

Welcome to The Open Review

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

At the start of 2020, the TOR editorial committee met in person, filled with optimism at the prospect of having a collaborative theme to the journal - not realising this would be the only time we would see each other face-to-face all year. 2020 has been a year that has truly brought new meaning to the theme for this year's journal: collaboration. As researchers, we collaborate to improve our research, we collaborate for our well-being and we collaborate to open our eyes to new ideas. While collaboration was the theme for the journal, it became more of a challenge for the editorial team when the pandemic struck. Despite the challenges of not having all editors fully acquainted in person, we set to work organising the job at hand.

As a result, collaboration this year took on a very practical nature. The members of the editorial team are based at multiple different universities and we were all working remotely. Collaboration happened across borders from our authors and peer-reviewers and across mediums for the submissions to the journals, from our fantastic contributions to the wonderful visual art presented on the front cover. Finding 'hope' and 'certainty' are central themes within Catherine's artwork and these themes have been brought out through the collaborative work at the heart of creating this journal. This year has been very challenging and collaboration has undoubtedly helped keep those feelings of hope and certainty alive. It is perhaps through this necessity that the collaborative process worked so well for us, resulting in a final product that we are all very proud of.

The Open Review is a journal that is focused on providing a constructive, friendly but also rigorous environment for students to gain important experience in publishing and peer-reviewing. It is a student-led, open-access, peer-reviewed social sciences journal run through the South West Doctoral Training Partnership and this is the sixth edition of our annual journal. We would like to extend a huge thank you to our contributors, our peer-reviewers and the team at the SWDTP for all of their hard work and support that has resulted in such a fantastic journal.

We hope you enjoy reading this year's edition of TOR!

*Emily, Eleanor, Abbie, Mollie, Nicole,
Sarah, Sylvia, Benji, and Will*