



Preface

What an amazing achievement – over now the last seven years (since its first issue in 2015) – is the LSE Undergraduate Political Review! Going back to Jack Winterton.

It is more than just the UPR itself. It is also the Blog, and the whole (I feel like saying ‘professional’) undergraduate community of sophisticated young political scientists, centred in the LSE Government Department but spread out across other departments (via joint degrees), and much more widely across a whole international network of undergraduate departments.

I know I should not be bowled over by just how good the articles in the UPR are and have been; and the same goes for blogs. I do not use the term ‘really professional’ lightly, but I do with the UPR. If I think about some of the great undergraduate students I have taught at the LSE (and been taught by!), I should not be surprised. But it is terrific to see these pieces in print, and to think that some of these may have been authored by my future colleagues.

In addition to the serious academic quality of both articles and blogs (and what I have got out of them over recent years), I would like to say a bit about the whole *successful* enterprise. I would say that the Review has been very successful in its primary purpose of providing a venue for first-class articles from across the spectrum of sub-disciplines. It has been successful notably in producing such a professional journal. And equally it has been successful in a deliberate training purpose: confronting very smart, academically ambitious undergraduates with the rigorous process of submission, refereeing and reviewing, revising, resubmitting and so on. That requires a really well-run organisation – really well-run by very smart academically ambitious undergraduates – prepared to donate considerable time and energy. Readers of the journal from all over, contributors obviously, and also very much the LSE Government Department, are the beneficiaries.

To get some idea of the whole remarkable enterprise, go to the LSEUPR website and look at the Current Team – the Executive Committee and the four separate Divisions (Editorial, Research, Marketing, Academic) and spend a bit of time going through the contributions made by the political undergraduates involved. It is very, very impressive! I cannot mention everyone by name here, but I will mention Jintao Zhu and Helen Ainsley (Editor-in-Chief and Deputy Editor-in Chief) and the three Division Directors: Florian Sichert (Research), Kitty Rae Thompson (Marketing) and Vernon Yian (Academic). Many thanks to them and to each of their teams from all of us in the LSE Government Department; and Cheryl Schonhardt-Bailey has asked me to pass on her special best wishes and congratulations.