

## **Foreword From Academic Sponsor**

It is my pleasure to introduce the fourth volume of the *Contemporary Challenges* journal and I want to use the opportunity to congratulate the Board of Editors for another excellent and thought-provoking issue. Having arisen as a project led by students on the MSc in Global Crime, Justice and Security program at the University of Edinburgh, the journal has – owing to the intellectual efforts of the previous and current editors – become a consistent and inspiring source of knowledge and ideas in this domain. Articles that appear in the current volume are a good example of the variety of topics and approaches that present contemporary global challenges but are also a good reminder of the constantly changing and evolving forms of crime and insecurity. This is what is both exciting and unsettling in the study of global crime: as soon as we start researching a topic or problem, it begins to change, by assuming new forms and creating new problems. Articles in this volume all exemplify these challenges, and develop fresh perspectives to deal with them. These include: (1) providing a new intellectual lens through which to observe a global problem (for example, using zemiology to understand the harms inflicted on Uyghur community; understanding domestic violence as a human rights concern; using game theory to interpret motivations behind a specific nuclear policy), (2) developing new theoretical tools to better grasp the dimensions of the problem (for example, developing a new definition of femicide; expanding judicial ability to acknowledge non-traditional narratives of victimhood); (3) acknowledging the role of new or previously unidentified (f)actors of global crime (for example, the role of social media in propagating atrocity crimes; the role of nurses in perpetrating atrocities; the role of supranational actors in ending an armed conflict). Most of the articles, however, straddle across and contribute to more than one of these perspectives which adds to their value and inquisitiveness. The current volume of *Contemporary Challenges* is a thoroughly rewarding read – I hope the readers will enjoy it as much as I did.

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