

April 10, 2020

Dear Dr. He:

I am writing in support of Dr. Calla Wiemer, current editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Asian Economics*, and to add my voice of alarm and concern to those of my colleagues.

I am particularly disturbed by this recent development because this is the second time something like this is happening to me. I was an associate editor of the *Journal of Banking and Finance* (JBF) when Elsevier removed the editor and moved the location of the journal from Europe to the United States. The JBF, then closely associated with an association of European scholars, had a special identity. The articles published there, while rigorous, did not blindly subscribe to empty empirical exercises based solely on numbers and techniques, unlike many of those published in leading American finance journals. As far as I am concerned, what was once a preeminent journal dedicated to the idea that a variety of approaches are possible has disappeared. This is a great loss to the profession. The old JBF was the first-choice journal for some topics; now it is only one of many faceless journals competing for attention from cyberspace. I no longer pay much attention to it.

Dr. He, please do not allow the same mistake to be repeated. What makes the *Journal of Asian Economics* the preeminent journal for economic issues related to Asia is the sense of ownership many of us feel about the journal and the field of Asian economics. How can anybody credibly believe that the journal's standing will remain the same, much less improve, if its association with the body of scholars to whom it owes its success is removed? The JAE's association with the American Committee on Asian Economic Studies must stay, if we want to prevent it from losing its unique identity in the world of scholarship, the very foundation of its success.

I have enjoyed working with Calla Wiemer. I have found her to be an extremely competent and efficient editor. Nothing good would come out of removing her prematurely. If something is not broken, there is no need to fix it.

Sincerely yours,

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