

An Introduction from the Editor

Sarah McNeil

The Atlantic International Studies (ATLIS) Journal is Canada's first peer-reviewed, academic journal strictly for undergraduate students. Published at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, the Journal is in its eleventh year and is garnering increasing attention. Its nationally archived copies are held in the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations Office of Military Affairs in New York.

The purpose of the ATLIS Journal is to provide undergraduate students in Atlantic Canada an opportunity to showcase their research and engage thoughtfully with their peers. The Journal is interdisciplinary and encourages submissions from students in any year of their undergraduate degree.

This year, the theme of ATLIS' annual conference held at Mount Allison University was, "Rights, Institutions, and Truth: Pursuing International Justice." We were fortunate to host Dr. Joanna Quinn from the University of Western Ontario, who spoke on the complexities of transitional justice in Canada and around the world.

While most years the ATLIS executive matches the Journal theme with that of the conference, the ATLIS team of 2014-2015 decided to create this year's Journal without a theme in order to encourage submissions that covered a diverse set of topics. The Journal opens with an essay

that relays the author's findings from his primary research on natural resource development in Greenland and Nunavut. Following this, two essays by separate authors address different security issues that have arisen in Somalia since the collapse of Mohamed Siad Barre's government in 1991. Readers interested in improving their understanding of the present situation in Somalia are encouraged to read both of these analyses. The reader will then find a fascinating theoretical analysis of Russia's annexation of Crimea and a discussion of where this leaves U.S.-Russian relations. This is followed by an anthropological essay on the Māori people of New Zealand and the challenges surrounding the protection of indigenous traditions through intellectual property rights legislation. The Journal concludes with a feminist critique of microfinance organizations in development work. As the journal editor this year, I am pleased with the calibre of the essays that have been selected by myself, the assistant editor, and the peer-reviewers. I hope that the exchange of feedback and engagement between the authors and reviewers made the creation of this Journal a positive and enriching experience for all involved.

ATLIS was created in the winter of 2003 at Mount Allison University with the purpose of fostering informed undergraduate participation in international issues through scholarship and social and political engagement. ATLIS actively seeks partnerships with other organizations and clubs, universities, faculty, and experts in diverse fields of international studies.

ATLIS is run by students for students. For more information or to get involved, visit atlismta.org or email us at atlis@mta.ca.