



BRILL

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF  
EAST ASIAN STUDIES 20 (2021) 1

European Journal  
of  
East Asian Studies  
brill.com/ejea

## Foreword

In these difficult times, it is nice to have something to celebrate. The *European Journal of East Asian Studies* is turning 20 and is thriving. We are celebrating the anniversary with several new features. First, Brill has made three previous special issues open access, and the number of free access and open access articles has increased substantially. Special issue introductions are now always free access, while the agreements signed by Brill with several European universities make it possible to publish open access at no cost to authors. Second, we have created a space on our website for Advance Articles. This allows us to publish articles more rapidly while waiting to print a new issue. This section is already full of interesting material. Third, with this issue we have introduced a book review section. Fourth, as we attract more high-quality articles, we have increased the number of pages in each volume, and will soon increase the number of issues per year. All this was made possible by our dedicated editors, copy editor Liz Jones, our large community of authors and peer reviewers, desk editor Iedske van Coevorden, and the support of Brill.

This issue is dedicated to rural life in late socialist countries: China, Laos and Vietnam. These countries are characterised by rapid economic growth and wide-ranging processes of social and economic transformation, while retaining a (poorly defined) socialist orientation. Taking a rural perspective, this issue explores shifting ideas of a good life and imaginaries of the future. The contributions present a rural world experiencing rapid change, transformed by the advent of a market economy, but also a world in which people actively negotiate with the past, renovate traditions and reinvent forms of livelihoods linking the rural and urban in new ways.

*Pietro P. Masina*  
Editor-in-Chief