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# Asia Pacific: *Perspectives*

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# Asia Pacific: *Perspectives*

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## Editors' Note

After 12 issues spanning close to a decade, we bid a fond farewell to usher in new leadership (including a managing editor) who will steer *Asia Pacific: Perspectives* to the next stage of its scholarly evolution.

We have tried to publish articles that span thematic and disciplinary topics related to the entire Pacific Rim region and beyond. Even after 12 issues, the number of academic journals taking a “big tent” approach to the Pacific Rim is very limited. We have promoted scholarship that provides fresh perspectives on familiar topics, or which updates long-standing debates in surprisingly contemporary and useful ways. Special issues devoted to certain themes—from corporate social responsibility to the Mumbai attacks—have been a particular strong point of the journal during our time as editors. We also tried to be inclusive in terms of regional breadth, covering not just the traditional East Asian countries but boldly venturing into Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and South Asia. It is also a point of pride that we have regularly included the work of graduate and occasionally undergraduate students in the journal, in part because we value the scholarship of these emerging scholars and the analysis and insight demonstrated in their papers.

We are pleased to highlight in this issue papers which once again cover a range of topics typical for *Asia Pacific: Perspectives*. The politics of policy and climate change in Australia by Lawrence Niewójt, China's use of ‘soft power’ by Hyun-Binn Cho, and the development of democracy in Hong Kong by Jordin Montgomery all indicate themes and issues of vital importance to Pacific Rim regions.

This APP issue also includes two student submissions that made it through the required peer-review process. The first is Katherine J. Bowen-Williams' article on “Tensions Over Hydroelectric Developments in Central Asia: Regional Interdependence and Energy Security” which discusses the important role of hydroelectric resources to the emerging geopolitical architecture of Central Asia. Bowen-Williams is a product of USF's B.A. in International Studies program and is currently a graduate student at George Mason University. The second is Jake Nagasawa's “Sitting in Silence: A Comparative Analysis of Two Sōtō Zen Institutions in San Francisco” which delves into the independent co-existence of Asian and Western Buddhism in a liberal, multi-cultural city—where anything and everything is possible. Nagasawa graduated from USF in May 2011 with double majors in Theology and Religious Studies as well as Asian Studies.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Joaquin Jay Gonzalez III, 2002-2011  
John Nelson, 2003-2011