



Sigma: Journal of Political and International Studies

Volume 39

Article 2

2022

A Letter from the Editor

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Recommended Citation

Peters, Zeke Editor-in-Chief (2022) "A Letter from the Editor," *Sigma: Journal of Political and International Studies*: Vol. 39, Article 2.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/sigma/vol39/iss1/2>

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A Letter From the Editor

Dear readers,

This past year has proven to be different than expected. The COVID-19 pandemic still looms in the background of a domestic inflation crisis and international peace conflicts throughout Europe and Asia. Uncertainty is high and the view of what tomorrow will bring consistently shifts, but there are some things that remain constant. Our interactions with one another – whether digitally or in person – matter. Our ability to sympathize and to come together in troubled times is what makes us human.

While searching for a theme in this edition of *Sigma*, we have settled on how policies affect specific groups of people: censorship of the internet in China, COVID-19 policies in Arab countries, tariffs on steel imports in the Trump era, voting acts on behalf of Native Americans in the United States, and many others. As new problems arise in the world, we must stand together to find the best course of action. Policy matters, no matter how big or small it may be, and we can never know who it will truly affect until we put it into action.

I am grateful for the countless hours of dedication to this publication given by so many. To my other staff on the journal, Marissa Gerber Pinnock and Nicholas Riehle; the editing team; advising professors; and our faculty advisor, Scott Cooper, thank you for your hard work. I would also like to thank the authors for allowing us to take their research and share it with you, our readers. Most importantly, I would like to thank the Political Science Department, the Kennedy Center, and the university for giving us the ability to highlight diverse voices in ongoing undergraduate research. As you read, I hope you will learn something new or challenge your existing ideas.

I am proud to present the 2021–22 edition of *Sigma*.

Zeke Peters
Editor-in-Chief