

## Editorial

Covid-19 has left few corners of the world untouched. It has taken us all by surprise and forced a fresh look at the way we organize our lives. The compilation of this issue has not escaped the long reach of the pandemic. Authors have had to deal with unexpected circumstances in different ways: visits to libraries have not been possible, international conferences have been cancelled and, at a domestic level, extra child-minding duties have called for a change of priorities. It has been a topsy-turvy time.

All of this has affected the contents of this issue in two ways. Some articles have been held back until the authors can pick up the threads again at a later date, while some proposed international conference reports have been lost altogether. In contrast, amidst all the chaos there are some bright signs, with the pandemic itself treated as a source of intellectual enquiry. Aneesa Vel, for instance, has quickly observed that its very incidence and the way it is reported has already brought new terms to the Creole lexicon. Language evolves all the time and Aneesa's paper offers an interesting illustration. In a different paper, Peter Rudge, who has done most of his work in Caribbean islands, argues that the creative and digital sectors can offer a lifeline as we search for new ways to energize the deflated economy. A third article which takes account of ongoing changes in the world economy is my own, on the subject of food security. Producing food is one thing but distributing it another, and one lesson from the pandemic is how it has exposed the fragility of the supply lines on which we all rely. Globalization is not as robust as it was made out to be.

Research reaches out in different directions and it is encouraging to include a carefully constructed article from a law specialist Sarah Mead, on the subject of judicial recusal in Africa's southern and eastern regions. Sarah is not the only active and talented researcher in the Seychelles Judiciary and it is hoped that further contributions will come from that source. The article by Kris Valaydon (himself a lawyer) on the changing demographics of Mauritius offers comparative evidence on a subject that is of generic interest, not least of all for Seychelles. Taking the lead from this, contributions from other small islands states in the region will be equally welcomed.

Good links have been established between UniSey and Durban University of Technology, and the article by Geoffrey Harris, on an aspect of corporal punishment, points to the wisdom of a nonviolent approach to punishment. This will be followed up in the next issue with a report on prison practice in Seychelles. The same author, Geoffrey Harris, has also reviewed a book on transitional justice and truth commissions; although this not a new book, it is highly relevant to the present period of introspection in Seychelles.

Understandably, the environment (terrestrial and marine) is the most actively investigated source of ongoing work in Seychelles. This is hardly surprising and the present issue includes two articles related to perceptions of climate change. In the first of these, Daniel Etongo, with two co-authors, reports the results of an extensive survey to assess how people in Seychelles view the issue of vulnerability in the face of more extreme conditions. The second article, by Benno Rothstein and Timmo Wernsdörfer, is based on a survey to demonstrate how much tourists are prepared to support carbon offsetting.

In addition to the above articles, attention is drawn to the section entitled 'Research Notes'. This is like a seedbed from which we can hope to see sturdy plants at a later date. Terence Vel is a practitioner who is enthusing young people to play an active part in restoring and maintaining mangrove habitats. This report of his work is inspiring. Meanwhile Diana Benoit has ventured into the contentious area of human rights violations in Seychelles. Her particular focus is to monitor and assess the ongoing hearings of the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We will encourage both Terence and Diana to report on progress with their respective projects.

This issue marks the end of the second year of publication of the journal. One thing that is clear is that there is no shortage of research taking place in and around Seychelles. It is being conducted not only by local researchers but also by visiting scholars from a variety of other countries. This mixing of cultural approaches is a source of great strength and interest and it is hoped that it will continue to be a feature of the publication.

**Dennis Hardy**  
**Editor**