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## December 2021 issue: ‘Congratulations, farewell, and welcome: From the editors’

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We hope once again that this brief editorial finds our readers safe and well. It is that time of year again for the *European Journal of International Relations* (EJIR). Annually, a committee of the European International Studies Association (EISA) meets to award the association’s best article prize. The winner is chosen from among the OnlineFirst articles published in the *EJIR* during the previous calendar year, in this case 2020. The jury of four consists of two EISA board members (Felix Berenskoetter and Joanne Yao), one external member (Marieke de Goede), and one member of the journal’s editorial team (this time, Darshan Vigneswaran).

In early September the winning article was announced. Our sincere congratulations are in order and I hope our readership all join us in praise of the co-author winners of the annual EISA best article prize for 2020: Xymena Kurowska (Central European University) and Anatoly Reshetnikov (Webster Private University, Vienna). The winning article was ‘Trickstery: pluralising stigma in international society’, early online from 5 August 2020 and published in the *EJIR* volume 27/1, March 2021 (232–257). The citation from the jury was as follows:

Xymena Kurowska and Anatoly Reshetnikov make an original and intriguing contribution by introducing the concept of the ‘trickster’ as a role and form of political action characterised by ‘non-decidable plurality’. Nicely incorporating yet going beyond the notion of the liminal and practices of stigma management, their article opens the door to a novel reading of a type of political performance that exerts power through humour, satire, and the theatrical. The committee was impressed by the authors’ ability to bring this phenomenon to light through a systematic conceptual engagement with ‘the trickster’ drawing on a larger set of interdisciplinary literatures, and through effectively illustrating its analytical value in empirical examples. A refreshing and important approach to make sense of Russia’s position and actions in the current world order, and with potentially significant implications for how we conceive of the (ir) rationality of political actors more widely.

We congratulate both authors on this outstanding achievement. We hope our readers enjoyed their contribution.

There is one more matter. This December 2021 issue of volume 27 is the last to appear under the editorship of Geoffrey Underhill (Editor-in-Chief) and his four colleagues: Luc Fransen, Annette Freyberg-Inan, Lee Seymour, and Darshan Vigneswaran (Associate Editors). We also remind the readers that Ursula Daxecker and Marlies Glasius were part

of the original team that began work in January 2018; they stepped down early due to overwhelming new commitments. The 4 years of our tenure have gone by so terribly rapidly, and it has been an uplifting experience to work together, COVID-19 and all notwithstanding. We inherited a wonderful going concern from the Sussex team. We hope that our readers will find we have put our own stamp on the journal, and also that our readership has enjoyed and even admired the work of the authors that we published.

Our legacy is for others to judge, but we would genuinely like to take a brief moment to thank our authors, our reviewers, and our marvelously supportive Editorial Committee. Although authors never meet their reviewers, we have been serially impressed during our 4 years at the amount of co-operation and singleness of purpose that is shared between each side of the double-blind equation. What we offered our readership was the result of each side striving to extract the best out of the other. Central to this was the work of the Editorial Committee, so many of whom stepped in so willingly and professionally when the occasion required. The Editors would like to express our sincere thanks to you all. We should not forget Rosie Cann, Amy Appleyard, and Ekta Aggarwal's production team at SAGE, who supported us all the way through, especially at the beginning when we needed it most.

Finally, we would like to thank and show appreciation before the readership to our hard-working and unflappably professional Managing Editor, Ben Scandrett. No matter what the pressure or apparent state of our disarray, Ben was there to extract proverbial chestnuts from the fire and just generally keep the machine oiled and turning over. He is the true face of the journal. All of you have been essential and indefatigably open-minded supporters of our work in shepherding this great journal through another 4 years, including our 25th anniversary special issue.

In closing, we must of course welcome the new Editors, led by Oliver Kessler (Editor-in-Chief) and his team consisting of Gülşah Çapan, Sophia Hoffmann, Jorg Kustermans, and Halvard Leira. We wish them every success in taking the journal further, and fortitude when it comes to the workload.

*Geoffrey Underhill, Luc Fransen, Annette Freyberg-Inan, Darshan Vigneswaran  
(University of Amsterdam) and Lee Seymour (Université de Montréal)*