



# The ANU Undergraduate Research Journal

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EDITORS: DOMINIE DESSAIX, DILNOZA UBAYDULLAEVA, BENJAMIN KOOYMAN



# Introduction

The *ANU Undergraduate Research Journal* (AURJ) sets out to exhibit some of the highest calibre of research and writing produced by Australian National University (ANU) undergraduates. The articles in the present volume range once again across a variety of disciplines, including diplomacy, political studies, law, linguistics, literature, history, archaeology, and film. This year's selection of articles is also notable for being a fitting representation of the breadth of ANU research across time and space, from an analysis of the economic contributions of convicts in colonial Australia to a forward-looking critique of Saudi Arabia's Vision2030 reforms. Perhaps most importantly, the 12 papers contained in the present volume showcase our students' capacities for rigorous research, strong argumentation, and original thought. In the context of the rapid rise of generative AI and the justifiable concerns about what role it should play in the academic world, this feels especially pertinent. While the best response to and use of generative AI in research and education is still very much up for debate, it is more important than ever to celebrate the irreplaceable and imperative role of the individual in the research and writing process. The unique voices of students found in the articles in this volume attest to that.

The volume opens with two articles that focus on political and diplomatic issues specific to the Australian context. Anthony Waymouth presents a topical paper on the importance of incorporating Indigenous diplomacy into Australia's diplomatic relations with Asia, and the value of this process in both global and local contexts. In light of the recent unsuccessful referendum on the Voice to Parliament, the analysis of the unique contributions of First Nations people to national political contexts feels particularly valuable. In the second article of this volume, Angus Padley applies moral foundations theory to understand how the Labor and Liberal parties used moral rhetoric during the 2019 Australian federal election campaign, showing how different moral values are prioritised in the political speeches from opposing sides of the political spectrum.

The next three papers offer analyses of diplomatic and political issues beyond Australia. Ethan Chan considers the importance of the Pacific Island states to Taiwan's international diplomatic strategy, showing how some Pacific Island states have used diplomatic relations with both Taiwan and the People's Republic of China to their advantage. This analysis also reveals that sometimes small states can play big roles on the stage of international diplomacy. Next, Maryam Mobini-Kesheh considers whether neoliberal capitalism constitutes a good overarching model for economic development. Mobini-Kesheh argues that the differential success of neoliberal capitalism in India and South Korea shows that any economic model must be adapted to its local context to thrive. Looking then towards the Middle East, Lottie Croghan examines the current successes and failures of Saudi Arabia's Vision2030 reforms, arguing that the country faces a pressing need to address the structural problems affecting two of their most vulnerable groups: women and youth.

Our next two articles speak to the powerful role of language in reflecting and shaping the culture and politics of its users. Joseph Baxter uses a linguistic framework called Natural Semantic Metalanguage, developed by Polish-Australian linguist Anna Wierzbicka in collaboration with Australian linguist Cliff Goddard, to analyse the culturally specific meaning of 'get over it' in Australian political contexts. Baxter gives special attention to the unfortunate ways in which 'get over it' has been used by some politicians to dismiss the history and experiences of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Following this, Darcey Hoyle takes a fresh look at Jane Austen's work as it reveals and challenges expectations of people according to their gender. Hoyle shows how the characters in *Emma* and *Persuasion* can be understood in terms of philosopher Judith Butler's theory that gender is a special kind of social performance.

The subsequent two papers have a distinct legal focus, both exploring how the field of law is affected by factors beyond the letter of the law. Firstly, Fionn Parker presents a comparative analysis of judicial normativity in Malaysia, Singapore, and Hong Kong, showing how judges use different normative stories and prioritise different constitutional rights to decide how to rule on hard cases. Next, E Wen Wong highlights the significant health and mental wellbeing challenges faced by legal practitioners in Australia, suggesting that structural and cultural challenges are required to enact positive change in this sector.

The final three papers of the volume pick up the theme of reinterpreting history, each adding the arts into the mix in a unique way. First, India Fletcher looks to the influence of Japanese woodblock prints on Vincent van Gogh's paintings, exploring how his incorporation of this aesthetic was shaped by his mental health challenges and existentialist struggles. Next, Luke McNamara's paper explores the role that convicts played in the development of the colonial Australian economy. Finally, Gabriella Price critically examines the trope of magical objects in Hollywood genre films such as the Indiana Jones franchise, noting the misguided myths perpetuated in popular culture through this trope and their potentially damaging implications for the field of archaeology and for vulnerable cultural groups across the globe.

Each edition of the AURJ relies on the hard work of many and the thirteenth volume of the journal is no exception. Firstly, a big thanks to all the authors for their dedication and willingness to refine their work over several rounds of review. We would also like to thank all our peer reviewers for their valuable contributions and instructive feedback they provided to the authors along the way: Lucy Aras, Emma Gerts, Caroline Henderson-Brooks, Jessica Honan, Bernard Lao, Elisheva Madar, Clare Taylor, and Zihan Yin. Many thanks are also due to our copyeditor, Beth Batrick, for her hard work in the final stages of producing this volume. Finally, we extend our thanks to the talented Geoffrey Woodgate, whose eye-catching artwork appears on the cover of this volume.

Finally, as editors of the journal, we would like to conclude by paying our respects to all First Nations peoples of Australia, and to the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people of the Canberra region, on whose traditional lands The Australian National University operates and where the AURJ was produced.

We hope you enjoy reading Volume 13 of the AURJ.

Dominie Dessaix

Dilnoza Ubaydullaeva

Benjamin Kooyman

Editors

# About the authors

## Joseph Baxter

Joseph is an undergraduate student in his third year at The Australian National University (ANU). He is undertaking a Bachelor of Arts (Linguistics/French) and a Bachelor of Science. He is very interested in language and culture.

## Ethan Chan

Ethan is a second-year student undertaking the Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) – Humanities and Social Sciences (PhB – HaSS), studying political science and international relations. He is particularly interested in the role of identity in domestic and international politics, and how national identity is constructed and shaped to legitimise political actions and behaviours.

## Lottie Croghan

Lottie is in her fifth year of a double degree in Arts and Political Science. She is currently completing Honours in the latter. Her Honours thesis focuses on violence against women in Australian politics. Originally from Adelaide, South Australia, Lottie has a number of interdisciplinary academic interests, tied together with a broad focus on gender and political institutions.

## India Fletcher

India is in her second year of a Bachelor of Art History and Curatorship. Hailing from Sydney's Northern Beaches, India's passion for the arts was spurred in early high school art classes and has persisted into tertiary study and personal art practices, leading to exemplary results in English and Visual Arts under the Higher School Certificate.

## Darcey Hoyle

Darcey is a second-year Arts and Development Studies undergraduate student. Their research focuses include gender studies, queer theory, cultural anthropology, and political sociology. This is their first published essay.

## Luke McNamara

Luke is currently completing a double degree of Laws and Arts, having commenced in 2023. Within his Arts degree, Luke is currently studying history and philosophy. Luke's interest in history is rooted in his appreciation of its social role in shaping our contemporary understanding of society and the world.

## Maryam Mobini-Kesheh

Maryam is an Iranian-Australian student studying a double Bachelor of Business Administration and Asian Studies. She is passionate about her Korean language studies and representing ANU as a cheerleader. She was the 2022 winner of the Basham Prize for her results in the courses Individual and Society in Asia and Pacific A and B.

## Angus Padley

Angus is an Honours student at the School of Politics and International Relations. After Honours year, Angus hopes to join a PhD program at a top university and become a social science academic.

## Fionn Parker

Fionn is a fifth-year Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics – Law undergraduate student. He is a recipient of the National University Scholarship, co-editor of the educational book *Catch Up with Top Achievers*, and has been published in *Australian Outlook*. His research interests lie at the intersection between legal theory and constitutional law.

## Gabriella Price

Gabriella is a third-year Bachelor of Arts student majoring in History and Archaeology with a minor in Latin. She moved away from Melbourne lockdowns in Frankston to Canberra in 2021 to study at ANU. Fuelled by a passion for the past, she hopes to undertake further study in archaeology.

## Anthony Waymouth

Anthony is in his third year of a Bachelor of International Relations. His studies have focused primarily on South-East Asian and Pacific studies, with a particular interest in Indonesian–Australian relations. Pursuing his interest in South-East Asian politics, Anthony will undertake an in-country Indonesian language course in 2024. Anthony also works in the Australian Public Service, helping to accelerate development of renewable energy technologies through knowledge-sharing initiatives.

## E Wen Wong

E Wen is an Bachelor of Laws (Honours)/Bachelor of Science student at ANU. E Wen is interested in law reform and the intersections of science and law.

# About the editors

## Dominie Dessaix

Domi is a PhD candidate in the ANU School of Philosophy and has worked with ANU Library Academic Skills for the past three years, first as a Writing Coach and then as co-editor of the AURJ. Her research interests lie at the intersection between philosophy, linguistics, and cognitive science. She is especially interested in the existence of basic concepts that underlie thinking and language.

## Dilnoza Ubaydullaeva

Dilnoza 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 was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University in Washington, DC. She has a PhD in Politics and International Relations from ANU. Dilnoza is a 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 14 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 and film.

# About the artist

Geoffrey Woodgate

*Green Day*, 2023, oil on canvas, 76 cm x 51 cm.

I am a Canberra-based student in the Bachelor of Visual Arts program. My current body of work is inspired by both Western and Eastern spiritual traditions. With varying approaches to colour, line, and rhythm, I attempt to invoke an optical and sensory experience specific to painting, encouraging a broader contemplation on the nature of seeing and being in this world.

*Green Day* comprises irregular, coloured shapes delineated by lines and hard edges, inspired by the tradition of stained-glass windows in medieval cathedrals. I feel that abstract painting is a particularly suitable medium to portray psychological and spiritual space, and to visualise transformation and transcendence.