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The Future of Open Access Publishing in International Higher Education

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This past year has been a unique one for open-access publishing in international higher education. November 2023 was a particular tumultuous month with the mass resignation of the editor-in-chief and three quarters of the editors of the *Journal of International Students* due to an abrupt change in journal governance and transfer of the journal to a still-unknown third-party publisher (Fischer, 2023). The fact that these decisions were made without consultation with the journal's editorial board, of which we both were part, informed each of our respective resignations. Additional impetus for our resignations was the imposition of an excessive article processing charge, paid by manuscript authors, which remains at US\$2500 at the time of writing. As we wrote in our individual resignation messages to the journal's current executive editor:

When I agreed to serve in this [associate editor] role for the journal, I did so because I believed in its commitment to open access, transparency, clear communication, and focus on building a diverse community of scholars conducting research with international students. Recent changes to the journal, most notably the implementation of a significant article processing charge, have changed the way I think about the journal. When I volunteered my time to the journal, it was because I believed in both the journal's open-access mission and how it went about accomplishing that mission. The implementation of an article processing charge 'to cover the cost of peer review administration and management' flies in the face of this mission and is notable because I carry out peer review administration and management of manuscripts assigned to me free of charge. (Whatley)

[The *Journal of International Students*] became living evidence that IT IS [original emphasis] possible to fight a broken publishing system. This journal, slowly but steadily, recruited the largest editorial and advisory board..., a board full of bright scholars who donated their time and talents to turn this journal into a Q1 publication with several impact factor measures that placed it among the top journals in the field of international higher education. JIS accomplished all of this while remaining committed to being a 100% open-access journal, meaning that neither authors nor readers had to pay for the scholarship that was published. This week [sic], the Journal resigned from its mission, and rather than fighting to eradicate predatory journals, it became a predatory journal itself. (Castiello)

The implications of these dramatic changes at what had been one of the field's leading open-access journals has had ripple effects that most certainly will be felt for years to come. The field has responded in a way that has heartened us both, with individuals around the world and in a variety of professional positions and career stages volunteering their time, energy, and expertise to think creatively about the future of open-access publishing in the field. We have been pleased to learn of collaborative efforts to create a new journal that aims to disrupt traditional publication practices in the field and to center critical perspectives of international student mobility and internationalization in global higher education. We look forward to supporting these efforts through the Critical Internationalization Studies Network.

With regard to the *Critical Internationalization Studies Review* more specifically, we have felt the need to shift our publication to a new platform to distance ourselves from the *Journal of International Students*, with which we previously shared publication space via the Open Journals in Education (OJED) platform. We are excited that you are reading this piece from our new platform, graciously sponsored by Seton Hall University. We also have a new domain for easy access to the journal: www.cisrjournal.org.

This issue features two publications of each of the types that we publish. In the first of two critical voices pieces, Marisa Lally (2024) explores key questions around decolonizing higher education, asking the provocative question: "Can a decolonizing university exist within the colonizing one?" This issue's second critical voices piece, from Radomir Mitic and colleagues Takeshi Yanaguira and Yukikazu Hidaka (2024), authors take on critical internationalization research from a critical quantitative perspective focusing particularly on artificial intelligence (AI) and its role in perpetuating and potentially disrupting global hierarchies and traditional patterns of power and privilege.

Among the two practice briefs featured in this issue is one from Ryan Allen, Kafui Dzubey, and Yuki Miyoshi (2024), who discuss hidden barriers to international students at auto-centric universities, particularly in the North American context. In a second practice brief, Ndidi Loretta Okeke and Andrea Rakushin Lee (2024) discuss the key role of mentorship in addressing systematic issues in academia. These authors draw extensively on their own personal experiences as a mentor-mentee pair. Finally, this issue's two research briefs highlight books that were published in the past year. The first describes an edited volume, *Sustainable Education Abroad: Striving for Change*, written by the volume's co-editors, Pii-Tuulia Nikula and Karen McBride (2024). This book centers the intersection between education abroad and sustainability, a critical issue that the field must continue to discuss in the future. The final research brief, written by Kalyani Unkule (2024), discusses lessons learned during the process of editing the book *Research with International Students: Critical Conceptual and Methodological Considerations*. This brief in particular highlights key issues in the process of knowledge creation that went into this volume.

This year more than ever, we are pleased to bring you this issue of the *Critical Internationalization Studies Review*, which is published open-access and free-of-charge to both authors and readers. We accomplish this task through donations of our own time and effort and

the generosity of our two assistant editors, Abu Arif and Christopher C. Fuglestad. We stand in solidarity with efforts to promote open-access publishing in our field and firmly believe that the knowledge and perspectives that we publish should be freely and openly available to scholars everywhere, no matter their circumstances.

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