

## Editorial

Despina Yiakoumi, University of Aberdeen, Department of Economics

Simone Haarbosch, University of Aberdeen, Department of Social Sciences

Welcome to volume two of Granite: Aberdeen University Postgraduate Interdisciplinary Journal. The journal has been created to give postgraduate students of the University of Aberdeen a place to publish their work and also to provide them with experience of the publishing process.

Early carrier researchers such as PhD students have limited experience regarding writing and publishing articles in journals. Many questions and issues might arise along the way, from the conception to finally publish the work. Such questions might include reasons of publishing, inclusion or not of co-authors, in which journal to publish, the requirements for publishing as well as the peer review procedure (Klingner et al. 2005, Smith 2006).

Granite journal aims to provide postgraduate students with experience on the academic editorial and publication process. Postgraduate students of the University of Aberdeen produce work of outstanding quality and the Granite Journal provides an online platform for them to showcase this academic excellence. The work published in Granite journal is not limited by disciplinary boundaries and it aims to bring together postgraduates from a diverse range of backgrounds which could be very beneficial for the researchers in sharing ideas (Mailloux et al. 2017).

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The founding editors of what has now become Granite (Andrew, Nathan, Gideon, Ross and Aboseh) won a student competition, hosted by the University's Researcher Development Unit, for their journal proposition. Following this competition the editorial team was established (including Haley, Claire, and Alex, in addition to the founding editors listed above). The initial editorial team worked really hard to get the journal up and running.

Since then the first Granite symposium was run successfully by Claire in April 2016 and postgraduates had the opportunity to write and publish a short conference proceeding paper which was included in the first issue of the Granite Journal. In June 2016, the annual University of Aberdeen, School of Geosciences Postgraduate Conference was held and as part of this event, postgraduates had the opportunity to write a conference proceeding paper which constituted the second issue of the Granite journal. The initial editorial team set important foundations for the Granite Journal so that after their graduation from the University there is continuity of the Granite journal.

The second Granite symposium was held in November 2017 by Despina and Simone, who took over the journal for the academic year 2017-2018. The aim of this event was organising an interdisciplinary postgraduate symposium which could be interesting for postgraduates with many various backgrounds. As Trump recently decided to deny the Paris Treaty, the question that has risen was how climate change affects our research fields. From politics to economics, from biology to divinity and further, having a dialogue about climate change with students and professors in many various backgrounds ended up in a very inspiring day. The focus during this day was not on what climate change means, is or how it develops this decade, but the main focus was on how it has changed the way we approach our fields, new topics that had arisen because of it and why it is important to critically review the way we do research with climate change in mind. Two key note speakers, Dr. Pete Smith and Dr. Laura Colucci-Gray, gave two inspiring talks about how climate change affects their research fields.

We would like to thank everybody who contributed to this inspiring day by presenting, visiting and their active participations during the discussions. To share the knowledge we have created during this day, the proceedings from this symposium are published online in this special issue of the Granite journal. The first article is from the key note speaker Dr. Laura Colucci-Gray and the other three journals are from PhD researches who presented their work during the symposium. Despina and Simone managed and edited the journal design and the contributions from the authors for this special issue.

We would like to extend our thanks to the previous editorial team and acknowledge their significant contribution to the establishment of the Granite journal among the postgraduate community of the University of Aberdeen. Special thanks to Haley and Andrew who supported the second Granite symposium and the publication of the special issue.

We are looking forward to seeing the Granite journal to continue developing student authors and editors in the future.

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