
Words of Welcome from the Editors

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to announce the release of Volume XIV, Issue 1 (February 2020) of *Perspectives on Terrorism* (PoT – ISSN 2334-3745). Our free and independent online journal is a publication of the Terrorism Research Initiative (TRI), Vienna, and the Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA) of Leiden University's Campus in The Hague. All PoT issues are available at <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/perspectives-on-terrorism> and indexed by JSTOR, SCOPUS, and GoogleScholar.

Now in its fourteenth year, *Perspectives on Terrorism* has nearly 8,900 registered subscribers and many more occasional readers and website visitors worldwide. The Articles of its six annual issues are fully peer-reviewed by external referees while its Research and Policy Notes, Special Correspondence, Resources and other content are subject to internal editorial quality control.

Here is a brief look at the contents of the current issue. The first research article, by Joseph Franco, draws lessons from the 2017 Battle for Marawi in the Philippines that can help identify alternative measures to detect sources of violent extremism, such as the responsiveness of local governments, poverty levels, and the effectiveness of educational institutions. Next, Abhinav Pandya examines how Kashmir is becoming increasingly vulnerable to the influence and operations of transnational terrorist groups. Both articles are based on in-depth field research.

The Articles section is followed by four Research Notes. In the first of these, Michael Fürstenberg and Carolin Görzig apply a conceptual framework of organizational learning to explain the strategic evolution of jihadist groups, particularly Al-Qaeda and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham. Next, Linda Wendelberg examines whether the psychological condition known as Existential Anxiety could be a risk factor in radicalization processes. Neil Bowie follows with a Research Note describing 30 new databases on terrorism. And this section concludes with a Research Note by Meili Criezis, examining the ways in which Islamic State supporters on Telegram, an encrypted messaging application, renegotiate gender boundaries.

The Resource section begins with a book review by Alex Schmid of the recently published *Handbook of Terrorism and Counter Terrorism Post 9/11*. Then Joshua Sinai presents more than 60 books by listing their tables of contents, while Associate Editor Judith Tinnes continues her series of extensive hand-searched bibliographies with one on deradicalisation research, and another on terrorism and Iran. These are followed by Associate Editor Berto Jongman's regular survey of new web-based resources on terrorism and related subjects. Brody McDonald (who has taken over the journal's theses surveys from Ryan Scrivens) provides a list of M.A. and Ph.D. theses on terrorism, violent extremism and nationalism, followed by an overview of recent and upcoming conferences, symposia and workshops on terrorism-related subjects by Olivia Kearney (who temporarily took over the work of Reinier Bergema for this section).

Finally, the February issue concludes with an announcement about the annual TRI Thesis Award for the Best Doctoral Dissertation on Terrorism and/or Counter-Terrorism, and a separate Words of Appreciation to all the peer reviewers, Editorial Board members and Editorial Team of *Perspectives on Terrorism* for another successful year as evidenced by its place among the top three journals in the field:

Comparison of Peer Reviewed Journals in Terrorism Studies (Google Scholar Feb. 14, 2020)

| Publication | <i>h5-index</i> | <i>h5-median</i> |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Studies in Conflict and Terrorism</i> | 32 | 51 |
| <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i> | 31 | 48 |
| <i>Perspectives on Terrorism</i> | 26 | 52 |

The current issue of *Perspectives on Terrorism* has been put together by Co-Editor James Forest and Editor-in-Chief, Alex P. Schmid, with the support of Associate Editor for IT Christine Boelema Robertus, and with the help of Editorial Assistant Jodi Moore. The next issue of the journal is tentatively scheduled as a Special Issue on terrorism in the North Caucasus region, guest edited by Julie Wilhelmsen from the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.