



Preface

Increasing the number of issues is an important step for a journal. It is a very strong sign of its success in attracting high-quality submissions, establishing a readership and developing a distinctive profile as an academic outlet. It was very clear early on that LSEUPR had managed to establish itself as a truly international journal. After three years it was publishing articles written by new scholars from the US, Canada, Japan, Brazil, Australia, India and the Netherlands in addition to the UK. While LSEUPR went over to two issues in 2021, the articles in this first issue of 2022 demonstrate its ability to sustain a flow of top quality submissions as it settles down to the new increased pace of production.

The articles here also show the agility of the journal. By attracting work from highly talented new researchers worldwide and keeping only a small gap between submission and publication, this issue shows exceptionally well the contribution that political science research techniques and theories have to offer in dealing with issues of pressing contemporary relevance. In this issue we have three articles looking at China: Edouard Pierre Laurent and Marie Fayard explore anti-corruption initiatives as a political strategy with regime survival and strengthening as its main purpose; Lloyd Skinner, Haiyue Ma and Robert Fowler put the militarisation of the South China Sea into the broader context of a wider set of geopolitical objectives and capabilities; and Noah Patrick Lenhardt examines public attitudes towards China from the perspective of media coverage of German policy over Huawei. In other articles, Pooja Kishinani's research uses a Gramscian perspective to understand the framing of demands for distributional justice in climate governance. We have a fresh look at the question of power in which Ritabrata Chakraborty integrates the work of Lukes and Foucault and suggests that this allows us to identify forces that act to undermine democracy. Brendan Hartnett's account of Andres Babiš' populism explains why he did not lead the Czech Republic down the path of "competitive authoritarianism" followed by Hungary and Poland. Claudia Stephens' article shows the changing and contingent role of cross-class coalitions in the 2011 Tunisian Jasmine Revolution while Devraj Singhania's article evaluates the post-pandemic American welfare state.

Maintaining the outstanding quality of submissions is in part a reflection of the excellence of the research being conducted by talented new scholars in universities worldwide. It is also a result of the hard work and skill of the current LSEUPR team under Sarmed Hyder. It has carried forward and developed the vision of a top-quality international journal based at the LSE able to attract the fruits of this research. The excellence of the editing is especially worthy of mention, and the editorial team led by Zoya Japanwala, the Deputy Editor-in-Chief, is to be congratulated for the consistently impressive work on this issue.

Professor Edward Page

Sidney and Beatrice Webb Professor of Public Policy

LSE Department of Government