

Editorial

Letter from the editors

The International Journal of Conflict and Violence (IJCV) is a periodical for scientific exchange and public dissemination of the latest academic research on conflict and violence. The subjects on which the IJCV concentrates have always been the focus of interest in many different areas of academic life. Consequently, our journal encompasses contributions from a wide range of disciplines including sociology, political science, education, social psychology, criminology, ethnology, history, political philosophy, urban studies, and the study of religions.

The IJCV is open-access. All the articles are available to anyone on the internet, free of charge and without restriction. This is a response to the developments of recent years, where dissemination of knowledge has undergone rapid change that has led conventional printed media to become an obstacle to communication within (and beyond) the scientific community. A printed journal requires a great deal of time to prepare, thus causing delays, consumes scarce financial and human resources, and restricts access to subscribers only. An open-access web-based electronic publication is the up-to-date response to the need for swift, open, and free dissemination of knowledge as a common good.

This media shift notwithstanding, IJCV will naturally exercise quality control through peer reviews by international experts in the field using the established criteria. Reviewers assess the relevance, contribution to knowledge, methodological adequacy, clarity of presentation, and validity of the conclusions of submitted manuscripts.

The IJCV is published twice a year, in spring and in fall. Each consists of two sections. In order to promote debate on questions that deserve heightened attention, each issue begins with a "Focus on..." section featuring contributions addressing a selected field of topical interest. A second open section of equal significance serves as a platform for general contributions – theoretical and/or empirical – on conflict and violence. Eligibility to this section is not bound by any thematic criteria.

The first issue focuses on the causes and effects of discrimination. While the passing of the European Union racial and gender equality directives raised considerable political interest in Europe, the issue has still not attracted the attention it deserves in scientific debate, even though discrimination is known to have adverse consequences for integration of minorities. Calls for papers for upcoming issues can be found on www.ijcv.org.

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