

## EDITORS' NOTE

One of the benefits of editing an academic journal like *Postcolonial Interventions* is the opportunity to forge fruitful connections with academics across continents. While it is true that our own experience of academia is often punctuated by the presence of sadistic, hierarchical individuals steeped in nepotism, cliques and varying degrees of hypocrisy, it is also refreshing to come across scholars and academics who remain undeterred in their pursuit of excellence and are able to freely interact with unknown academics situated thousands of miles apart without being bogged down by petty considerations and thus contribute to that project of knowledge formation which is undertaken without vested interests associated with forms of self-aggrandizement. The interactions with Nadia Butt and Theresa Krampe, two of the three Guest Editors of this special issue on Postcolonial Europe, with whom we have been corresponding for about a year, have been warm, cooperative and mutually beneficial. I am hopeful that we have been able to sow the seeds of academic collaborations for years to come.

Such cooperation, is in many ways, the need of the hour as the planet continues to battle a pandemic even as it deals with inequality, aggression, ignorance and various forms of friction between people and states, brought

about by worsening ecological threats coupled with restrictions and laws necessitated by the pandemic. The WHO has repeatedly underlined the issue of vaccine inequality and has even gone on to highlight how the ongoing wave of the pandemic, brought about by a new variant, could well have been thwarted through more equitable distribution of vaccines across poorer countries belonging to the Global South. Unfortunately the even the self-destructive consequences of ongoing inequality are not enough to bring about any drastic change in the global political-economic order. The continued concentration of wealth in the hands of a select few, who have even become richer during the pandemic, testifies to this debilitating trend.

Similarly unfortunate is the opposition to vaccines among European populations, their conflicts with governments and fellow citizens and attendant escalation of risk and precarity during the pandemic. It is ironic and puzzling that the same 'West' which has long projected itself as the harbinger of scientific advancement to the other so-called "backward" corners of the earth, where they even started inoculation programmes despite opposition from indigenous populations, should now be confronted with an army of anti-vaxxers, emerging from its own population. History stages the most ironic conundrums.

One such conundrum is of course associated with edu-

education itself which is becoming rapidly digitized. While some of these changes are inevitable, making the digital platforms a norm, rather than a useful interim option, particularly in countries like India, where stark inequality of resources and opportunities remains an abiding reality, such changes are undoing years of attempts at educational democratization and pushing meritorious students from underprivileged families to a life of discontent, disillusionment and even fatal despair. This is what makes not-for-profit academic endeavours such as this journal, all the more vital, so that academic conglomerates are not able to restrict the generation and dissemination of knowledge through the imposition of hefty price tags. Of course, this is only possible because of the unpaid hard work that many of us continue to put in for the fulfilment of our academic objectives. Let me therefore thank the Guest Editors and Contributors of this special issue as well as the reviewers and editorial members associated with *Postcolonial Interventions* for all the patient and painstaking service they provide. Without the cooperation of academics like you, Open Access Publications would have remained chimerical. One can only hope that more people would willingly become a part of such projects and invest their labour and intellects for endeavours that would ultimately benefit many others.

These are essential ethical considerations. When we talk of publishing ethics, we generally only focus on weeding

out plagiarism and maintenance of academic integrity. But ethical considerations also extend to other aspects of the publishing process, particularly in relation to a journal that commits itself to those strands of postcolonial thought which focus on the materiality of our conditions and the praxis for its betterment. It is hoped that we will be able to continue on these paths with support from our readers, contributors and well-wishers in future as well.

What that future will be like will of course depend on how far we succeed in combating the pandemic and get our lives back on track without the constant fear of hospitalisation, ailments and unforeseen death. Here's hoping that medical advancements and collective righteousness will help to steer us towards a more healthy and fruitful 2022. Greetings and regards from the entire *Postcolonial Interventions* family!