
Welcome from the Editors

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to announce the release of Volume VIII, Issue 1 (February 2014) of *Perspectives on Terrorism* at www.terrorismanalysts.com. Our free online journal is a joint publication of the *Terrorism Research Initiative* (TRI), headquartered in Vienna, and the *Center for Terrorism and Security Studies* (CTSS), headquartered at the University of Massachusetts' Lowell campus.

Now in its eighth year, *Perspectives on Terrorism* has more than 4,000 regular subscribers and many times more occasional readers worldwide. The *Articles* of its six annual issues are fully peer-reviewed by external referees while its *Research Notes*, *Resource* and *Book Reviews* sections are subject to internal editorial review.

New on the Editorial Board since the beginning of 2014 are Dr. Paul Gill (University College, London) and Dr. John F. Morrison (University of East London). Given the rapidly increasing number of submissions, the Editors are welcoming their expertise and assistance.

The call of the *Terrorism Research Initiative* (the parent organization of our journal) for submissions for the "Best Dissertation on (Counter-) Terrorism published in 2013" has led to a good number of submissions for the award competition. The deadline is 31 March 2014 and academic readers of our journal are encouraged to identify more excellent dissertations completed last year and submit their authors' names to the chairman of the Award Jury at apschmid@terrorismanalysts.com.

The core of this issue of *Perspectives on Terrorism* consists of four articles. The lead article, *Perspectives on Counterterrorism*, is authored by Prof. Ron Crelinsten, whose influential work in this field dates back to the 1970s. A novel perspective based on Systems Analysis is outlined by a Zurich-based team led by Lukas Schoenenberger. This is followed by a critique of terrorism research by Dr. Rebecca Freese, who compares the role of evidence-based empirical research in medicine and terrorism. Finally, Edith Wu and her co-authors demonstrate how social network analysis can assist in forecasting leadership replacement. While the result predicted by the chosen methodology does not coincide with the actual result for Al-Qaeda, the article nevertheless shows the potential strength of this methodology.

Eric Price from our Editorial Team has compiled a long list of non-English academic dissertations for this issue; in many cases these are clickable for downloading the full text. Dr. Judith Tinnes has compiled another lengthy literature list on terrorism research; it belies the notion that terrorism research is stagnating. Dr. Philipp Holtmann provides us with a primer on the Shia- Sunni split that polarizes the Muslim world, and Dr. Ely Karmon offers an assessment of Boko Haram's international dimension. Our book reviews editor, Dr. Joshua Sinai, presents new publications in the field.

The current issue of *Perspectives on Terrorism* was prepared on the European side of the Atlantic, while the April issue will be assembled by Prof. James J. F. Forest, the American co-editor at the Centre for Terrorism and Security Studies (CTSS) at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. Please note: the CTSS will be co-sponsoring the 8th Annual International Conference of the Society for Terrorism Research, which will be held in Boston, Massachusetts on 17-19 September. The theme of the conference is "Communication and Collaboration for Counterterrorism." For details and the Call for Papers, see: <http://www.uml.edu/Research/CTSS/STR-Conference>.

Sincerely,

Prof. em. Alex P. Schmid, Editor-in-Chief *Perspectives on Terrorism*