



The ANU Undergraduate Research Journal

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Introduction

It is a great pleasure to introduce Volume 12 of the *ANU Undergraduate Research Journal* (AURJ), an SSAF-funded¹ publication which once again showcases the high-calibre work produced by ANU undergraduate students. This volume's 11 articles not only critically engage with existing academic literature but present original perspectives on a host of topical issues. An impressive range of subjects is covered by this year's selection of papers, including music, law, philosophy, political science, international relations, and linguistics, along with several examples spanning multiple disciplines. These articles touch on some of the most challenging issues of recent times, from the legal system's handling of gendered violence to the constitutional recognition of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

There is a distinct Australian focus to many of the articles included in this volume. The first two papers consider proposed changes to Australian legislation. Bernard Lao's paper concerns the Indigenous Voice to Parliament, offering a legal-theoretic justification for its implementation in the Australian legal system and political milieu. This is a timely piece; although the Indigenous Voice formed part of the Uluru Statement from the Heart from 2017, it was in 2022 that the proposal gained serious momentum in public discourse. Next, we have a paper by Clare Taylor, who examines the effectiveness of criminalising acts of genocide denial under specific genocide denial legislation as far as protecting victims and minimising harm. Using France as a case study, Clare puts pressure on the idea that existing genocide denial legislation achieves its goals, before considering whether or not similar legislation should be enacted in Australia.

The next three articles address other aspects of the Australian political landscape. Jeremy Tsuei undertakes a Foucauldian reading of the 1987 Australian film *Shame*, analysing its depiction of the law and gendered violence, and the projection of urban anxieties upon regional Australia. Jeremy's subject matter connects broadly to the global movement of #MeToo and, locally, to highly publicised legal trials of the past year. Elisheva Madar examines uses of the term 'un-Australian' in Federal Parliament over a 20-year period, exploring to what ideological ends this term has been deployed. Elisheva uses quantitative methods to analyse the ways in which the term has been used, with what frequency, and by what kinds of speakers, connecting these findings to the fluctuating politics of national identity in Australia. Following this, Alice Morgan's paper draws a different kind of connection between Australian politics and language, discussing the current state of Indonesian language teaching in Australian high schools. More specifically, Alice points to the significant political benefits Australia could reap both nationally and within the Asia-Pacific region by prioritising the study of Indonesian in secondary education.

The next articles relate to political and scientific issues that go beyond Australia and address global questions. Jessica Honan discusses the role of the European Court of Justice in facilitating European Union (EU) integration, arguing that specific enshrined aims and mechanisms of the institution contribute to coordination between EU states. Meanwhile, Francesca Lambert delves into the issue of how climate change interacts with global security, and more specifically whether climate change has shaped or increased interstate conflict in recent decades. Francesca argues for the importance of homing in on the complex interactional nature of this question, and the need to seek out interdisciplinary knowledge to accurately model the circumstances in which climate change phenomena increase the risk of conflict.

Next are two papers that concern more abstract questions about the political sphere. First is Effie Li's paper, which explores our behaviour around the moral and political content that we produce, consume and circulate, and the downstream effects of this behaviour on public discussion. More specifically, Effie considers the effects of moral grandstanding—the attempt to signal one's moral virtue or 'show off' one's moral qualities to others—upon the quality of and our trust in political discourse. Effie offers reason to question the idea that moral grandstanding necessarily undermines public discussion. Meanwhile, Tyler Williams delves into the question of what it means to say that a policy is feasible or

¹ SSAF: student services and amenities fee.

infeasible, putting forward a general model of feasibility in policymaking. That a proposed policy is feasible is surely necessary for it to be implemented successfully, so this conceptual understanding of what it takes to meet this condition may help us assess the quality of real-world policy proposals and better interpret their viability.

Reconsidering the views or body of work of important public figures is a theme that unites the final two papers presented in the volume. Lucy Aras's article centres on the Russian-American classical violinist Jascha Heifetz, analysing the impact of cultural and technological factors upon his fame and esteem. And finally, Cohen Saunders's article considers the best interpretation of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's political philosophy, investigating the divisive question of whether Rousseau should be classed as democratic or authoritarian. In responding to this question, Cohen approaches one of the central conceptual questions of our time: what exactly makes a state or political figure democratic, or in other words, what are the essential features of democracy?

The AURJ could not be produced without the hard work of many individuals. First and foremost, we thank the authors for their commitment to and perseverance in revising and enhancing their work. We would also like to thank our dedicated peer reviewers for their contributions: Kate Butler, Asha Clementi, Gaia Ewing, Eleanor Foster, Emma Gerts, Bhavani Kannan, Bruna Contro Pretero, Jillian Schedneck, Manya Sinha, Elizabeth Spollard, Terra Starbird, Stefan Thottunkal, Thomas Weight, and Cinnamone Winchester. Thanks are also due to our copyeditor, Beth Battrick, and to the talented graduating artists Janet Jeffs and Laura Fenderson for contributing their striking art to the journal. Finally, we acknowledge the First Australians on whose traditional lands ANU operates and this journal was produced. In particular, we pay our respects to the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people of the Canberra region.

Dominie Dessaix, Dilnoza Ubaydullaeva, and Benjamin Kooyman

Editors

About the authors

Lucy Aras

Lucy is a second-year student studying a double degree Bachelor of Music (violin performance major) and Bachelor of Commerce (accounting major). Within the field of music, she is particularly interested in the development of the Western music performance tradition and its application to the classical music industry in a contemporary context.

Jessica Honan

Jessica is a penultimate-year Bachelor of Laws (Honours), Bachelor of Arts (French, human rights) and Diploma of Languages (Arabic, German) student at The Australian National University with a professional interest in international and comparative law. Specifically, she is interested in international humanitarian law and international criminal law.

Francesca Lambert

Francesca is a third-year undergraduate studying international security studies and public policy at The Australian National University. She has a minor in French language and culture and is especially interested in human security and non-traditional security threats, including the environment.

Bernard Lao

Bernard is studying a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and a Bachelor of Economics at The Australian National University. He is particularly interested in the legal, political and constitutional issues surrounding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the possibility of future law reform in their relationship with the state. Other areas of interest include Australian public and constitutional law, and criminal law and its history in the Australian body politic.

Effie Li

Effie studies the Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics, minors in corporate sustainability and is interested in film. Her aim is to one day become a 'slashie' (aka a multi-hyphenate with multiple concurrent careers).

Elisheva Madar

Elisheva graduated with a Bachelor of Law (Honours) and a Bachelor of Political Science from The Australian National University in 2021. She has worked and volunteered across various public, not-for-profit, and private sector organisations and is currently working as a government consultant with Accenture. As the daughter of immigrants, she is particularly interested in social and political conceptions of Australian 'identity', and how those conceptions interact with immigration and education policy.

Alice Morgan

Alice Morgan is a second-year student undertaking a double Bachelor degree in both international relations and Asian studies. She has undertaken Indonesian language study throughout high school to

university, and is now working with the ANU Indonesian Students Association and furthering linguistic studies of Bahasa Indonesia.

Cohen Saunders

Cohen is a second-year student who is interested in the ways that humans can rework institutions to become stewards of the natural environment. He is studying a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics, and sees these disciplines as helpful for understanding how we can respond to environmental issues.

Clare Taylor

Canberra-born and bred, Clare started off wanting to be a ballerina before finally settling on studying political science. She graduated from ANU in July 2022 with double Bachelor degrees in International Relations, minoring in Arabic, and International Security Studies, minoring in advanced Arabic. Clare hopes to one day pursue further studies in languages and political science.

Jeremy Tsuei

Jeremy is a final-year Arts/Law student from Canberra, Australia, majoring in English literature and minoring in music for his Arts degree. Jeremy's particular areas of interest include legal theory and Australian film and television. Jeremy has worked as a research assistant in the University and will be commencing an English Honours degree in 2023.

Tyler Williams

Tyler is a third-year philosophy student at ANU, specifically interested in ethics and political philosophy.

About the editors

Dominie Dessaix

Dominie is a PhD Candidate in the ANU School of Philosophy, working on an interdisciplinary project about concepts and word meaning. Her primary research interests are in the philosophy of language and cognitive science. Dominie has a Bachelor of Arts from ANU, with Honours degrees in both philosophy and linguistics. She also has a keen interest in all aspects of the writing process and has worked for several years as a writing coach at ANU Library Academic Skills.

Dilnoza Ubaydullaeva

Dilnoza Ubaydullaeva has worked in the higher education sector since 2009 in various academic and professional roles. Her main research interests include the politics of tertiary education, internationalisation in higher education policy, nation-building through education, civil society, and democratisation. Dilnoza's prior experience as a lecturer and staff member at UNICEF gives her a unique combination of academic writing and research skills in the field of education. She was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University in Washington, DC. Dilnoza is an Associate Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy. Her publications have appeared in *Journal of Political Ideologies*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, and *Central Asian Survey*.

Benjamin Kooyman

Ben has worked in the field of academic language and learning support for the past 13 years. Prior to joining ANU Library 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 from Flinders University, and has published in the areas of literature, film, and academic language and learning.

About the artists/artworks

Laura Fenderson

This girl loves to party (flowers), 2022.

I am a Canberra-based artist and a recent graduate from the School of Art and Design at The Australian National University. My work aims to explore 'structures of feeling' by painting photographs I have taken of my everyday experiences. The works are purposefully pushed into the painterly and abstracted realm, allowing unconscious mark making, colour combinations, and the materiality of paint to voice my subconscious responses to place, person, and thing. In this sense these works explore how a painting, separate to both the photographic reference and reality itself, can become a new form of reality.

Janet Jeffs

*Wave, 2022, acrylic paint and enamel paint on canvas,
185 x 140 cm.*

Wave is an exploration of my embodied relationship with the natural world through gestural abstraction. In the development of the work, my focus is on images read as both manifestations of energised paint and of inchoate matter within the natural world.

The works included in my series *Oceanic* are painterly, almost filmic illusions of sky and water. This comes from a lived experience of a rural home in Yuin country near the source of the Shoalhaven River. Sky and water have a strong connection with images of nature that are sensory and visual. Through gesture, chance, and disorder, I express emotions that embrace awe, delight, and foreboding. The title of the work *Wave* refers to a sensation of eternity, a feeling of being one with the external world.

Bodies of water, a precious resource, are so bound to our being and survival, particularly in the context of climate change. These ideas illustrate how my project has been contextualised over time, making large paintings with energy and ambition.

