

# Innovation and Tradition (Editorial to Volume 11, 2017)

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## Editorial to Volume 11

**The IJCV** provides a forum for scientific exchange and public dissemination of up-to-date scientific knowledge on conflict and violence. The IJCV is independent, peer reviewed, open access, and included in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) as well as other relevant databases (e.g., SCOPUS, EBSCO, ProQuest, DNB).

The topics on which we concentrate—conflict and violence—have always been central to various disciplines. Consequently, the journal encompasses contributions from a wide range of disciplines, including criminology, economics, education, ethnology, history, political science, psychology, social anthropology, sociology, the study of religions, and urban studies.

All articles are gathered in yearly volumes, identified by an article number and a DOI with article-wise pagination. For more information please visit [www.ijcv.org](http://www.ijcv.org)

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In its eleventh year, the International Journal of Conflict and Violence (IJCV) is introducing a number of innovations designed to improve communication among authors, readers, editors, and reviewers. At the same time, we will hold on to the core values that have traditionally shaped the journal's mission and continue publishing high-quality research spanning a wide range of topics, disciplines, and methodological approaches.

## **Innovation (Things That Are Changing)**

New colleagues have joined the team of editors, and some of the previous editors have left. The team of editors for the next three years will consist of Gerd Bohner, Bob Crutchfield, Steve Messner, and Andreas Zick. (One or two further editors may be appointed within the coming months.) Andreas Zick, as director of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence (IKG), will be editor-in-chief as long as the journal is hosted and sponsored by the Institute. Editors Gary LaFree and Ekaterina Stepanova retire from the journal with this volume, while Julia Marth, who was the pillar of the editing team for many years, has moved on to new challenges. We would like to thank all three for their valuable work, and wish them well for their future activities.

Unfortunately, during the months preceding these changes, we have not always been able to keep up with processing manuscripts in a timely manner, and several authors have had to wait longer than usual for feedback. We would like to

sincerely apologize for these delays. The current team is working hard to provide shorter response times and to intensify the correspondence with authors where necessary.

Importantly, our publication format is changing to reap the benefits of online publication more fully. Thus, there will be no more "issues" (as with a print journal), but instead each yearly volume will have a general section and one or more guest-edited special sections. In the general section, accepted manuscripts will be published over the course of the year as soon as they are ready; in the special sections, it will be up to the respective guest editors whether articles are published simultaneously or sequentially. All articles will be identified by an article number and a DOI, with article-wise pagination.

Submissions can now be made via e-mail, with manuscripts as attachments. So it will no longer be necessary for authors to sign up with the journal website.

### **Tradition (Things That Will Not Change)**

The journal will continue to be an independent, not-for-profit, fully open access publication. We will not charge any publication fees, so neither readers nor authors will have to pay for the articles published.

Another practice we will keep is the screening of manuscripts and guidance for authors by the editorial assistants. Feedback from the editorial team may be given before a manuscript enters the peer-review process, so that authors may optimize certain aspects of their paper in advance of it being evaluated by peer reviewers.

### **Looking Back at Volume 10 (2016)**

The previous volume of IJCv featured a focus section on *Extremely Violent Societies* that was guest-edited and introduced by Susanne Karstedt (2016). The section builds on the seminal work of Christian Gerlach (2006, 2010), who has proposed a new approach to understanding mass violence in its societal expression within a broader framework of conflict and with a variety of actors. In the first article, Braithwaite and D'Costa (2016) analyzed the conflict in Sri Lanka, whose dynamics they described as a case of "cascades of violence" between crime, war, and state violence. Another world region was in the focus of the article by Wendy Isaacs-Martin (2016). Studying the case of the Central African Republic, she highlighted the role of ethnic and political identities in a conflict that has often been characterized as mainly religiously motivated. Two regions in Latin America with extremely high homicide rates were analyzed in articles by Rodríguez Ferreira (2016) on "violent Mexico," and by Tremaria (2016) on "violent Caracas." The concluding article in the special section (Hernawan 2016) addressed state-led torture in West Papua, which the author conceptualized as "theater" from a Foucauldian perspective. Taken together, these contributions demonstrate the heuristic value of the concept of extremely violent societies and its flexible applicability to violence occurring at various levels and committed by a variety of actors.

The general section of Volume 10 contained three articles. In a survey study with German respondents, Uenal (2016) demonstrated that perceived symbolic threat mediates the link

between ingroup identification and ambiguity intolerance on the one hand, and Islamophobic conspiracy beliefs on the other. Sadowski and Bohner (2016) reported a study on the role of religion in Egyptian citizens' prejudice toward Europeans and Americans; specifically, they showed that religious fundamentalism in particular (as opposed to general religiosity) predicted closed-mindedness and political conservatism which, in turn, were antecedents of higher prejudice. Finally, Kersten and Budowski (2016) used discourse analysis to answer the question of why male victims of crime receive support by the Swiss state less often than do female victims. They demonstrated that gendered construals of "becoming a victim" affect the way in which victim support is organized and result in disadvantages for male victims.

### **The Current Volume 11 (2017)**

The contributions to the previous volume nicely illustrate the breadth of the journal in terms of the topics addressed, methodologies used, and world regions studied. For the present Volume 11, we look forward to publishing a greater number of articles, again on a variety of topics, as indicated by an increasing number of submissions. Apart from articles in the general section, some of which already appear together with this editorial, the volume will feature a focus section, guest-edited by Eddie Hartmann (University of Potsdam), which is entitled "*Bringing social action back into violence research.*" And of course, we welcome manuscripts to be considered for the general section, which may be submitted at any time.

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