

## Global South Review (GSR)

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Global South Review is an academic journal published by Institute of International Studies on behalf of the Department of International Relations Universitas Gadjah Mada dedicated to provide academic and policy platform to exchange views, research findings, and dialogues within the Global South and between the Global North and the Global South. The Journal is designed to be a media to examine all the issues encountered by Global South in the context of current international justice, security, and order. Issued twice a year, contributors of the Journal are open for those who share concern on south – south cooperation.

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## **Editor's Note**

Mohtar Mas' oed

Suci Lestari Yuana

Welcome to the latest volume of *Global South Review*! This edition invites readers to explore the evolving dynamics of power, representation, and agency in the Global South. Through these articles, our contributors unravel the intricate connections between governance, culture, technology, and economy, shedding light on how these forces shape and are shaped by the unique contexts of the Global South. Together, they paint a picture of a region that is not just a passive recipient of global trends but an active participant in shaping its trajectory amidst the complexities of globalization and digitalization.

The articles in this issue are united by a shared commitment to understanding how trust, identity, and innovation intersect in ways that profoundly impact policy and society. Ellie Ophelia Delviolin and George Morris William Tangka open the discussion with a rigorous analysis of trust and governance in the Indo-Pacific, using Albert Hirschman's framework of exit, voice, and loyalty. Their work highlights the delicate balance between public satisfaction and governmental performance, offering invaluable insights for policymakers striving to foster a more engaged citizenry. This exploration of trust sets the foundation for examining governance beyond the domestic sphere, connecting seamlessly to Jeniar Nelsus Mooy's study of Indonesia's symbolic narratives in its aid to Pacific Island Countries. Mooy critiques how claims of solidarity and mutual respect in South-South cooperation are leveraged for political ends, revealing a strategic interplay between governance and symbolic diplomacy.

From governance, the volume transitions into the cultural realm, where narratives wield significant power in shaping societal norms and perceptions. Fathanaditya Rianto's exploration of video games as ideological tools offers a fascinating perspective on how digital entertainment products perpetuate or challenge dominant narratives of the Global South. His analysis serves as a reminder of how cultural artifacts can act as subtle yet powerful vehicles for political and social commentary, an idea that finds resonance in Addine Fithrienne Hidayat's study on Boys' Love television series in Thailand. Hidayat demonstrates how these shows have contributed to the normalization and acceptance of LGBT rights, underscoring the role of media representation in challenging discriminatory norms and fostering inclusivity.

The technological and economic dimensions of these discussions are equally compelling. Hayuningrum Citra Maharsi examines the rapid growth of digital payment systems in Indonesia, highlighting the transformative potential of such innovations for small and medium enterprises. Yet, as her analysis reveals, these systems also risk exacerbating regional disparities if access remains uneven. A more structural critique is offered by Muhd Rafli

Ramadhan Warganegara, who scrutinizes cryptocurrencies through the lens of Marxist and Dependency Theory, exposing how these assets can reinforce global inequalities despite their promise of decentralization.

What emerges across these articles is a cohesive narrative of transformation, where trust, technology, and cultural representation are central to the agency of Global South actors. The governance studies illustrate how trust and symbolic narratives can influence both domestic and international relations. In parallel, the cultural and technological analyses show how these domains act as battlegrounds for representation and equity, offering opportunities for empowerment while revealing the risks of entrenching inequalities.

Through this volume, we aim to deepen your understanding of the dynamic and multifaceted realities of the Global South. The discussions herein remind us that agency is never static—it evolves through the interplay of local, regional, and global forces. We hope this issue sparks critical conversations and inspires further exploration of the themes and insights it presents.

Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Mohtar Mas'oe'd – Editor in Chief

Suci Lestari Yuana – Managing Editor



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