

Editor's Note

We are delighted to introduce Volume 4, Issue 1, of *Acta Via Serica*. *Acta Via Serica* is dedicated to publishing compelling and diverse voices and representing authors from around the globe. The tradition of publishing innovative scholarship on topics pertaining to Silk Road studies remains the highest principle of the journal.

As in every issue of the journal, we present an excerpt from the Al-Biruni Collection, which is one of the most important collections of Central Asian manuscripts reflecting the role of the Silk Road in the development of science and culture in the Middle Hemisphere. We would once again like to extend our most sincere gratitude to our board member Dr. Bakhrom Abdukhalimov, vice president of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Uzbekistan, for the inclusion of the Al-Biruni Collection.

The current issue comprises two distinct sections. The first part contains six research articles touching on various aspects of Silk Road studies across the humanities and social sciences, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of *Acta Via Serica*. The articles in this section enhance our understanding of the processes of local and regional change that make the Silk Road countries an area of significant contemporary interest. The respective authors address their research questions from distinctive/unconventional angles and look at how cultural practices relate to more comprehensive systems of power associated with or operating through social phenomena such as cultural codes, religious ideology, feminism, or merely cultural encounters through the trading hubs across the Silk Road.

The second part is devoted to seven book reviews reflecting recent scholarly achievements in the domain of Silk Road studies. This review section, as always, remains faithful to the multidisciplinary perspective of the journal by including publications dealing with a broad range of contemporary and historical topics.

The editors would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the contributors to this

issue, the external peer reviewers, and the members of our editorial board for their invaluable efforts. We would also like to thank our publisher President Synn Ilhi, Academia Via Serica, and the administration of Keimyung University for their continued generous support in the publication of this journal.

The Editorial Staff