



The ANU Undergraduate Research Journal

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EDITORS: BENJAMIN KOOYMAN, LOUISA TALIPSKI

Introduction

By most yardsticks, 2020 was a rough year; one that challenged our collective resilience. Bushfires blazing across Australia, widespread political and social unrest, and above all a global pandemic defined a truly tumultuous year.

The quest to develop a COVID-19 vaccine is a timely reminder of the importance of research for societal good. For many scientists and researchers across all fields, that journey begins as an undergraduate. As editors of the *ANU Undergraduate Research Journal*, we are proud to once again curate an outstanding selection of essays across multiple disciplines from undergraduate students at The Australian National University. Topical and ongoing concerns, from climate change to #MeToo to the welfare of Indigenous Australians, are discussed in the essays that follow.

Black Lives Matter and other protest movements dominated the headlines in 2020, so it is apt that the volume opens with two essays on this theme. Elizabeth Spollard's historical essay illuminates how acts of heroism and resistance—both major and minor—under the overwhelming machinery of the Third Reich helped sustain Germany's prewar moral traditions during the Nazi era. Meanwhile, Karen Zhang chronicles the emergence of the #MeToo movement in China and how advocates have navigated attempts to censor and contain this movement.

Question of gender—specifically how women are represented in art and how this reflects or informs the wider culture—are explored in the next two essays: Cinnamone Winchester analyses depictions of Snow White and the villainous Queen, and how these reflect the cultural contexts from which they emerged, in the Grimm Brothers' 'Little Snow White' and Disney's adaptation *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, while Piper Keel explores representations of Medusa in art from Ancient Greece to the present, arguing that depictions of this mythical figure reflect wider attitudes about women in law, society, and under the justice system. The intersection of law and art is also central to Georgie Juszczyk's essay, which compares the High Court of Australia's architecture with that of the United States Supreme Court, demonstrating the power of this medium to communicate ideals of equality and justice. This theme is further reflected in Gaia Ewing's essay, which highlights the symbolism underpinning the architecture of the High Court of Australia and its pointed exclusion of Indigenous Australian notions of justice.

Exclusion of Indigenous Australians is also a theme in Kate Butler's essay, which discusses the mining boom of the 1960s–1970s and argues that the nation did not fully reap its socio-economic boons nor capitalise on the opportunities it presented for reconciliation. This era of local history also serves as backdrop to Eleanor Foster's essay on Cold War culture in Australia, which illustrates the various discourses surrounding European migration and the attitudes of those both left and right of the political spectrum. The themes of migration and displacement underpin the next essay by Sylvia Ghaly, which argues passionately for those displaced by climate change to be accorded proper refugee status. The notion of displacement is further reflected in Sarah Crosby's essay on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle, and the difficulties involved in putting this principle into practice in Australia's East Kimberley region.

The year 2020 has been dominated by a global pandemic, and the ongoing journey to develop a vaccine has brought to the fore concerns surrounding public trust in science. Timothy Hibbins's essay explores this issue by building a case for the role of scientific consensus in the wider acceptance of scientific findings, arguing that this consensus must be active rather than passive in order to be heeded. While COVID-19 has understandably dominated the public health arena in 2020, the next essay by Stefan Thottunkal highlights another pressing health concern: the popularity of e-cigarettes among Australia's young adults and factors associated with their use. The next essay turns to more metaphysical concerns, with Thomas Weight explaining how we must rethink traditional views of the 'self' when our cognitive processes can be offloaded onto objects external to us.

The last group of essays addresses some pressing international issues, whose origins predate—and will likely extend beyond—this tumultuous year. Manya Sinha's essay builds a case for the existence of modern-day slavery, drawing parallels between the treatment of migrant workers in the Middle East

and the criteria for slavery. Vidit Thakkar then explores the potential causal relationship between hydrocarbon wealth and violent conflict, concluding that a country's possession of substantial hydrocarbon resources plays a causal role in the development of violent conflict, even after controlling for other variables. Finally, Asha Clementi and Rebecca Crisp report on research conducted on Myanmar's education system during a study tour to the country, arguing that features of this system may be perpetuating existing gender inequalities.

We wish to thank the authors for their time, work, energy, and passion in penning these essays and further shaping them for a wider readership. In addition, we thank the following for their contributions to the journal: Andrei Aksenov, Eleanor Armstrong, Beth Battrick, Greta Cooper, Thuy Do, Henriette Du Toit, Eleanor Gundry, Lucinda Janson, Bethany Jedlicka, Clare Langley, Daisy Leung, Daniel May, Brianna Muir, Alex Pan, Jillian Schedneck, Vivien Silvey, Zoe A. Smith, Tess Snowball, Tara Swanton, Emma Tindal-Clarke, Hannah Weston, and Zihan Yin. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Best wishes,

Benjamin Kooyman and Louisa Talipski

Editors

About the authors

Kate Butler

Kate is studying a Bachelor of Law (Honours) and has completed a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics and a Diploma of Languages in Arabic. She is very interested in the energy industry and in issues that intersect law, economics, and politics, especially socio-political and socio-economic issues.

Asha Clementi

Asha is a third-year Bachelor of International Security Studies/Master of Diplomacy student at ANU. She is the co-founder of The Girls Leadership Network and creator of the Girls Run the World Program.

Rebecca Crisp

Rebecca is a third-year Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics student at ANU. She is ACT State Coordinator at ActionAid Australia and former intern at the Australian Institute of International Affairs National Office.

Sarah Crosby

Sarah has recently completed her Bachelor of Law (Honours)/Bachelor of International Security Studies, with a minor in International Relations, at ANU. Sarah is particularly interested in access to justice issues facing Aboriginal children and communities and has spent time in Kununurra, Western Australia, as a legal intern at Kimberley Community Legal Services. She is currently working at the Chief Minister's Department for the Northern Territory Government in Darwin.

Gaia Ewing

Gaia is a fifth-year law student. While she has always been fascinated by art, her interest in law is a more recent development. Growing up, Gaia spent many hours in the NSW Art Gallery with her Grandma—an artist herself—learning from her experiences and expertise. Now at university, Gaia is captivated by the intersection between law and art; the way the 'rational' and 'objective' interacts with the 'emotional' and 'subjective'. Going forward, Gaia hopes to conduct further research into the creative and emotional aspects of law.

Eleanor Foster

Eleanor is a third-year Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) student majoring in history at the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences. She is the 2020 Regional Winner of the Undergraduate Awards for history and has co-authored papers in academic museum studies journals as well as presenting research at the ANU Student Research Conference. As recipient of the College of Arts and Social Science Travel Grant, she studied abroad at the University of Copenhagen in 2019. Eleanor will undertake honours in history in 2021.

Sylvia Ghaly

Sylvia is a human rights and humanitarian advocacy and communication professional. She has experience in influencing public policy through political lobbying, policy analysis, research, advocacy, communications, managing media relations, campaigning, and promoting social justice. Sylvia has worked in Australia and overseas in South America, East and Central Africa, and the Middle East. She holds, among other degrees, a Master of International Law and International Relations from the University of New South Wales (UNSW). She commenced a Juris Doctor online with ANU in April 2016, which coincided with her deployment to Yemen to work with some of the largest humanitarian organisations on the ground. She graduated in June 2020, and was admitted to legal practice in the ACT in December 2020.

Timothy Hibbins

Timothy is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics at ANU. While a humanities student, he is also interested in science. In particular, he is drawn to investigate the ways in which science is connected to the three areas of his degree, whether it be how scientific methodology is employed within the fields of politics and economics, or the philosophical underpinnings of science itself.

Georgie Juszczak

Georgie recently graduated from Law (Hons)/International Security Studies at ANU. Her principal areas of interest include international trade law, public international law, national security law, and constitutional and administrative law.

Piper Keel

Piper is an undergraduate student studying a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts. She has published various creative pieces across multiple mediums; this is her first academic publication. Piper is passionate about women, literature, and the law, and hopes to use her passion to draw out women's voices in both fields.

Manya Sinha

Manya is a later-year ANU student who is deeply passionate about intersectionality within academia.

Elizabeth Spollard

Elizabeth is a second-year student with a keen interest in military history and European culture. She is undertaking a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts, majoring in both contemporary Europe and German language and culture. She has been the recipient of awards for her historical writing, including both the Simpson Prize and Young Historian of the Year for the ACT.

Vidit Thakkar

Vidit is currently in his final year of Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of International Relations at ANU. He maintains a keen interest in resource curse literature and its impact on the political economy of the countries affected by it.

Stefan Thottunkal

Stefan is currently studying a Bachelor of Health Science at ANU. His research interests include health policy, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies, and anthropology. Stefan has produced work on a variety of topics such as sexually transmitted infection prevention, sugar tax policy, Indigenous notions of healing, global mental health interventions, and the PERMA (positive emotion, engagement, relationships, meaning, and accomplishments) psychological wellbeing model.

Thomas Weight

Tom is a Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours)—Arts and Social Sciences student at ANU, undertaking his honours year. Under the supervision of Professor Robert Goodin, he is writing an honours thesis in the School of Philosophy on responsibility for remedying Indigenous over-incarceration. Concurrently, Tom is working as a research assistant at the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methodology with Dr Curchin and Professor Ritter (UNSW) on an exploratory project that examines the framing of drug testing in Parliamentary debate. Tom was also a research intern in the Office of Senator Rachel Siewert in 2019.

Cinnamone Winchester

Cinnamone is a fourth-year Bachelor of Arts student. She is currently undertaking an English major with minors in history and archaeology, and is particularly interested in Victorian literature.

Karen Xin Zhang

Karen is in the final year of her Bachelor of International Security Studies. She is interested in the intersections and interactions between culture, society, and security. Karen led the organisation of the ANU 2019 Asia Pacific Week conference on 'New Horizons: Identities, Challenges and Opportunities'. In October 2019, she was selected to participate in the Australia China Youth Association MyLead Women's Leadership Program held in Beijing, funded by the Australian Embassy in China. She has previously written for *The Monsoon Project* on entertainment censorship and women's rights in China. After graduation, Karen hopes to pursue a career in the public sector, advancing Australia's cultural and strategic interests in the Asia-Pacific region.

About the editors

Benjamin Kooyman

Ben has worked in the field of academic language and learning support for the past decade. Prior to joining ANU Academic Skills, he served as a Learning Adviser with a widening participation focus at the University of South Australia, and as an Academic Skills Adviser and Academic Integrity Officer at the Australian College of Physical Education. He has a PhD in English literature from Flinders University and has published in the areas of literature, film, and academic language and learning.

Louisa Talipski

Louisa is a PhD candidate in the ANU Research School of Psychology. She has worked at ANU Academic Skills as a Writing Coach, tutored a number of undergraduate courses, and delivered several guest lectures. Her current research focuses on how social and symbolic cues in the environment guide attention, and part of her PhD work has been published in the *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*.

Cover art

Greta Cooper, Bachelor of Visual Arts

Life after the Wildfires (1 of 16), 2020, ink, acrylic screen-print and monotype on paper, 56 x 76 cm.

Photograph taken by Prue Hazelgrove.

Greta Cooper grew up in a small rural town on the South Coast of New South Wales. She moved to Canberra to study visual arts at ANU in 2018. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Greta returned to her hometown where she continued studying remotely.

Moruya is surrounded by bushland on one side and the coastline on the other. It was one of the towns hit by the 2019–20 summer bushfires. Spending most of the year at home with her family gave Greta time to reflect on her feelings and emotions after the fires. While immersing herself in the local bushland, she saw the bush regrow and regenerate in front of her eyes.

Greta spent her days exploring bushland at the old Moruya Tip. This was her inspiration for the series of artworks showcased in the ANU School of Art's graduating exhibition, *Amplified Together*. The works were created on paper using brushes she made from things collected while spending time in the bush. The brushes she created became part of the final artwork and to accompany the drawings she recorded the sounds of the bush. The artwork on the cover of this volume features a burrawang fern regrowing and an eastern yellow robin.