

Foreword from Academic Sponsor

It is a somewhat sad destiny of disciplines that study social problems that their success and development are to some extent related to the breadth and seriousness of social issues that exist in the society. 'Contemporary Challenges' is a good example of this: every new volume offers a glimpse into how much worse the world has become in just one year. Had a reader of the last year's volume went to a year-long sleep and woken up just in time to read this year's volume, they would probably stand in awe and horror of the challenges that we face today, many of which are discussed in this eloquent, imaginative and carefully curated issue.

And although the current times are often filled with hopelessness and desperation – because we, the citizens of the world, feel that we can and should do more, but we do not know how – the academic contributions to this volume are replete with ideas, suggestions and directions that may guide us (or at least guide our thinking) in the right direction. In each of the articles, the authors examine either a new phenomenon or an old event that was never properly recognized for what it was: the similarity between (most) articles is that they all indicate the increasing oppression, exclusion, control and rejection in the world. The topics include: the legitimacy of the new forms of killing (through the use of drones), the ability of zemiology to address the denial of harm, the need to acknowledge unrecognized forms of genocide, ways of tackling cyberwarfare, understanding how trust is established in the working of illicit markets, using a psychological lens to understand the success of surveillance, proposing the infusion of 'Southern' into 'Northern' criminology, examining proposed changes to the asylum system through a Foucauldian lens, arming robots to defend wounded persons, reducing the distance between 'Northern' and 'Southern' criminology, and – finally – examining judicial responses to crimes perpetrated by persons affiliated with the Islamic State.

This is an impressive, wide and multidisciplinary volume from which a reader can learn a great deal. It presents a successful culmination of the impressive work that journal editors, Ayma, Angel and Miles have done during the last academic year in compiling the issue, and the careful and engaged reviews provided by the article editors. Their joint commitment to this issue is an example of professionalism, collaboration and imagination.

Milena Tripkovic

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Tripkovic', written in a cursive style.

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