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From the Editors

With this issue, *Eurasia Border Review* has reached ten years of publication. While taking this opportunity to celebrate our tenth anniversary, the editorial team also wishes to announce that from this issue onwards, the editorial board and management will be reorganized, and the journal will move from an annual / semi-annual publication to one that will serve primarily as an outlet for the publication of special issues.

The key aims behind the launching of *Eurasia Border Review* ten years ago were threefold: to share expertise on the region with a wider border studies community; to raise the quality and profile of young researchers working on Asia and Eurasia's borders; and to collaborate with not only academics but also practitioners. We celebrate the success of the journal in meeting these aims, which is clear from the way the discipline of border studies has rapidly developed in the region, producing a growing body of original research. We take pride in the fact that *Eurasia Border Review* has made a tremendous contribution to the development of a global border studies community. Across our issues, we have seen contributions reach beyond Eurasia, ranging from Oceania and South America to the Arctic and the Pacific Islands. *Eurasia Border Review* has also worked to further the development of theory within border studies, and the regional growth of the Association for Borderlands Studies – following the success of the BRIT XII conference in Japan and Korea – would hardly have been possible without the outputs and community of scholars that has emerged around *Eurasia Border Review*.

Over these ten years, *Eurasia Border Review* has published fourteen issues (including special issues), and 92 full articles. These are from a rich variety of disciplines, including history, geography, literature, linguistics, sociology, international relations, politics, and economics. Relating the meaning and significance of border studies research across disciplines has been one of the notable achievements of the journal.

Despite these successes, the time has come to revise the format of *Eurasia Border Review* in the face of changes that have swept across the academic landscape over the last decade. Today, it has become essential for young researchers to publish in journals with an impact factor, upon which their employment and advancement largely depends. However, it is not easy for the annual publication of a single research institute to gain such a status. Publishing four times a year is essential, and in the most successful cases such journals are supported by large academic associations. Today, the Association for Borderlands Studies, which began life on the U.S.-Mexico border, is rapidly expanding to become just such a global association. The Association's journal, the *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, has developed into a highly respected outlet, one that is widely cited in the field and beyond. Given this, and with the *Eurasia Border Review* editorial team having achieved their original objectives, we have decided that our mission should be to support the development of the *Journal of Borderland Studies*, and further strengthen its presence in our region. With a truly global border studies community, the priority must now shift towards strengthening and deepening interaction and engagement within this community.

However, this is not the end of the line for *Eurasia Border Review*. In future, the journal will focus on publishing special issues, where scholars and practitioners will find a high quality forum for

the outputs of research projects and collaborations across the field of border studies. *Eurasia Border Review* begins this new era with a call for plans and proposals for special issues from interested researchers. *Eurasia Border Review* is not solely a journal for young scholars, nor is it only for the Eurasian scholarly community. We are open to border studies from throughout the world, and look forward to working with you all in the future.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our readers, as well as all those who submitted articles to the journal, the dedicated team of reviewers from around the world, the members of the editorial board at Hokkaido University, and the distinguished researchers who made up our international advisory board. Without your dedication and support, the achievements of the previous decade would not have been possible. In this issue, in addition to our regular articles, we present a collection of research resulting from an ongoing National Institute for the Humanities (NIHU) Area Studies Project on Northeast Asia, directed by the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center of Hokkaido University, to which we are grateful. We would also like to take a moment to offer thanks to Hokkaido University for the editorial, publishing and financial support that has been provided to *Eurasia Border Review* and its team over the years, and to particularly note the following research projects: Hokkaido University Global COE Program “Reshaping Japan’s Border Studies (2009–2013)” and Kyushu University’s Progress 100 program “Border Studies and Northeast Asia (2016–2019).”

At the start of a new decade, we wish all our readers success with their work, research and interests in border studies. In anticipation of this being the opening of a new chapter in the history of the journal, and thus a beginning rather than an end, we humbly present you with this, our last regular issue of *Eurasia Border Review*.

24 December 2019

On behalf of the Editors

Professor Akihiro Iwashita

Dr. Paul Richardson

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