

OTHER VOICES



ISSUE II

Marshall



Land acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

Contents

EDITORIAL PREFACE **3**

A NOTE ON THE COVER ART – अर्थ **BY TARUNEEK KAPOOR** **6**

“A JOURNEY TO THE UNKNOWN BUT YOU ARE NOT ALONE”
BY CHEN ZHONG **8**

SOME RESEARCH AIDS TO BUILD YOUR WORKFLOW
BY JIAJIA ZHOU **17**

REFLECTIONS ON “CHINA WATCHING” **BY EMILE DIRKS** **23**

THOSE WHO WARM OUR HEARTS AND THE CITY
BY I YOUNAN AN **26**

Copyright & Disclaimer: views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in the articles reflect the author's opinions and are not necessarily the views of the editors. All rights reserved and nothing can be partially or in whole be reprinted or reproduced without the author's consent.

Editorial Preface

Otherwise, we are not heard.

Otherwise, we are not seen.

Because we believe by sharing our stories, we become stronger together.

When we were creating the first issue, we envisioned a space. A space that illuminated thoughts and experiences. Our hope was to turn the personal and subjective into the shared and intersubjective, regardless of how closely you identify with racialized and marginalized women, or as an ally. As we continue to develop this project, we have been carefully and collectively reflecting on the possible limitations of, and issues with, the magazine's subtitle, "BIPOC women's magazine." This includes the expression itself as well as its alignment with what we are trying to do. For the time being, we have decided to drop the magazine's subtitle.

We really enjoyed working with everyone who contributed to the first issue, and it brought us great joy when people celebrated its release with us. We are proud of that space. But we did not create it solely for us, nor did we intend to stop at simply bringing some of these more private thoughts and conversations together.

In this issue, we envision a bridge called allyship. In concrete terms, the bridge

needs to connect. This involves a determination to believe in our varied experiences, followed by understanding and care. Only then will the distance between us become visible. We live through the lenses of our realities; the person who is physically beside you may not be where you expect them to in life, nor in this academic endeavor. In its abstract, the bridge does not take a fixed shape or form. Someone's experience may resonate with you and illuminate yours. Others come together to build new paths with you. Either way, whether this bridge exists is crucial, because we should not settle for feelings of isolation in a crowd like this.

And so, in this issue our aim was to form some of these bridges. Inspired by discussions of the hidden curriculum, this issue attempts to uncover some hidden resources. Barham and Wood (2022) in their article published in *PS: Political Science & Politics*, define hidden curriculum as, "the set of skills and practices that are informally expected of us as members of the discipline but not programmatically instructed." All of us

probably struggle with this, and we are all an ongoing patchwork owing to our mentors, friends, and our own resourcefulness. But instead of relying solely on these haphazard encounters, we wanted to see if we could at least share some of these resources.

In her article, Chen tells us about the insightful and encouraging conversations she has had with our colleagues who have generously offered their experiences on coursework, funding, fieldwork, and much more. Turning to our everyday workflow, Jiajia's article offers practical suggestions for tools to structure the unfamiliar academic life.

The next two articles move away from the bridges in our working life to the bridges in our intellectual and physical spaces. In a heartfelt letter to *Otherwise*, Emile reflects on his positionality as a scholar of Chinese studies and discusses his understanding of allyship. The last article by I introduces us to some warm and lovely women-owned restaurants in the city.

We are also very privileged in this issue to be graced with Taruneek's artwork, अर्थ (pronounced "Arth" or "Earth"), on our cover. She has expressed her thoughts in a beautiful note which you can find on the next page.

We are grateful to all our beloved friends from the Department and our faculty advisors, Professors Martha Balaguera

and Diana Fu, for their contributions that made this issue possible. At the same time, we know that there is still a lot more we can do. If you have ideas on what you would like to see in future issues, please write to us. If you are from the Department of Political Science, you can also join the editorial team by indicating your interest to any of us.

In addition, we are thankful to the Department for its financial support, and we are excited to announce our new co-sponsor, the Asian Institute at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

Lastly, we want to thank all of you who are reading this. Thank you for taking a step toward us. And to the women and allies in the department, may we continue to rally around, support, and celebrate one another on this amazing journey together.

Jiajia Zhou

On behalf of the Editorial Board of
Otherwise

otherwise.emagazine@gmail.com



A note on the cover art – अर्थ

*अर्थ is pronounced “Arth” or “Earth” and means interpretation or meaning

Taruneek Kapoor

Reflecting on the state of the world, often fills me despair and even shame at my own cynicism about my inability to make a substantive positive change. Raging pandemics, climate change resulting in daily catastrophes, the ongoing and looming wars, a worrying erosion of human rights, a cost of living and energy crisis, and a collapsing public infrastructure... there seems to be no respite. But my comrades and loved ones are always there to remind me that the road to changing the world for the better is not meant to be walked alone. I am not responsible for “saving the world.” Indulging any such fantastical notions will only leave me paralyzed. What I can do,

instead, is let myself become a small piece in the larger mosaic of life and the constant struggle for our collective liberation.

Being an ally signifies standing in solidarity with those oppressed, whether we personally identify with their particular struggles or not. While we can take some time to applaud essential workers for providing their service in the midst of the pandemic, it is more important that we support labour strikes and pledge to never cross the picket line when they fight for better working conditions. While we can read the Land Acknowledgement statement before an event or post a black

square on Instagram to commemorate our support for the Movement for Black Lives, it is imperative that we organize and show up to protests and put our bodies on the line to make our denunciation of state violence against racialized minorities and migrants loud and clear. In this post-Roe world, we must not only pressure our elected officials to safeguard our access to safe abortion, contraception, and sex education, but also offer material support to activist networks that facilitate the provision of these services for those in need, and fight for the rights and security of LGBTQI+ community. Crucially, we need to understand how these struggles are interrelated and require a strong and united front.

Another world is possible, yes. But imagining and creating a better world for

ourselves and the future generations will require that we stand in solidarity with each other, sometimes at the expense of our own comfort, to subvert the systems of oppression that continue to subjugate us. Earth will continue to spin long after we are gone. But, humanity is too precious to be destroyed by greed and hatred. We must embrace our rage, our despair, our grief, our excitement, our beauty, and our joy to paint a brighter picture of our future, one that breathes peace and harmony in all of life.



“A journey to the unknown but you are not alone”:

Stories and lessons from fellow graduate students

Chen Zhong

This article is part of *OtherWise*’s collective efforts to uncover informal information on graduate students’ academic life. We hope to preserve and share valuable stories from graduate students with a broader audience. Five contributors have generously offered their takes on a wide range of issues, including coursework, research proposal writing, and funding applications, just to name a

few. Storytelling may be the most ‘authentic’ way to present everyone’s insights on what might be helpful to overcome the hurdles along the way. While I organized contributors’ themes along a linear timeline, we all know the time machine of PhD sometimes travels in a circular pattern, seemingly backward, or even becomes stagnant. But the key message here is that **you are not alone**.



Coursework



“I was told by a mentor before I started my PhD to begin every course assignment with the intention to turn it into a stand-alone publication or a piece of my dissertation. This encouraged me to use my time in courses to either explore possible dissertation avenues or to shoot for an ambitious first draft of a publishable article. I managed to do so in one of my courses in my first year, which was eventually published in a top journal. Had I not gotten this advice—to do coursework with the intention of publication from the start—I think I would feel like I had wasted a fair amount of time.”

William O'Connell, PhD Candidate

Natasha Goel (PhD Student) kindly joined me for an in-depth interview during the summer and discussed her experiences of applying for SSHRC and other scholarships/grants. Natasha offered her insights regarding the entire whole preparation process, from overcoming mental hurdles prior to applications to research proposal writing and revision. I reorganized the interview records based on the sub-themes below.

Attitudes & Mindsets

Natasha mentioned the importance of “pushing past that feeling” of failure and rejection prior to the decision to join the competition for certain scholarships. Natasha shared how she dealt with the sense of hesitation:

“My mentality then [prior to the submission] was just that to have an application is better than no applications at all. [...] Every application is like a practice.”

“I was able to get very constructive feedback on what would be feasible for a PhD proposal. Advisors may also offer suggestions on the types of scholarships that are most suitable for you.”

Time Management

Natasha shared her insights on the available resources and support for better preparation for the SSHRC application. She underscored the difficulty of balancing coursework and funding applications in her first year. Our conversations also generated some suggestions for the Department or GASPS, on further improving the initial communication with incoming graduate students:

“I guess thinking about it a little bit strategically, like what would be in the interest of federal funding, is helpful. While it doesn't have to be a Canadian-based project, I think it is important to consider why they would fund your proposed projects. [...] There is one helpful website I found during my application [link]. It covers key themes and terms for SSHRC, which might be useful for tailoring your research proposal.”

Food for Thought as a Community

Apart from various advice on funding applications, Natasha also calls upon more open discussions about financial needs, which I found thought-provoking.

“I think grad students should generally just talk about money more. Maybe it makes people a little bit uncomfortable. But there is money out there, but you have to ask oftentimes. [...] Your academic advisor may know other funding opportunities.”



Suggestions

I summarized Natasha's suggestions to fellow students as the following:

- Reach out to confirm referees' availability as early as possible.
- SSHRC and OGS workshops offered by the department are helpful for applicants to familiarize themselves with the formatting of different applications.
- Look out for emails on scholarships and grants from the graduate administrator and other channels.
- There may be a level of flexibility in terms of departmental deadlines.

! Key suggestions to the Department and GASPS !

- To waive \$15 for printing official transcripts for scholarship applications (this is waived for OGS but not other applications at the moment).
- To provide more information on SSHRC and other compulsory scholarship applications to incoming PhD students in the summer prior to the first year.

Proposal writing

“We don't see enough of this: form study/reading groups for proposal writing!

[It's helpful to] have a small group of like-themed friends to share any dilemmas that you have in making sense of your research topic/puzzle and share your work in progress to be read (critically) by your friends and vice versa. Doing this makes you really productive in your writing, and really widens your ideas on

your own work. What is more, having group writing sessions allows you to realize that everyone has the same concerns and difficulties that you do. [..] While we like to caricature PhD work as something that is done solo and alone, it really isn't. Always remember that even superheroes work in teams. Be fantastic like the Fantastic Four; work in teams!”

The Fishbowl Hermit, PhD Candidate



Fieldwork

Selin Kepenek (PhD Candidate) kindly joined the interview virtually and shared her experiences and reflections on the post-research proposal stage of her academic journey. Currently located in Turkey, Selin has started her fieldwork and recently changed the direction of her dissertation project. Her words on how she faced various obstacles during fieldwork are powerful and enlightening.

Selin recalled key takeaways from the dissertation research proposal course when Covid-19 first broke out:

"Regarding Research Proposal Course, it was very nice to have that kind of exposure with peers from other fields and most of your cohort together. You're also stepping out of your comfort zone because you need to explain things further and cannot make many assumptions that we are used to making."

Changes & Challenges: To change or not to change, passion is the answer

No matter how perfect a research proposal may be, most of us have considered or experienced changes in research plans. Selin has generously shared her own ongoing experiences with changes in her dissertation project. How has she coped with various challenges that she encountered during her fieldwork?:

"I guess intellectually and emotionally, it took me some time to admit to myself that, you know this is not something that I want to do anymore. [...] It kind of hurts you to make changes because it becomes a part of your identity, such as how you present yourself, and how you summarize your research interests."

Selin said that instead of thinking you might be losing direction, changing the perspective is helpful:

"It's important to remind yourself that a lot of people go through this process and make changes in dissertations."

"It's just a normal thing that happens to you as you start to work on the project and gain real-life experience. I think it's important to listen to yourself at those moments and figure out what you really want to do."

Suggestions

Selin provided an array of thought-provoking suggestions for students at different stages of their PhD. First, Selin emphasized the importance of adjusting one's mindset regarding proposal writing, choice of committee members, and fieldwork. Second, Selin offered suggestions on external funding or support. Our conversations also revealed some limitations in existing support from UofT:

Reset the mindsets

For friends who are currently working on research proposals, and pondering on their committee construction:

"I think my biggest tip would be to shut down those comparisons you do in your head. For those doing interdisciplinary work, it's helpful to not limit your committee members to only faculty members in your department. [...] I have one committee member from the Department of Sociology, and she has offered me so much support and made me think about things outside of the box."

For fellows who are set out to do fieldwork, Selin mentions:

"There will be problems, there will be some delays, and that's OK. Talking with people who have done fieldwork is definitely a good solution to overcome that sense of anxiety."

External support

"My recommendation would be to check the resources located at your research sites, such as funding from

governments or research agencies. If your research focuses on specific locations, make sure you get tuned with the resources available to researchers there. This will also help you understand the academic structures in that setting which will definitely become useful during your fieldwork."

What to improve: more mental health support

Selin also walked me through other major difficulties that she encountered during her fieldwork, including emotional burnout. Her experiences reveal the lack of available mental health support for students who conduct fieldwork and/or the dissertation writing process outside of Canada. Both the Department and the student body such as GASPS may consider offering more alternative mental health support resources:

"I wasn't expecting the fieldwork to be such a mind-blowing process. I think I overcame this [emotional burnout] by reading more personal accounts of researchers. When I read sources like memoirs and reflections of researchers, some maintain such a personal voice throughout various projects with different groups rather than just results or findings or methods."

"I intended to take mental health sessions; unfortunately, Health & Wellness Centre told me that I must physically be in Ontario."

"I would recommend finding a mental health specialist who offers online sessions beforehand."

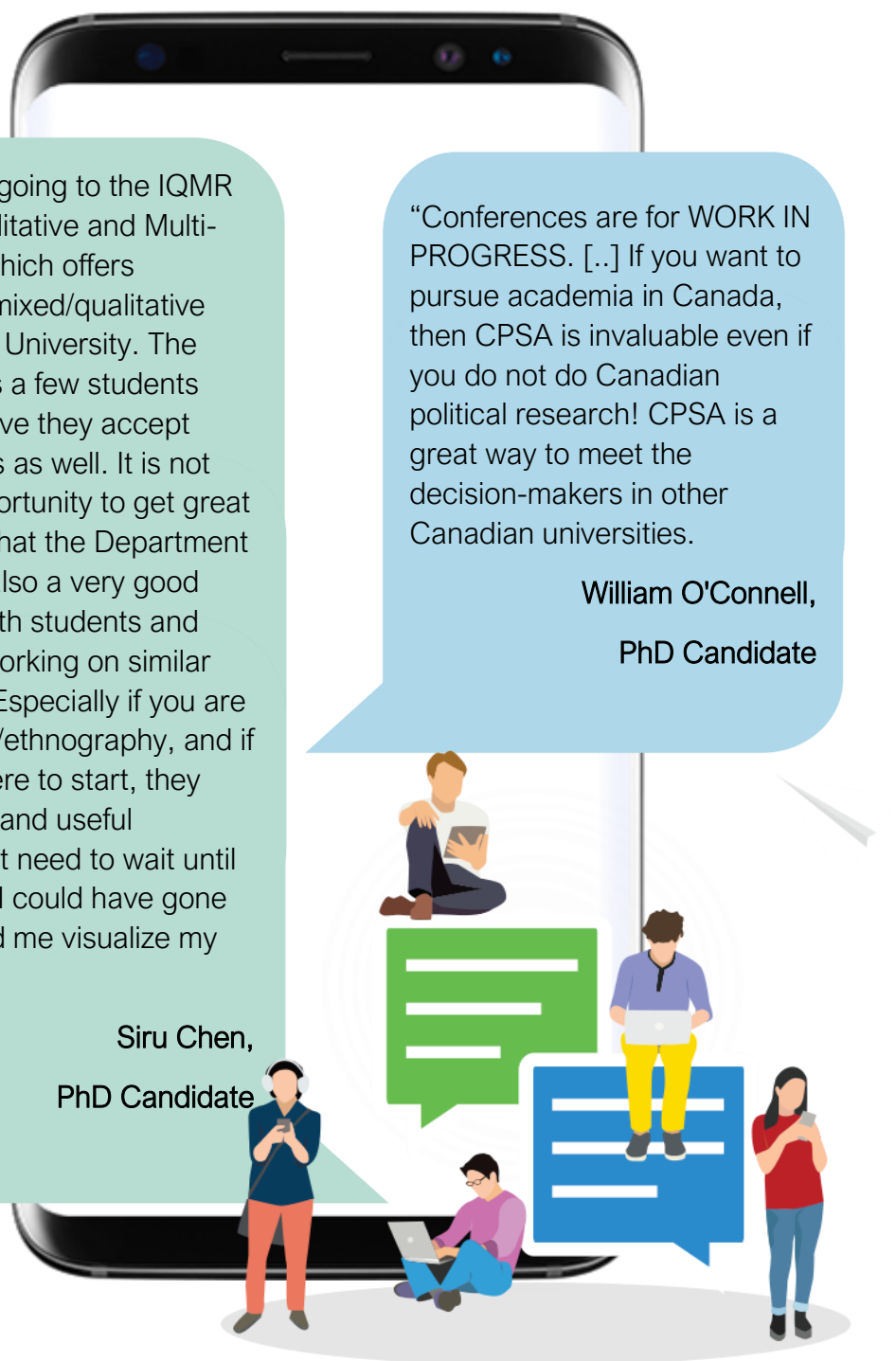
Research training, Conferences and Publications

"I highly recommend going to the IQMR (The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research), which offers intensive training on mixed/qualitative methods at Syracuse University. The Department sponsors a few students each year, and I believe they accept individual applications as well. It is not only an excellent opportunity to get great training on methods that the Department doesn't provide, but also a very good chance to network with students and professors who are working on similar topics/methods. [...] Especially if you are considering fieldwork/ethnography, and if you have no idea where to start, they provide very detailed and useful instructions. You don't need to wait until the third year– I wish I could have gone earlier, it really helped me visualize my dissertation."

Siru Chen,
PhD Candidate

"Conferences are for WORK IN PROGRESS. [...] If you want to pursue academia in Canada, then CPSA is invaluable even if you do not do Canadian political research! CPSA is a great way to meet the decision-makers in other Canadian universities."

William O'Connell,
PhD Candidate



Concluding Remarks

At the end of the day, everyone's journey is unique and not replicable. I hope our readers

enjoyed reading everyone's stories, reflections, and suggestions. *OtherWise's* editorial committee is looking forward to hearing more from you.



Some Research Aids to Build Your Workflow

Jiajia Zhou

As much as I enjoy unstructured time, I realized I was probably not getting enough work done to ever be hired to do this for the rest of my life. Whenever things got busy I started putting off the amorphous task of dissertation research for things that seemed more urgent because deadlines were clearer. And when I did get time on my hands, all of it seemed like time that was potentially productive; it was hard to know or decide how much time I had for other commitments.

After discussing this with the co-editors, we thought it would be useful to gather some suggestions on ways colleagues in

our department build structure into their everyday work. Last summer, we sent out a survey to our colleagues in the department. We are thankful to William O'Connell, Semuhi Sinanoglu, and Jacob Winter for their valuable suggestions.

Since then, I spent some time trying out some of these suggestions and a couple others. Here are my quick reviews of some of which I found useful. Let me preface this by saying that they might not be the most flexible options for those who have already settled into their own comfortable workflow. Also, some of these suggestions overlap in their utility and may not complement well.

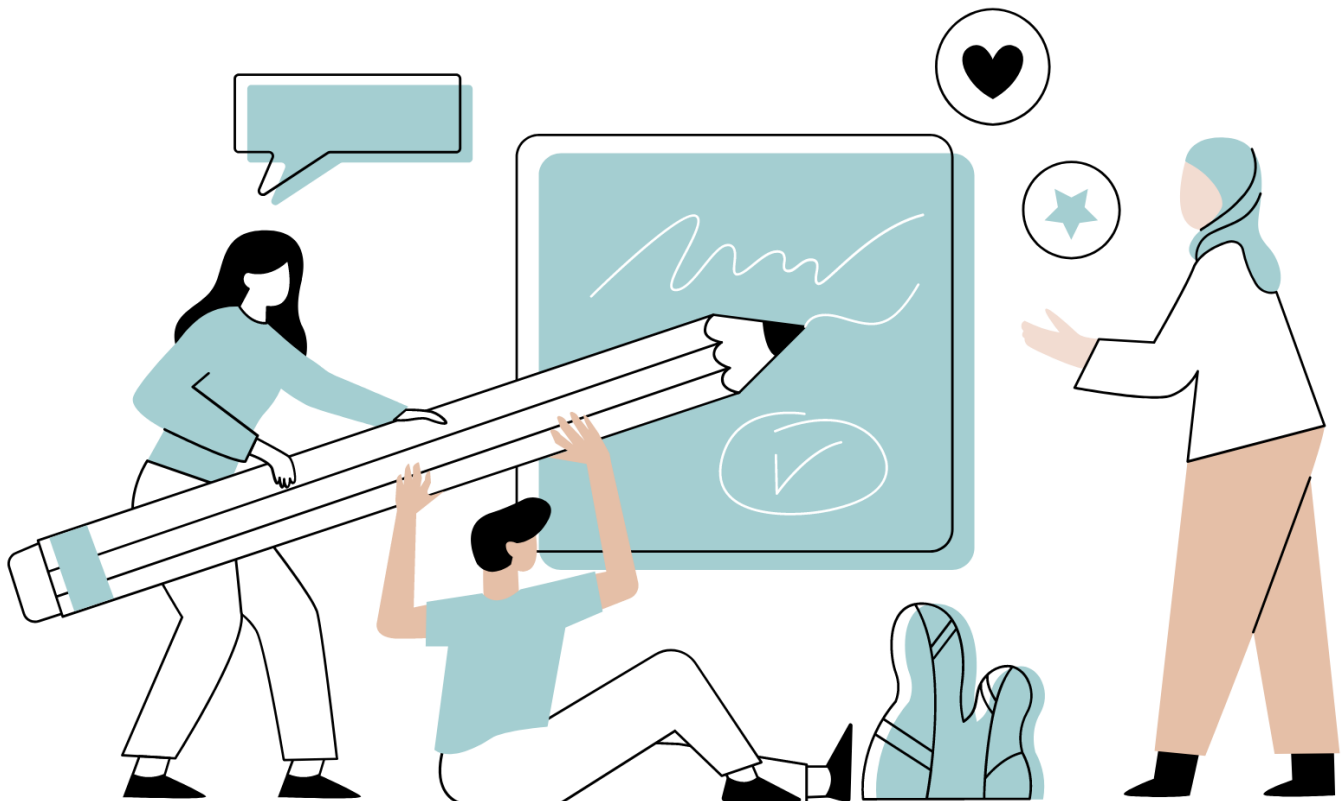
Planning: *Notion* and the Bullet Journal

As the saying goes, the days are long, and the years are short—but so are the months. We go through long days, and before we know it, the month is over. And then maybe the term too. Here are two different ways I experimented with to change up the way I plan and work.

Notion is a simple software with the functionalities to help you plan and keep track of everything in your life, from weekly habits to projects. You design your own *Notion* workspace by adding

individual templates, each designed to aid you in a different way. For example, you can have one page for project management, one to track your weekly habits, and another to set goals. You can add as many different pages to the interface as you like. Pages can also be shared—a friend of mine built a travel guide to Bali using *Notion*.

If you love to plan and maximize productivity, *Notion* might come in handy because you should be able to tinker around and find the right customization to keep you at the top of your game. I imagine that *Notion* will be suitable for those who are looking for ways to organize a miscellany of siloed tasks and ongoing projects. The downside is that *Notion* can be counterproductive because it can be hard to figure out either spent



too much time updating minuscule details or the milestones were too large for everyday use.

Alternatively, if you love pen and paper, and that therapeutic joy when crossing things off a to-do list, the “Bullet Journal” might be great for you. It is not a software but a method to organize your to-do list that connects your plans for the week to your plans for the month and year. There is a succinct four-minute video explanation on bulletjournal.com—you can find it on Youtube as well. This planning method helps me to do one important task quickly: prioritize (and re-prioritize).

First, in the month- to year-long period, the “Bullet Journal” forces me to consciously go through tasks that I have considered, left pending, and allowed to lapse. Ideas will always come, but when do I want them to drop out of memory? And how do I decide when to act on them—if ever? The “Bullet Journal” helps me keep the monthly plans vague while also forcing me to be conscious of the finite time I have: when the to-do list for the next month gets too long, some things about the month have to change.



Second, the “Bullet Journal” helps organize my days in a week. When I was reading blogs on time management and productivity, a common advice I came across was to introduce a writing routine, like waking up at 6am and writing for two hours. I tried, and the routine fell apart in a few days. Timetables have never worked in my life. Every day is a little different. And interestingly, the “Bullet Journal” method shows me that I get more things done when I am able to move things around. It helps by giving me a good sense of the things I can bring forward and do right now, as well as the costs of delaying some of my plans. The Journal’s easy maneuver between plans for the day, month, and year, is a simple design that goes a long way for me. It gives me an idea of the distribution of tasks and how skewed the distribution is getting as I move through the month. It helps me to prioritize as well as reprioritize when plans change.

Reading: *Feedly* and *Zotero*

I had been using emails to get updates for journal publications until one day, I

paused and wondered why journal sites had the RSS icon. RSS feeds automatically retrieve updates from websites, and by combining them, you create an aggregated list of new publications. Applied to journal sites, using an RSS aggregator saves you the trouble of checking multiple sites for infrequent updates and the additional emails from journals. It also helps to partition work of two different natures—emails and reading.

For this, I use a simple RSS feed reader called *Feedly*. The set-up is quick and easy. After signing up, you simply have to

populate your lists by keying in the RSS link from journal websites. These links can usually be found somewhere along the banner or navigation bar on the homepage of journals. If not, it might be on the contact information, social media, or subscription subpages. Copy the link and insert it into the *Feedly* search bar.

Feedly has additional functions that help you to manage your reading. Under its free version, the software allows you to organize feeds into three separate folders. RSS feeds are not limited to journal sites; they can also be found on news websites, membership associations, and funding networks. This means you can create aggregated lists that each serve a distinct purpose. Also, *Feedly* allows you to create boards or bookmarks, which can be used to organize new journal articles into reading lists for different projects.

Another useful software is the citation manager with recently expanded functions, *Zotero*. In its update in 2022, *Zotero* rolled out new functions that allow you not only to organize your citations but also to read and annotate PDFs. As a longtime user of Microsoft OneNote to compile notes on readings, I have found *Zotero* especially useful when going through more text with less notes, such as highlighting and jotting down simple notes when skimming articles and books. These highlights can be exported with page numbers, which allows me to bring them into my writing process more smoothly.



<Codes>: *Git* and *Github*

Git may be inconvenient to learn and the returns may seem unattractive to those who do a limited amount of quantitative data analysis. I have personally not spent enough time using *Git* to reap its benefits, but here are some reasons that were frequently mentioned on the topic.

Git offers a neat version history that allows for easy comparison with older file versions. There are functions that allow you to juxtapose two versions of code, a function that resembles *Google Docs'*

version history and *Microsoft Word's* "track changes." This is useful if the project is ongoing and different combinations of an analysis are run years apart. Not to mention, it facilitates research journaling because you are prompted to add a descriptive tag to the code every time you save a version of it. Lastly, with this set-up, *Git* helps researchers to be transparent about the development of their codes and enable their easy sharing.

Github is the cloud storage for the *Git* version control. Once you know *Git*, *Github* is just a simple step away. Using *Github* also offers an additional perk of *Github Pages*, where you can create your personal webpage without paying for a web hosting site.



Text:

Scrivener

What novelists, scriptwriters, non-fiction writers, and academics have in common is that they are all craftsmen of text; even their smallest chunks of text can involve extensive research. *Scrivener* provides writers with the environment to fastidiously construct each building block of their text. In the past, when I wanted to work on a piece of writing, I would open my word processor, pull up my Microsoft OneNote, whip out a bunch of handwritten notes, and start writing. But as more ideas and concepts came up, this created clutter. The clutter resolves itself for term papers because there is never much of a need to edit them after the term, but the organization of materials gets harder in the dissertation process when each section is a work-in-progress that I will have to return to later on.

I have found *Scrivener* helpful for a few reasons. *Scrivener* allows me to store each document section with PDFs and notes. You design your document sections and move them around as you please. They can be as short as a single paragraph. Each building block is a clean slate with specific bookmarks and notes that I can easily navigate to as I continue to build other parts of the project. *Scrivener* is your text editor that doubles up as a hub connecting all your electronic material. This allows me to transition into

and out of work more quickly and smoothly each time I work on my dissertation.

Another feature is the version history function known as “snapshots” in *Scrivener*. Snapshots are unique to each document section. It allows for easy side-by-side juxtaposition of past versions with the current one to review the changes in your thought process over the course of writing the draft. Instead of many versions of your entire document in the regular text editor, you get a version history of each document section in *Scrivener*.

Lastly, *Scrivener* also allows you to set targets with progress bars on the interface. There is an option for draft targets as well as another for session targets that allow you to keep an eye on your progress as you work through every session. This is especially useful for people who thrive on having concrete targets.

The downsides to the software include its monetary and time costs. At the time of writing, the software can be obtained via a one-time purchase priced at CA\$72.24 for students and academics. It offers a one month free trial if you want to find out whether it works for you. In terms of time costs, *Scrivener* takes a while to learn and get used to. Also, at its current stage, it does not work seamlessly with citation managers. There are some workarounds you can find online but it may involve some manual maneuvers or delaying citations to a later stage of the writing process.



Reflections on “China watching”

Emile Dirks

Last year I graduated with a PhD in Political Science. I’ve spent years researching politics and human rights in China. I’m proud of my accomplishments. But as a white man, my career has probably also been easier than others. As hard as I’ve worked, others have worked harder only to end up with less.

Universities can be harsh places. Egos are big, power is guarded, jobs are few. Mental health and poverty are constant struggles. But women, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ researchers confront challenges I’ve never known. Disrespect by colleagues and students. Prejudice in and outside the classroom. Harassment of all stripes.

Peers have exhausted themselves fighting for their place at the table. I’ve never faced these barriers. But that’s no credit to me. I’m no more deserving of a smoother ride than my peers are of the belittlement they confront.

Recently, I’ve thought about what this means for Chinese studies and the group of scholars known as “China watchers.” To be a “China watcher” is to decipher the People’s Republic of China for a non-Chinese audience. It is to claim – though

rarely possess – a near comprehensive diversity.

Many scholars I admire embrace the term. But as [Black Voices on Greater China](#) founder Kori Cooper asks, “[w]ho is doing the watching and what are they watching for?”

For decades, the average “China watcher” in North America and Europe was white. Both connected to and distanced from China, the “China watcher” had deep affection for a country which was not theirs. China was an object of study, not a home. And when the “China watcher” spoke of how “we” understand China, the implied audience was rarely Chinese.

Today, Chinese studies has never been more diverse. Many of the most well-respected names in the field are Chinese nationals or members of the Chinese diaspora. Others are those impacted or threatened by the Chinese state: Uyghurs, Tibetans, Hong Kongers, and Taiwanese. Their personal ties to China enrich their research. And in turn their research shapes how China is discussed and understood in schools, newsrooms, and capitals the world over.

Yet as the field of Chinese studies has expanded, “China watching” has become more fraught. In recent years, China’s relations with liberal democracies have deteriorated. China has become, in the words of [Dr. Yangyang Cheng](#), “a ‘challenge,’ a ‘threat,’ an ‘issue’ to be solved.” In Western countries, many politicians and commentators use

criticisms of China as a cover for racism and xenophobia.

These trends disturb me. But it is Chinese, Uyghur, Tibetan, Hong Kong, and Taiwanese scholars who are caught between the competing nationalisms of China and the countries in which they work. I may share a field with my peers, but I do not share their experiences. I have never been accused by Western governments of having [nefarious ties](#) to the Chinese state. Nor has [anti-Asian violence](#) and [racist misogyny](#) threatened my safety. I have never been subject to harassment and abuse from [Chinese nationalists](#) for supposed disloyalty to my “motherland.” I have never [feared for the safety of my family](#) in Xinjiang. Nor have I been forced to choose between denouncing repression in Hong Kong and having the [freedom to return home](#) in peace.

This slander and violence not only harms Chinese, Uyghurs, Tibetans, Hong Kongers, and Taiwanese. It threatens our shared community. Good scholarship can only flourish if scholars are safe. And though I may not be personally threatened, I cannot be a detached observer. I have a responsibility to act.

This first requires recognizing what I can – and cannot – do. I may write about China, but it is not my home. I cannot speak for Chinese, Uyghur, Tibetan, Hong Kong, or Taiwanese communities, nor can I fully understand the challenges they face. Instead, I must listen to my peers and be prepared to follow their lead. Diaspora social movements fighting against state

worth my support. So too are graduate students – like the editors of this journal – who write and speak their truth. Both on and offline, I can enthusiastically promote their work and amplify their demands.

Second, I can help build campus platforms for diaspora experts and advocates. This can be through invitations to speak at public events or write for university publications. Many of these people are best placed to pronounce on China-related topics. Ceding space to them draws attention to their vital work and their calls for justice. And in my own talks and writings, I can echo my peers' insights and denounce those who threaten their safety.

Third, I can embrace academic partnerships with scholars and experts from diaspora communities. Collaborations can include co-writing projects which reflect the concerns of my co-authors and their communities, and which incorporate the unique insights that only their lived experience can bring. Or in my research on politics and human rights in China, I can invite experts from impacted communities to review my work before publication, to improve accuracy and avoid potential harm.

Finally, as an instructor, I can introduce students to the work of Chinese, Uyghur, Tibetan, Hong Kong, and Taiwanese scholars. Students must be encouraged to study China from the informed perspective of those connected to the country by ties of citizenship, history, and politics. My syllabus cannot be limited to

the works of “China watchers,” who even at their most sympathetic and incisive still view the country at a distance.

The problems Chinese, Uyghur, Tibetan, Hong Kong, and Taiwanese scholars face are too great for any one person to fix. I am no saviour, nor do I wish to be one. But in my own ways, I can work with my peers to build an academic community worthy of them, of me, and of the next generation of scholars to come.

Those Who Warm Our Hearts and the City

I YOUNAN AN

Toronto probably has the most diverse food scene within Canada. Distinct cultural pockets can be found in every corner of the city, resulting in a very cosmopolitan food culture. While there is an abundance of restaurants representing food from various parts of the world, there is a lack of in-depth information and statistics about these restaurants. According to Destination Toronto, there are over 7,500 restaurants across 158 neighbourhoods. But this number is not disaggregated.

Additionally, there is a lack of understanding regarding the number of restaurants owned by women, BIPOC women, and BIPOC individuals.

During last year, I and members of the *OtherWise* editorial team were thrilled to visit and eat at three outstanding BIPOC women-owned restaurants in Toronto. The aim of his article is to spotlight these three restaurants, and to bring attention to a small but extraordinary sample of the many amazing BIPOC women-owned restaurants in the city.

***PAI Northern Thai Kitchen*, 18 Duncan Street**

Located in the heart of downtown Toronto, *PAI Northern Thai Kitchen* is a Torontonians' introduction to the food and culture of Northern Thailand. *Khao Soi* is the Northern Thai food staple and is a dish that should not be missed—whether you are visiting Northern Thailand or a Thai restaurant in North America. Chef Nuit is the Executive Owner and Head Chef of *PAI*, named after her hometown in Thailand. Together with her spouse Jeff, Chef Nuit familiarizes us with Thai cuisine through not only *PAI*, but also other restaurants in Toronto including: *Kiin*, *Sabai Sabai*, and *Sukho Thai*.

We had a chance to visit *PAI* this summer and tried a number of delicious dishes filled with love, passion, and Thai aroma from Chef Nuit. During our visit we also met Chef Nuit herself.

“*Aroi Mark Mark*,” I said to Chef Nuit to compliment her food which was very, very delicious. “*Khob Khun Na Kha* (Thank you)”, Chef Nuit responded back to me with the brightest smile. I told Chef Nuit that I spoke very little Thai, and she looked up at me happily as we continued to compliment her food.

Chef Nuit grew up in Pai, Thailand and learned how to cook in a small kitchen at home with her mother. When Chef Nuit moved to Canada, she left her career as a



nurse to introduce Torontonians to the wonderful Thai cuisine that she carefully crafts and cooks with love and

compassion. This place is a must visit-restaurant for those looking to experience some Northern Thai cuisine.



A Cute Picture of I (on the middle left), Chen (left), the chef of PAI (on the middle right), and Siru (right)

Simone's Caribbean Restaurant, 596 Danforth Avenue

"Thank you so much," Simone said to me after I told her that we wanted to spotlight her restaurant in *OtherWise*.

If you find yourself strolling along Danforth Avenue in Greektown, you cannot miss this women-owned restaurant. *Simone's Caribbean Restaurant* offers Caribbean cuisine delight. You can find jerk chicken, curry goat, fried plantains, and even Indian-inspired Caribbean dishes. Though small, the restaurant environment is cozy, as the staff are very

warm and welcoming. The facade might give the impression that this restaurant is quiet and receives less traffic; however once inside, the restaurant is filled with wonderful staff including Simone herself, busy preparing food and orders, mostly for take-out.

As we glanced through the menu, there were many different options, all of which were appealing and tempting. We asked the staff for recommendations, and they responded with their brightest smile: "everything on the menu is very good." We all laughed. In the end, they recommended an appetizer called *Johnny Cakes*, which is similar to fried bread. A staple food across Jamaica, *Johnny Cakes* is also prevalent across the North American continent.



Lokum Eats (New location on their Instagram @lokumeats)

Lokum Eats sits near the busy intersection of College and Bathurst. Sharing the dining space with a Korean style café, this Turkish restaurant may be considered a hidden spot for first-time visitors. The restaurant has a small menu but offers a range of selections from traditional Turkish appetizers and Turkish dumplings to Turkish coffee and desserts. The word *lokum* itself means *Turkish delight*, the signature soft and chewy confection infused with fruits, flavours, or nuts.



“The dumpling is a rare find in Toronto and it is the chef’s recommendation,” the Owner, Tuba Tunc says, as I glanced over the options.

This energetic, warm, and hospitable Turkish restaurateur originally came to Toronto from Turkey to study at University of Toronto. After graduation, she worked for a marketing company as a project manager. But ambition to start her own business and a passion for



Tuba Tunc

food soon led her down the path to the food industry. To gain sufficient knowledge for her own restaurant, Tuba left her job and attended George Brown College to study culinary management. After, she worked in several restaurants to acquire experience in the industry. Despite Covid-19 delays, Tuba finally opened her own restaurant. “Both of my grandmothers and my mother are really good at cooking, and I have always been cooking and helping at home to feed my family,” Tuba told me with pride. Now, through her business she gets to offer customers, like us, with the authentic experience of home-style Turkish cuisine.

Disclaimer: Neither the magazine nor the author received any benefits from the businesses featured in this article.

Thank you for reading *Otherwise!*

If you have any feedback or ideas to share for future issues, please email us:

otherwise.emagazine@gmail.com.

Faculty Advisors:

Prof. Martha Balaguera Cuervo

Prof. Diana Fu

Copy Editor:

Emily Lawrence

Graphic Designer:

Behrooz Khatir

The Otherwise Editorial Board:

Siru Chen

Yang-Yang Cheng

Yujia Shi

Chen Zhong

Jiajia Zhou

[Names in Alphabetical Order]

Otherwise, we are not heard.

Otherwise, we are not seen.

*Because we believe by sharing our
stories, we become stronger together.*

Funding Acknowledgement:

This magazine is supported by [the Department of Political Science](#) at the University of Toronto and [the Asian Institute](#) at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

Read the [Previous Issue](#)