

## Introduction

It is a pleasure to introduce Bruce Hall's newest instalment of *Cross-Sections* for 2022. Volume XIII marks the first issue of this important ANU journal since the global pandemic took hold in 2020 and it represents some of the outstanding qualities displayed by students across the last few years, not least of which are resilience and community cohesion. Specifically, the collection reflects the tenacity of Bruce residents who have continued to pursue excellence in their studies – as illustrated by the number and quality of its contributions. Just as significantly, these students have also collaborated actively as authors, editors, and peer reviewers, to produce a broad-ranging journal which exemplifies the academic strengths and personal interests binding the Bruce Hall community.

*Cross-Sections* was conceived in 2005 to offer Bruce residents an opportunity to refine their research skills and to showcase the interdisciplinary range of academic interests across the hall. In this, the journal supports the ANU commitment to inspire curiosity and to foster several core intellectual attributes among its graduates. Notably, contributions demonstrate students' attention to Indigenous perspectives and knowledge through essays discussing the importance of supporting processes of 'Healing Country', including through Indigenous land management and native title structures, and debating the place of colonial statues in modern Australia.

Journal contributions also illustrate students' capacity to apply disciplinary knowledge to address transdisciplinary contemporary issues, with essays exploring the use of technology in the legal profession, and investigating ethics and population health in relation to Covid-19. Further, the ANU goal to nurture critical thinking among its graduates is represented in articles which sensitively appraise such issues as home-grown radicalism and terror, the competing political and socio-cultural interests which inform the construction of memorial museums, and financial compensation for executives. These essays sit

alongside more technical contributions critically investigating supramolecular assemblages and thermodynamics, and continued fraction algorithms.

The internationalism of Bruce residents is moreover reflected in outward-looking multilingual discussions of German national identity, class and morality; post-war nation-building and alliances across Asia and Europe; consumer law in China; Papuan languages; and the European Court of Justice. These contributions reflect not simply the diversity of the Bruce community but their active involvement in the world beyond ANU.

This is an inspiring collection of essays which offers insights into a range of contemporary global and regional issues. Contributors' attention to detail and nuance demonstrates their sensitivity to the complexity of the challenges of the modern world, and to the historical influences shaping our society. The volume also collectively highlights the capacity of Bruce Hall residents to engage with the wider world and to make positive change as national and international leaders. In providing an avenue for students to share their research and visions for society, this volume of *Cross-Sections* reflects the vibrancy of the Bruce Hall community and their commitment to the future.

As Academic Fellow and a former resident of Bruce Hall, I congratulate everyone who participated in the production of this volume of *Cross-Sections* and encourage all members of the ANU community to explore its contents – there's something for everyone!

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