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Editor's Note

The founding Editorial Board of the *Pardee Periodical* recognized that the inaugural edition was the first in a long conversation on global issues. Our intention was that future Boards would continue to refine the processes and procedures of the publication, building a tradition of scholarship and excellence that would contribute to a vigorous discussion of global studies taking place at the Pardee School. This third iteration of the *Pardee Periodical* is a testament to that original purpose. It is the product of many months of reflection, hard work, and execution by the entire editorial staff. As Editor-in-Chief for the 2016-2017 Editorial Board, I am proud of the work enclosed in this issue and of our editors' dedication to enhancing the quality and reach of our publication.

The eight articles published in the Spring 2017 issue examine diverse and contentious topics. They explore the durability of institutions, investigate how norms evolve over time, and develop new frameworks for understanding complex international processes. As with previous issues of the *Pardee Periodical*, they cover a range of regions, including Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America. They explore the long-term trends of stratospheric global politics, and the minute intricacies of developments at the local level. The authors' hard work in this issue provides its readers with the insightful, rigorous, and provocative analysis that the Editorial Board seeks in its submissions.

I am extremely grateful to the authors for their hard work, to the Pardee School of Global Studies for its support, and to our generous donors who make our publication a reality. As always, we are indebted to our peers at the Pardee School, who lent their support, guidance, and confidence throughout the entire process. Most of all, I am grateful to our editors, who dedicate their time, energy, and skills to preparing these articles for print. The *Pardee Periodical* is maintained by graduate students at the Pardee School, and its success depends on their sustained will to carry on the mission set forth by the founding Board. I am incredibly proud of their accomplishments and I am certain that subsequent issues will continue to demonstrate their persistence in building the status and impact of the publication.

In this issue of the *Pardee Periodical*, each author builds upon the research of past scholars and invites future graduate students to respond and make their own contributions to the global studies discourse. Their work is part of a conversation, and it is through that conversation that these contributors build knowledge and make an impact on their respective fields. It is in this spirit, to persist in debating, challenging, and driving thought in the interdisciplinary studies that are published herein, that the Editorial Board proudly presents the Spring 2017 issue of the *Pardee Periodical Journal of Global Affairs*.

Christian Rodriguez
Editor-in-Chief



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