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Citation: Bhala, R., Collins, D., Avgouleas, E., Subedi, S. P., Sanders, G. & Wardhaugh, B. (2024). Commemorative Observations on the Twentieth Anniversary of the Manchester Journal of International Economic Law. *Manchester Journal of International Economic Law*, 21(3), pp. 231-233.

This is the accepted version of the paper.

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November 2024

As a young legal academic shaping what would become the focus of my career I was immediately drawn to the MJIEL because international economic law was not only the most interesting sub-discipline of international law, I felt it was probably the one that was poised to become the most important – a prediction that turned out to be quite true. The MJIEL, like the JIEL out of Georgetown University which preceded it by a few years, consequently had what is sometimes described as “early-mover” advantage – one of the reasons that it is so respected 20 years later. The decision to encompass investment law (then a new field) as well as the more established trade / WTO law area, was key to the journal’s success and testimony to Asif’s keen awareness of the future trajectory of scholarship.

I was eager to publish in this field and was delighted when Asif quickly responded to my submissions, provided feedback and (usually) accepted my contributions. This was a refreshing contrast to the lengthy and burdensome submission process associated with many of the legacy international law journals. Getting my articles in the MJIEL as a specialist journal was critical to me becoming seen an “expert” in the field. My greatest debt to the MJIEL was when Asif invited me to be one of the journal’s Current Development Editors – a major accolade for a junior academic. My annual summaries of ICSID cases were hard work (I have never enjoyed reading cases) but it was a good exercise for me and helped me build up my profile as an early career researcher as well as my knowledge of investment arbitration. While the MJIEL has had many excellent contributors and editors over the years, its enduring legacy owes a tremendous amount to Asif and his willingness to bring in scholars from around the world at all stages of their careers and to have faith in their abilities.

I am sure that the MJIEL will keep going strongly as one of the leading journals in our thriving field, publishing high quality articles on trade, investment, monetary issues and development as well as embracing new topics like digital trade and other matters that materialize in the coming decades.

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