A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

This past year has been a year of many twists and turns. The world faced a pandemic of a scale not seen in generations, and life as we knew it grounded to a halt. As we emerge from this long, dark, winter of civilization, and the engines of the global economy begin to thaw, one thing is clear: things will never be the same.

The power of Big Tech has never been greater, as screen times rise and a generation of students is forced to undergo online-only classes. E-commerce and technology valuations skyrocket, while retail businesses shutter and income inequality rises. Geopolitical tensions are inflamed, but predictions of global economic decoupling have so far not been borne out. Governments embrace ultra-low interest rates and record fiscal spending, with many economists warning of coming inflation. Biotechnology has been thrust to the forefront of scientific research, a field replete with ethical controversies from vaccine distribution to genetic enhancement.

One thing is clear: the importance of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) as a field has never been more apparent, as the issues of today cannot be successfully understood through anything but an interdisciplinary perspective. The American academy is clearly recognizing this, as universities like Dartmouth College create new PPE majors and Virginia Tech launches a new PPE center.

That is why in this year of change, this journal, too, will be changing. From this edition onward, we will now be known as the Penn Journal of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, a rebranding that will communicate a clearer purpose and closer connection to this expanding field. There are also plans to expand the reach and prominence of this publication for future editions. I encourage all readers to stay posted.

I would like to thank Dr. Jonathan Anomaly, Associate Director of the Penn PPE Department, for his unyielding labor and support for this publication, the department, and his students. I would also like to thank Dr. Raj Patel, PPE Fellow, for his excellence in teaching, and his guidance for his students, many of whom are featured in this edition. Finally, I would like to thank Jaywon Kim, Kaitlyn Rentala, Leah Dunbar, and Dalgis Mosqueda, my fellow editors who have worked tirelessly throughout this challenging time.

With that said, it is my honor to present to you this year’s edition of the Penn Journal of Philosophy, Politics and Economics.
Sincerely,

Andrew Liu
Editor-in-Chief