

Editor's Note

"The first step in the evolution of ethics is a sense of solidarity with other human beings." (Albert Schweitzer)

In the last three decades or so, the academic world has begun to look at the possibilities beyond borders, of various kinds of travels across the globe. As we write this, the spectre of a worldwide epidemic looms large, with no sign yet of abating. It is only the most recent manifestations of the global climate crisis, one that is affecting quite adversely the geographic and political climate of South Asia. The socio-political and geographical climate is reacting to man's recklessness, and it becomes even more pertinent for politics and economics to be geared towards taking environmental and social chaos head on, with greater investment in education, research and health care.

It is in this backdrop that South Asia as a region is increasingly becoming a category of academic scholarship. This category enables one to look at the region in terms of their shared colonial and cultural history. Indeed, as young nations, most of the South Asian countries underwent the process of nationalism and nation-making at varying degrees. However, one cannot fully capture the contemporary cultural and environmental situation in these countries within the post-independent nation-state framework. The region's post-independent history is also in part shaped by the vestiges of these shared characteristics.

The theme of this fourteenth issue, 'Culture, Conflict and Climate in Contemporary South Asia', has sought to explore the changes and developments taking place in South Asian countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka – since the turn of the millennium. We received papers from various disciplines to reflect upon the

social, political, economic and environmental climate of South Asia and its representations over forms of culture such as literature, film, media, communication, law, policy, religion, to name just a few. The range of enquiry in the published articles is from the philosophical, literary, historical, political, geographical, media, and cultural studies to development and economic questions.

Team Akademos thanks the contributors for sharing their research and keeping up with the demands and deadlines. We also extend our gratitude to our board of reviewers for their valuable feedback, which goes a long way in ensuring the academic rigour and quality of the journal. We also thank our principal, Dr Kalpana Bhakuni, for her advice and support in the publication of this issue.

Amrita Singh
Carmel Christy
Pravati Dalua