

LETTER ^{FROM THE} EDITOR

In the fall of 2010, over 20 authors from Singapore to Pakistan, from the U.K. to the U.S., entered an incredible body of work to the editorial board here at the Columbia Undergraduate Journal of South Asian Studies. Topics ranged from analyses of Tamil literature to policy papers on India and Pakistan; of these, we chose merely four to represent the vast and crucial field that is South Asia in academia.

These selected papers share some similarities, certainly: three focus on female empowerment, and every one displays a concern for socially or legally crippled populations. But the comparisons stop here, as each paper unfolds as an original ambassador of its specific discipline, whether it falls under literary theory, development, anthropology and environmentalism, or public health studies. Both immigrant and indigenous populations are covered, as Adam Payne explains the issues affecting locals in Himachal Pradesh and Tehreem Rehman analyzes the situation of Pakistani women in the United States. Sanjena Sathian's paper extends into the fascinating liminal space that is the immigrant existence in Bollywood films; juxtaposed against this are Esther Nai's thoughtfully researched predictions about microcredit and women's advancement in Bangladesh.

Each paper was chosen on the additional merit that it strives to be much more than an irrevocably pigeonholed text: each reaches beyond its immediate categorization to truly embody the spirit of interdisciplinary study. As such, we hope that readers enjoy perusing this issue, and are mindful of the mastery each paper displays on both formal and intellectual levels, as well as of the impetus to action that each initiates in its own unique manner.

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February 2011