



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Dr. Haili He
Elsevier Beijing Ltd.

April 12, 2020

Dear Dr. He:

I am writing this letter to express my concerns regarding Elsevier's decision regarding the *Journal of Asian Economics* (JAE). It is my understanding that Elsevier plans to sever the ties of the JAE with the American Committee on Asian Economic Studies, and has offered the current Editor, Calla Wiemer, a year contract.

I have been associated with three journals that are under the Elsevier umbrella, the *Social Science Journal*, *China Economic Review*, and *Economic Modelling*. My experience from the first two were bumpy, but in the end, we did find a win-win situation between the journal, Association, and Elsevier. I am hoping we can achieve that here also.

From my past experience, especially as the Chair of the Academic Publication Council of the Chinese Economists Society, I am fully aware (and greatly admire) the contribution of Elsevier. But make no mistake about it, the heart and soul of a journal is the academic association that is affiliated with it. That is true for the *Social Science Journal* (the Western Social Science Association) and the *China Economic Review* (the Chinese Economists Society). For the JAE, it is the American Committee on Asian Economic Studies (ACAES).

I personally believe it is a tremendous mistake to disassociate the JAE with the ACAES, as it will then be "just another journal." My second layer of dismay is the planned termination of Dr. Calla Wiemer as the Editor-in-Chief. The ACAES is the heart and soul of JAE, Calla is the beating heart AND the conscience (like Jiminy Cricket is to Pinocchio).

I have known Calla for many years, her passion, commitment to her work and JAE is unmistakable. Her integrity and vision are both beyond question. When I was given the privilege to Guest Edit a Special Issue for the JAE, Calla shepherded me along the way from the call-for-papers, the pre-screening (to assure the paper is a fit to both the special issue and the JAE), and the reviewing process. I cannot think of anyone with more passion and commitment to a journal.

I have a special place in my heart for the JAE, as it published one of my first papers and launched my career. I deeply wish the BEST for the JAE, which has motivated me to express my concerns, and hope that Elsevier will maintain its association with ACAES, and just as importantly, retain Calla Wiemer as the Editor.

Yours Sincerely,

Jack W. Hou, Ph.D.
Professor of Economics

Past President, Chinese Economists Society
Past President, Western Social Science Association
Ex Officio, Western Economic Association
Specialized Coeditor, *Contemporary Economic Policy*
Associate Editor, *Economic Modeling*