

Editorial

It has been our honor to accept the responsibility of serving the academic and professional communities by taking over the leadership of the *University of Colombo Review (UCR)* from the able hands of the first editors of this series, Prof Neloufer De Mel and Prof Panduka Karunanayake. Under their dynamic leadership and commitment to academic rigor, Series III of the *UCR* was established with a strong foundation. As Editor (Dinesha Samararatne) and Assistant Editor (Kaushalya Perera) we look forward to following in their footsteps. We thank Prof De Mel and Prof Karunanayake for their service to the *UCR*.

This issue carries with it two innovations. One is that the articles published in this issue were solicited under an open call. With this new step, we aim to gradually move to a stage where articles will be submitted to the *UCR* on a rolling basis. We remain committed to the publication of two issues annually, as a minimum. The second is that we publish, with this issue, for the first time, a symposium section. The symposium section captures a timely discussion convened by the Ethics Review Committee for Social Sciences and Humanities of the Faculty of Arts of the University on inter-disciplinary research in 2021. This section is a compilation of short reflection pieces based on the interventions made at that discussion and importantly, includes a reflective response to those interventions by Prof Devaka Weerakoon from the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science. These short pieces, collectively offer us a useful reference point for reflecting on the *what, how, why and when* of inter-disciplinary research, a much-debated topic in scholarly communities across the world. The reflections by different academics of different disciplines offer us insights into this debate from the situatedness of research in a Sri Lankan university. Equally importantly, they offer us insights into characteristics that are unique and significant to each discipline. With the publication of the discussion and the response, our hope is to inspire and support the continuation of the debate.

Reflecting the *UCR*'s unique inter or multi-disciplinary character, this issue carries seven articles drawn from different areas of inquiry. The article "Reading Supreme Courts from Afar" by Sandani Yapa Abeywardena offers a strong and timely analysis of the prospects for using cutting-edge developments in computational methods for research in social sciences and humanities. She reflects on the question, 'what does topic modelling offer for the study of judicial decisions?'

using judgements in Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom. In “Pumpkin seeds and leaves as an alternative medicine for the treatment of hyperglycemia” R.D.S. Isara and Thilina Gunathilaka provide us with a useful review of the significance of pumpkin seeds in terms of their nutritional value and treatment of hyperglycemia. The article by Thushari Damayanthi “Carrying the cross for justice: Digital traces of victimhood in Sri Lanka” uses a specific episode in the people’s protests in Sri Lanka in 2022 to offer insights into perceptions and projections of victimhood and its dynamics in the digital space. In the article “Pursuing Work-Life Balance: A study of Sri Lankan mumpreneurs” Malisha Kumaranatunga studies a phenomenon she describes as ‘mumpreneurs’ to explore what she presents as a class-specific dilemma for mothers who take on the dual and competing roles of caregiving and entrepreneurship. In “Kaduwa, humour and language policing”, Vivimarie Vanderpoorten Medawattegedera uses a popular digital genre, memes, to investigate public perceptions of English in Sri Lanka. Kaduwa (sword), a popular metaphor for English illustrating the injurious possibilities of class-based privilege in Sri Lanka, is newly interrogated through her analysis. “Use and acceptability of particle verbs with unique meanings in Sri Lankan English” by H.C. Keshala approaches changes to Sri Lankan English through a different perspective, that of corpus linguistics. Through this, she shows that some usages that were previously frowned upon, have now gained a general level of acceptance among Sri Lanka. In “Social Networking and Subjective Well-Being among Sri Lankan Youth Immigrants in South Korea” Samitha Udayanga, Yasasi Chamathya and Nimantha Gayashan Perera offer unique insights into perceptions of young immigrant men to South Korea on expectations of work and well-being. Collectively, the articles in this issue exemplify Sri Lankan research from not only diverse disciplines, but also variety in terms of methodologies within disciplines.

We thank the Editorial Team that has worked diligently to ensure the timely publication of this issue. Sri Lanka continues to live through an unprecedented and multi-dimensional crisis. The impact of this crisis is felt acutely at all levels in higher education. We acknowledge the many challenges that the team, reviewers and authors continue to experience during this time and thank them for their commitment to the scholarly enterprise that helps us, as a community, to continue with researching and writing during these crises.

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