

Letter From the Editor

Alexander Kither

As has been the case with much else this year, the production of issue ten of the St Anne's Academic Review (STAAR) was confronted with numerous unforeseen challenges, both for myself, the editorial team and our writers. Not long after the editorial team was assembled, the country went into lockdown, college halls were evacuated and all plans were indefinitely postponed. The consequences of these global events profoundly affected the editorial process of the journal, and this is reflected in a due diligence report included on the following page.

I am enormously appreciative of the continued efforts and perseverance of this year's editorial team, who have successfully managed to organise their respective sections despite being displaced across different time zones and with only email threads and zoom calls to keep in contact with writers and reviewers. Organising reviewers for articles has proven to be exceptionally difficult this year, as the personal and professional consequences of the pandemic left many academics without the usual time to spare for peer-review. Not least was this an issue with some of our science articles, which required review from (extremely busy) medical professionals. Despite all this, our peer-review process was a success, and we managed to source at least two reviews for each of the articles published in this volume.

Despite common adversity, I am pleased to present here twelve pieces from current or recent members of St Anne's College, University of Oxford. Following the success of last year, we have chosen to continue without a theme, and have welcomed written work on all topics from members of the college. Consequently, this edition of STAAR includes a broad variety of research and opinion articles from the humanities, sciences, and social sciences as well as reviews of films, books, theatre and exhibitions.

We are also pleased to include a travel report in this edition, which details the author's journey to an academic colloquium in Lisbon, funded by the college. It is by some coincidence that this report deals primarily with the concept of 'loneliness'; something we have become all too familiar with over the course of the last year. The very idea of travelling to and from international colloquiums now seems like a fond memory of yesteryear.

We have been fortunate to keep hold of St Anne's alumna Daniel Mercieca, who has continued in his role as editor of the SPARKS reviews, which he introduced last year. This year, we have seen a marvellous response, with a wide variety of submissions covering theatre, film, poetry and exhibitions. Like the rest of this year's journal, these reviews reflect the unconventional year within which they were composed.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the editor-in-chief.
I hope you enjoy reading this, our tenth issue of STAAR.

Sincerely,
Alexander Kither