

Editorial: Why publish in Asia in Focus?

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the twelfth issue of Asia in Focus.

Since the journal began publishing in 2015, we have been entrusted with so many brilliant manuscripts and have had the help of countless generous and thoughtful reviewers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for helping to make our work possible. Our contributors are mainly MA graduates and PhD students, and for many of them, Asia in Focus provides their first opportunity to publish in a peer-reviewed journal.

In the age of AI, academic publishing is becoming increasingly complicated. Academia is already full of stories of journals being flooded with AI-generated or AI-assisted articles, reviews increasingly being entrusted to AI tools, and a general sense of uncertainty about how to deal with this new reality. At Asia in Focus, we work closely with both authors and reviewers, and every manuscript, at every stage of the process, is checked by a human hand. I can vouch for this personally, as it is usually my hand!

We hope that Asia in Focus can continue to provide an outlet where authors know that they will always receive a response to their questions and concerns. We take a personal interest in every manuscript and in supporting authors throughout the publication process, from the first submission to the finish line.

Furthermore, as a published author in Asia in Focus myself, I can share a more personal experience. The essay I published with the journal continues, two years later, to generate emails and messages from people who have taken an interest in my work. A similar experience was also mentioned in the 2017 editorial of Asia in Focus (Issue 4, 2017). For an early-career researcher, this kind of opportunity is incredibly helpful.

In this issue, we are pleased to present the work of four authors writing on a diverse range of topics. First, **Pierre-Antoine Duc** examines the sometimes complex interplay between acknowledging history and appreciating culture among Korean youth inter-

ested in Japanese culture. Next, **Christine Moritz** explores the experiences of Vietnamese students in Germany and how these experiences relate to different forms of social and cultural capital. **Pawel Ostern** focuses on the dynamics of care work and domestic-work-related influencers. Finally, **Rehna Sotto** analyses representations of Southeast Asian women in ChatGPT-4o.

We would like to thank you once again for reading Asia in Focus and for supporting our journal.

Happy reading!

On behalf of the Editorial Team,
Julia Olsson
Managing Editor