

## A NOTE FROM THE CENTRE OF MIGRATION AND DIASPORA STUDIES (CMDS)

Dear All,

It is a great pleasure to be invited to introduce this issue of the SOAS Journal of Postgraduate Research. It embraces diverse mobilities - of refugees, artists, language, music, and film - drawing on a range of disciplinary, theoretical, and empirical approaches, exploring how difference is produced, bordered, negotiated, and transformed. At a time when human mobility is at once entirely normal and acutely politicised in many contexts around the world, it is refreshing to have a collection of articles that embraces fresh research on such diverse forms of mobility.

SOAS has built up a worldwide reputation for not only regional scholarship, but also research that is transnational in character. Since 2007, the Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies has provided a network for research activities across the school and collaborative links with other institutions nationally and internationally. Across anthropology, development studies, languages, culture, arts, history, religion, area studies, politics, law, economics, finance, and management, the centre facilitates conversations and connections, fostering and promoting a supportive research and teaching community.

PhD researchers are a vital part of that community. In recognition of this, the centre was delighted to cooperate with the journal in hosting a small PhD conference on migration, mobility and borders in March 2019. The conference, supported by the ESRC's UBEL-Doctoral Training Partnership, aimed to bring together SOAS PhD researchers in a friendly environment to share their research findings. A series of themed, parallel conference sessions, tackled a wide range of fascinating themes (i.e., migrant identities, mobility of ideas and materials, migration and the arts, rethinking the frame, diaspora and transnational questions, and mobility and governance) showcasing the breadth and depth of doctoral research on mobility at SOAS, which cuts across typical disciplinary and regional categories. Following the conference, students were invited to outline their research projects in a short video, and also to submit papers to this special issue of the SOAS Journal of Postgraduate Research.

We would like to congratulate all of you who have contributed such engaging articles to the issue, as well as the editorial team for their vision and dedication, with special thanks to Iris Lim, who played a key role in sparking this process and providing the connection between the conference and the journal publication. It has been inspiring to witness the vision, creativity, rigour, critical power, and dedication of our PhD researchers. We wish you all a happy, productive, and healthy academic year in 2019/20.

Dr Anna Lindley, for the Centre on Migration and Diaspora Studies