

Editorial

Established in 2018, this is the third issue of *Rig Tshoel: Research Journal of the Royal Thimphu College*. As an RTC-based, open-access and peer-reviewed journal, Rig Tshoel's genesis and evolution speaks to a key mission of the College, that is: 'To be a crucible of new ideas and knowledge that serves to enrich people's lives and enhances the welfare of society.'

This issue features 7 articles, 6 of which are written in English and 1 in Dzongkha. Additionally, there are four book reviews. The articles published here were researched and written by one or multiple members of the RTC communities. They explore myriad themes and theories, as well as concern both the contemporary historical moment and the deep and even deeper past.

We open with an article titled 'Tertiary Education, Students' Experiences, and Future Imaginations in Bhutan' by Kuenzang Norbu and Jelle J.P. Wouters. Based on research carried out with an RTC Research Development Grant, this article applies the analytics of 'experiences', 'aspirations' and 'anxieties' as entries into student lifeworlds at Royal Thimphu College. The second article by Kabita Chhetri remains within the field of education. It is titled 'The Benefits of Using Rubrics to Assess Student Work' and draws on an extensive review of literature and the author's own experiences to make a compelling case for the systematic use of rubrics to enhance teaching-learning.

The third article is researched and written by Jesse Montes, Bhuwan Kafley and Thinley Dema and carries the intriguing title: 'Territory, Relationality and the Labour of Deities: Importing Raffestin on the Bhutanese Spiritual Landscape.' Claude Raffestin is a Swiss geographer known for developing relational approaches to the study of territory. Such a theoretical framework, the authors argue, can be insightfully applied to capture the mutually constitutive relations between territoriality, humans and deities in Bhutan, particularly in Haa, Phobjikha and Laya where the authors carried out empirical research. The fourth article is by Roderick Wijunamai and is titled: 'Migrant Construction Workers in Bhutan: Understanding Immigrant Flows and their Perception.' Based on a series of ethnographic vignettes and interviews, Wijunamai documents the motivations and lived experiences of Indian migrant labourers working in the construction sector in Bhutan. To them, Bhutan connotes a 'place of hope'; a place where they are able to work and earn, and through remittances are able to provide for their families in their natal villages, mostly in West-Bengal.

The next two articles do not have Bhutan as their focus of research, but whose authors are based at Royal Thimphu College. Article 5 is written by Dana M. Polanichka with a number of her students, all of whom were exchange students at Royal Thimphu College. They are: Carly M. Lewis, Casey E. Smith, Allison K. Meyette, and Briana Gausland. This article reexamines

ninth-century sources about Carolingian emperors in Medieval Europe, particularly the Astronomer’s biography of Louis the Pious (r. 814–40 CE), to demonstrate that Emperor Louis employed popular tropes of female sexual immorality to remove his sisters from court on account of their political power. Article 6 is by Shawn C. Rowlands and is titled: ‘The remnants of a Stone Age People’: Race Theory, Technology, and Ignorance in Colonial Australia.’ His article takes us to the Australian continent and to the early relations between aboriginals and European settlers. The Australian continent, Rowlands shows, became a testing ground for ideas on race and technology, and so in ways that marginalized and misrepresented Australian aboriginals. The final Article is written in Dzongkha. The author is Dorji Tshering and the title is: ཞབས་བྱུང་ཕྱག་ལུ་མཚན་པ་དང་འབྲེལ་བའི་ཚོས་རྒྱལ་བའི་བཞི་པའི་ལྷོ་ཕྱོད།

This volume ends with four book reviews. The first is by Joseph McClellan and reviews the book *Sera Monastery* by Cabezón, J. and P. Dorjee. The second is a review of Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart* and is written by Sonam Choden. The third is by Kuenga Norbu and reviews Orwell’s famous book *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. The final review is by Deki Yangzom and is a review of Wouters’ *In the Shadows of Naga Insurgency: Tribes, State and Violence in Northeast India*.

Jelle J.P. Wouters
Editor

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