

## Brandeis University

Gary H. Jefferson Carl Marks Professor of International Trade and Finance



March 31, 2020

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to representatives of Elsevier as a long-time associate of the American Committee on Asian Economic Studies and the *Journal of Asian Economics*. I wish to convey two perspectives. The first is the support that many, who have been involved with ACAES and the *Journal*, are pleased and supportive of Dr. Calla Wiemer's editorial management of and contribution to the *Journal*. Through Dr. Wiemer's dedication and initiative, the relevant statistics and editorial contributors – Associate Editors and Executive Editors – show a significant and continuous growth in the relative quality of the *JAE*.

The second perspective is that the ACAES and the *Journal* were founded and have been nurtured by a close, substantial, and dedicated group of scholars from the U.S. and around the world. Through Dr. Wiemer's diligent effort, the Association and the *Journal* have developed a substantial infrastructure of notable scholars and contributors. If you terminate Dr. Wiemer in the manner that Elsevier has outlined, it is *very* likely that the *Journal* will lose the larger part of this network. This may effectively put the *Journal* out of business.

I believe that I speak in concert with my many colleagues in urging Elsevier to manage this situation in a more constructive manner. That is, if the Publisher has certain objectives for the journal, whether statistical or otherwise, we urge you to make those clear and transparent, along with the necessary reasoning and justification. Dr. Wiemer is not alone in managing this venture. She has a dedicated and supportive group of individuals who are committed to the *Journal's* vibrancy and sustainability. This group, myself included, is prepared to accept and diligently pursue any clearly articulated and reasonable goals and challenges that Elsevier may wish to advance.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

Gary H. Jefferson

Carl Marks Professor of International Trade and Finance

jefferson@brandeis.edu