

LETTER ^{FROM THE} EDITOR

It is with great pleasure that I present to you Volume I, Issue II of the *Columbia Undergraduate Journal of South Asian Studies*. The editorial collective has been astounded by the quality of the submissions to the journal. For Issue II, we received over twenty-five essays for consideration. These pieces came to us from around the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain, and India. The number and geographic distribution of the submissions we have received only serves to reiterate our mission in founding this journal: undergraduates from around the world are studying South Asia in an academic setting and are producing quality scholarship.

Issue II, like Issue I contains essays drawn from many different fields: history, urban studies, political science, women's studies, and diaspora studies. After months of deliberation, the editorial collective came to the conclusion that the work presented in this issue represents the best undergraduate work in a highly competitive group of essays. We hope you enjoy Volume I, Issue II of the *Columbia Undergraduate Journal of South Asian Studies*.

And finally, this Issue will be my last in my tenure as editor-in-chief. It has been quite an enjoyable experience bringing this journal into fruition. Of course, I have not accomplished this on my own: my sincerest thanks go to the faculty and staff at Columbia University, as well as the hard-working editors of the Journal. Thank you all for a wonderful year.

Nishant Batsha
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