

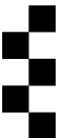


# The Essex Student Journal

**How collaboration between students and the Library at the University of Essex has diversified student research through open access publishing**

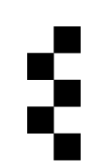
Thomas O'Toole Mills – Research Services Coordinator, University of Essex, UK

Hannah Crago – Open Research Development Librarian, University of Essex, UK



# **Some starting context...**

- Essex Student Journal (ESJ) is multidisciplinary open access journal
- Launched Autumn 2020, building on Essex's legacy of student publishing
- Library tied ESJ to its open access goals, providing sustainable resources
- Have since worked to increase value for both students and the University



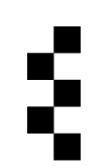
Hannah Crago – Open Research Development Librarian



Thomas O'Toole-Mills – Research Services Coordinator

## Who are we?

- ESJ Team since 2020
  - Worked to set up the system and processes
  - Now manages ESJ Team and Journal
- 
- ESJ Team since 2022
  - Worked on expanding the Journal's activities  
e.g. ESJ Conference and Creative Writing

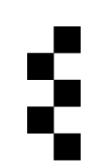


# **The ESJ Story**

## **Is a story of our students**

Between 2020 and March 2025:

- 6 PGR students hired as Student Journal Editors
- 75 publications
- 56 student authors
- 186 PGR peer reviewers



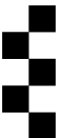
# **Before the ESJ**

## **A brief look at ESTRO**

- Essex Student Research Online, 2008-2019
- Published 16 Issues across 10 Volumes
- 126 publications
- 108 authors
- Over 27 volunteer editors



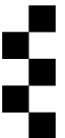
# The students behind the ESJ



# **Lina Abdelhafiz**

**Student Journal Editor, 2019-2020**

- Established processes
- Developed ESJ website
- Worked on web accessibility

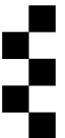


# **Sara Sheriff**

**Student Journal Editor, 2021**

- Launched first call for papers
- Started student engagement work
- Targeted specific audiences

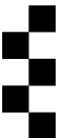




# **Dafni Kalatzi Pantera**

**Student Journal Editor, 2021-2022**

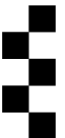
- Engagement through Freshers' Fair, Welcome stalls, and more!
- Expanded the reach of the ESJ's content
- Began exploring the educational potential of the ESJ



# **Aisyah Shamshun**

**Student Journal Editor, 2022-2023**

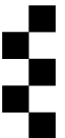
- Increased social media presence and submissions
- Built relationships across the University
- Special Issue – Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity



# **Kimia Aghasoleimani**

**Student Journal Editor, 2023-2024**

- Essex Student Journal Conference 2024
- Creative writing relaunch
- Special Issue – Sustainability



# **Philip Achoki**

## **Student Journal Editor, 2024-2025**

- New submissions cycle
- Clearing backlog of submissions
- Essex Student Journal Conference 2025



**What does this all mean?**

# **Educational tool**

- **Authors and reviewers learn through doing**
- **Improve research and writing skills**
- **Boost self-confidence**
- **Strengthen CV**
- **Winners of “Excellence in Education” award**





# **Introduce publishing**

- **Show publishing is for everyone**
- **Make more research freely available**
- **Support open research culture**





# **Advocacy**

- **Show what is possible with diamond OA**
- **“Practice what we preach”**
- **Get academic buy-in**
- **Convince decision makers**





# Future plans

- Indexing in DOAJ
- Maintain stable growth
- Expand academic buy-in





**Amplify and diversify student research**



University of Essex

**Thank you**

**essex.ac.uk**

**Essex Student Journal:**

[journal@essex.ac.uk](mailto:journal@essex.ac.uk)

[publications.essex.ac.uk](http://publications.essex.ac.uk)