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Author(s)	Iwashita, Akihiro; Boyle, Edward
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Beginning our Second Series

In October 2020, the *Eurasia Border Review* begins its Second Series. As we noted in Volume 10, the concluding volume of Series One, the new series signals the transition to a new publication model, one that will offer the opportunity to develop special issues on disciplinary or thematic issues. COVID-19 is transforming our world, and we are encountering new issues on a daily basis. Our revamped *EBR* will stress speed and flexibility, and provide a platform for innovative and socially-engaged research.

The first issue of this Second Series, Volume 11 in our run, grows out of the Summer Symposium held on July 2-3, 2020 at the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center. Entitled “Northeast Asia: Pitfalls and Prospects, Past and Present”, the conference was under the aegis of the NIHU Area Studies Project for Northeast Asia (NoA-SRC), and as with previous iterations was originally planned to take place on site at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan. As may be imagined, COVID-19 prevented our overseas guests from travelling to Japan and also limited mobility within the country, so the entire event was rapidly transferred online. While the time difference provided some headaches, participants from Korea, Russia, New Zealand, Poland, the UK, the US, and so forth ensured a tremendously successful socially-distanced event.

This issue provides a record of one of the sessions from the symposium, a Special Lecture on “Rebordering in the EU under Covid-19: Lessons for Northeast Asia?” given by Jarosław Jańczak of Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland. COVID-19 is a pandemic that has overwhelmed regional as well as national borders, but it has manifested itself differently in different regions, with the responses of various national governments heavily marked by these regional differences. The majority of the Symposium was devoted to research papers focussed on Northeast Asia, but the current lecture provides us with the opportunity to contextualize Northeast Asia’s response and thus offers a number of lessons for the region. This first issue of our new Series of *EBR* provides a clear contribution to the work we are conducting under the NIHU Area Studies Project here at the SRC.

We would be delighted if our first contribution to the new series provides everyone with an opportunity to usefully reflect upon such critical questions. We also look forward to more volumes emerging in the future.

October 2020

On behalf of the Editors

Akihiro Iwashita &
Edward Boyle