

News from the Editors (Editorial to Volume 12, 2018)

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Editorial to Volume 12

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 a DOI with article-wise pagination.

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With Volume 12, the *International Journal of Conflict and Violence* (IJCV) begins its twelfth year of publication. As stated on the homepage, we remain committed to publishing high quality research on the topics of conflict and violence with contributions from the full range of disciplines in the social sciences. We are pleased to report that Sarah Marsden, from Lancaster University (United Kingdom), and Leena Malkki from University of Helsinki (Finland) have now joined the editorial team. In addition, new members have been recruited as Consulting Editors (*see the link for the Editorial Team*) in an effort to enhance our capacity to identify reviewers with expertise spanning a wide range of topics and diverse disciplinary approaches. With our current complement of Editors and Consulting Editors, we will strive to provide timely decisions for contributors to the journal.

Looking Back at Volume 11 (2017)

The previous volume of IJCV featured a focus section titled “Violence – Constructing an Emerging Field of Sociology” that was guest-edited and introduced by Eddie Hartmann. Hartmann (2017) maintains that the primary challenge confronting research on violence is to apply non-reductionist methodological approaches that can be informed by theoretical approaches recognizing violence as a subject of inquiry in its own right. The focus section confronts this challenge by fostering a dialogue of different approaches from multidisciplinary perspectives that study violence as a distinctive phenomenon. In the first article, Pearce (2017) explores the paradoxical ways that violence is “simultaneously absent and present in our everyday understanding of politics and the State.” She discusses how violence has been associated with the Weberian tradition and probes the ways in which violence is subject to social action. Bramsen (2017) investigates the micro-dynamics of the evolution of violence. Based on visual material from uprisings

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in Bahrain, Tunisia, and Syria, along with interview data from these countries, she argues that violence is often reciprocal in nature, manifested as “a form of interaction ritual in its own right – a dance-like sequence ...” The article by Naepels (2017) combines a micro- and macro-perspective in a case study of a murder in New Caledonia. Drawing upon extended ethnographic fieldwork and applying an historical approach in political anthropology, Naepels’ analyses document the importance of attending to the social and historical context, along with interactionist dynamics, to understand the complexity of the case. Collins (2017) also addresses the interplay of the micro- and macro- levels of analysis in the study of violence from a distinctive perspective. He explicates micro-situational violence and examines the complex issues surrounding the ways in which micro-level processes of violence are aggregated to macro-level phenomena. In the final paper in the focus section, Malthaner (2017) examines the ways in which processual approaches to the study of political violence can be enhanced by focusing more closely on the micro-dynamics of violence in face-to-face encounters. Drawing upon his analyses of brief vignettes of violence in political conflicts in Peru, Egypt, and Germany, he argues that his perspective facilitates a richer understanding of unintended outcomes of situational interactions and of meso-level violent processes. We concur with Hartmann that this insightful focus section has succeeded in stimulating a constructive dialogue between different bodies of literature, thereby advancing theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of violence.

The open section of Volume 11 contained eight papers. Four of these papers focus, just as so much of contemporary public discourse does, on aspects of radicalization and terrorism, another conceptually links homicide and suicide and can be interestingly related to these four. The other three open section papers examine aspects of inter-state actions.

From Schils and Verhage (2017), we learn that the explanation for why young people join violent extremist groups is less a product of online recruitment but instead the process begins with some young people’s general discontent with society. As is the case with crime more generally, social dislocation rather than some mysterious new social media reality are the seeds

of radicalization. Alakoc (2017) describes why suicide bombers are more lethal than stationary bombs, because the perpetrators of the former can dramatically increase the damage they inflict by the choices (whom to target, when and where) they make right up until detonation. Hausken (2017) uses game theory models to study the dynamic behavior patterns of terrorists, their benefactors and governments, and demonstrates how variations of a set of parameters can predict how successful government intervention might be. Terrorists at times support their activity with crime, but this potentially is off-putting to benefactors. Using Hausken’s approach may assist government in their efforts to stem attacks. Malik, Shahzad and Kiyani (2017) focus on a specific site of the consequences of terrorism, the workplace. They report that after terrorist events fear affects absenteeism directly as well as indirectly via attitudes about jobs, but these effects can be mitigated if organizational supports are provided to employees. These four articles should impress upon readers the extent to which radical action and terrorism are on a continuum with other violent criminal actions. Those who are combating these problems would do well to recognize this reality. Bills’ (2017) article is not about terrorism; rather, homicide and suicide are considered, not as separate kinds of violent actions, but as two behaviors which are part of the same “aggressive stream,” one focused outwardly, the other inwardly. Although Bills is not discussing terrorism, we should recognize that the conceptualization is potentially useful for thinking about both terroristic and non-terroristic suicide and homicide. Park (2017), using examples of Libya and North Korea, illustrates why in the face of sanctions imposed by the international community a targeted nation either doubles down and persists, towards nuclear weapons development in the case of North Korea, or backs down in its support of terrorism in the case of Libya. The economic and political contexts in which sanctions are levied are important determinants of whether they will bring about the desired results. Peña-Ramos’s (2017) article documents how Russia’s intervention in conflicts in the South Caucasus provided benefits to the geo-energy industry interests in the post-Soviet era. And, Michaels (2017) shows how the seemingly intractable problem of the Israel-Palestinian conflict should not be seen just through a political lens, but that social forces, the

poverty, inequality, youth disenfranchisement, population distribution, leadership issues, have made this conflict to date unresolved. Just as Schils and Verhage (2017) demonstrate that the seeds of radicalization are in social discontent, Michaels sees social dislocation and disadvantage as important problems in the ongoing difficulty of resolving conflicts between Israel and Palestine.

The Current Volume 12 (2018)

A good number of manuscripts are currently under review for the open sections of the current volume (2018), and we anticipate that a healthy stream of papers will appear throughout the year. In addition, manuscripts are being reviewed for a focus section on “Processes of Radicalization and Polarization in the Context of Transnational Islamist Terrorism.” The focus section is guest-edited by Arin Ayanian, Bertjan Doosje, Nils Böckler and Andreas Zick. As stated in the call for papers, the section “aims at publishing papers that focus on relevant empirical research and theoretical perspectives concerning individual and collective processes of radicalization, as well as social dynamics and conflict associated with them.” We encourage scholars conducting research on conflict and violence to keep abreast of the publications appearing in IJCV and to consider submitting their work to the journal.

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