australia, where multiple dialogues and exchanges on such themes transpired, carefully documented in this last essay.

As always, I extend a warm invitation to all who would like to contribute their papers for future issues and also welcome feedback on these articles. Please do email me if you have ideas, suggestions or queries about the eSymposium.

Thank you all very much for your committed support and endorsement of the ISA eSymposium..

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