

## From the Vice President

Chris Pak



Welcome, all, to the new issue of the *SFRA Review*. This is a time of change for the SFRA, with positions open for two roles on the executive committee: one for President and one for Secretary. As an organisation we rely heavily on the goodwill of members and volunteers, and voting for our executive committee is one way in which you can have a direct influence on how the SFRA develops in relation to the changing landscapes of higher education internationally. Voting is now open and will close on the 14<sup>th</sup> November, so please do log in to the SFRA website and submit your vote before the deadline.

Our annual [Support a New Scholar award](#) is also open for applications. This year the award will support one non-tenure-track scholar, with a review panel consisting of Anastasia Klimchynskaya, Conrad Scott and Ida Yoshinaga, all of whom are previous recipients of the award. I'd highly encourage you to submit an application if you're eligible, and to share the news of the award widely through your networks. The application form, eligibility criteria and a list of supporting documents to include with your application can be found on the SFRA website.

The deadline for applications is the 21<sup>st</sup> November. If you do have any questions please feel free to reach out to me by email at [c.a.pak@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:c.a.pak@swansea.ac.uk). The deadline for our [2026 conference](#) at Michigan State University is also fast approaching. The theme of the conference is water and flow: 'we seek work that examines how imagined worlds are carved by the motion of waters, the transition of power, and the stories we tell.' The call for papers is available on the SFRA website, and there will be virtual and hybrid presentation options available.

Following this year's conference at Rochester we held a Vision and Support session to discuss ways in which the SFRA could do more to support our membership. I have been meeting with our Country Representatives and with the EC to discuss the kinds of resources we might make available to our membership, either at the annual conference itself or through our website and other digital means. A lot of information about events, publications and activity happening internationally is shared during our Country Representatives meeting, and we've been discussing how we might make this information more accessible to our membership. Discussions are still underway but I am looking forward to sharing some of these developments in the future through this column. As always, if you do have any recommendations or would like to correspond to discuss the kinds of resources and activity that you would like to see or to contribute to the SFRA, please get in touch.