



**THE
PUBLIC
SPHERE**

JOURNAL OF PUBLIC POLICY

2016

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The Public Sphere is a journal of international policy studies produced by postgraduate students at the London School of Economics and Political Science's Institute of Public Affairs (IPA).

The Public Sphere Journal, now in its fourth year, publishes evidence-based research in economic policy, public management, international affairs, development studies and social policy. The journal offers contributors and readers an active space to rethink, critically analyse and address important policy problems. The Public Sphere welcomes submissions that contribute to vibrant debate from advanced students in relevant degree programs, academics and practitioners.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

This has been a year of growth for *The Public Sphere*. The team was the biggest yet, and their motivation, drive and ideas have results that extend beyond this journal. Our fourth edition will be the first to live on our new, dedicated website that brings the sphere into the digital realm. The thoughtful, rigorous debate that happens within these pages will be reflected online on a continuous basis and will give life to the authors and the arguments that are driving policy.

The Public Sphere was conceived at the London School of Economics and Political Science by students in the Master of Public Administration, a two-year program that is unique for its students' diversity of background and work experience and its practical approach. It is only natural and fitting that our product reflects who we are and what we value.

This year, we received more submissions than ever before. The eight articles in this journal were the most applied, relevant and captivating topics. You, reader, will be able to learn about food subsidies in Egypt, engage with policy implications of data localisation laws, and finally understand voting dynamics around the Heathrow Airport expansion outside London. Econometric analysis will deepen your understanding about poverty in the United Kingdom and international corruption. And then we will push you to think about topics that do not enter the everyday sphere like drug addiction in Tajikistan, the New Eurasian Land Bridge, and invasive Asian carp in the Great Lakes of the United States.

As editors, we facilitate. We select articles based on relevance, novelty and interest; we edit to help authors clarify their thoughts and drive their points home; and we publish in the hopes that people like you will learn something new or be forced to question old beliefs. This year's developments have allowed our form to

follow function, thanks to generous funding from the LSE Student Union Annual Fund. Our new branding, journal format and website are vessels to help *The Public Sphere* reach as many minds as possible.

Turn the pages ready to learn. Ready to disagree. Ready to walk away thinking about our lifeblood – policy. Thank you for reading. We hope you enjoy.

Genevieve, Samira and Niranjana



THE PUBLIC SPHERE 2016 ISSUE

