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# Editorial

## Letter from the editors

For more than two years now the *International Journal of Conflict and Violence* has been publishing the latest findings from the field of research on conflict and violence. The decision to launch an exclusively online journal providing free content to anyone who was interested seemed risky in the beginning. Our concerns have proven unfounded. Our traffic and download statistics show not only that our readership continues to increase steadily over time, but also that one of our main target groups—scientists from less developed countries and regions—can actually be reached, both as readers and authors.

The positive development of the *IJCV* was of course a welcome topic at the Journal's annual Editorial and Advisory Board Meeting this April in Lisbon. We also discussed strengthening the interdisciplinary approach of the Journal and the possibility of holding international multidisciplinary conferences whose scope extends beyond aspects relevant for the Journal, only to stimulate the development of research on conflict and violence in general. We are confident that *IJCV*'s high profile will gain further importance through such initiatives in the future.

The present issue continues our series of guest-edited focus sections. Manuel Eisner and Susanne Karstedt have put together an impressive range of articles on the question "Is a General Theory of Violence Possible?" We are most grateful for the commitment and effort they have put into it.

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Wilhelm Heitmeyer    Douglas S. Massey    Steven F. Messner    James Sidanius    Michel Wieviorka