

A Note from the Outgoing Director

I was introduced to the UJE in my first year at UCL, amidst the chaos of fresher's week. I distinctly remember how I felt during the induction event. It was a feeling of recognition, ambition, and belonging.

From my first year at the UJE as an executive, it was clear to me that this was more than a Journal. It was a place to meet like-minded folk, individuals who seemed thrilled by the prospect of picking apart research and turning it over in their minds. It felt special to find a community so early on, when everybody seemed caught up in making good impressions and landing an internship. At the UJE, I was encouraged to be myself. Fumbling and stumbling, asking questions once, twice, a third time, and admitting that I still did not have a path figured out.

This is exactly the environment I have tried to cultivate as Director. An environment where Executives and Editors feel emboldened to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and implement the tools they are taught. I feel lucky to have worked with a set of people who brought fresh perspectives to the Journal and held me to a high standard. I would like to thank our entire team, but in particular, I would like to thank Aadi, Nik, Luqa, Elena, and Octavian. I would also like to thank our peer review team for providing precise feedback, and the advisory board for their support. Finally, I would like to thank the authors for producing a collection of incredible papers. I hope you enjoy the breadth and rigour of the papers in this issue.

Good policy is informed by high-quality research, which is why ensuring that high-quality research is accessible is important. The UJE provides a platform for undergraduates to turn fleeting ideas into fleshed-out papers. What makes for a good research paper is not a sophisticated set of tools. Rather, it is a well-motivated question with a well-motivated method.

My hope for the new team is that they continue to bring new students into the UJE's fold and make research accessible. To Aadi and Shreya, I look forward to seeing where you take the Journal next year, and to reading its next issue!

All the best!

Kavya Krishnan,

Director 2025-26

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