

Acknowledgement from Editor-in-Chief and Deputy-Editors-in-Chief

We are honoured to introduce Volume 5 of *Contemporary Challenges Journal*. The collective contributions in this issue explore diverse legal and criminological topics, with a common theme of examining how global and local contexts influence legal frameworks and practices.

Two articles focus on the limitations of dominant theories and systems, emphasizing the need for more inclusive approaches. They critique the dominance of Northern criminological theories and argue for the importance of Southern criminology, which brings local contexts into global discourse. Other articles address the intersection of law, technology, and warfare. One explores the use of social capital and reputation in illicit online markets, while another examines U.S. drone policy, questioning its adherence to international humanitarian law. The effectiveness of surveillance technology in crime prevention is also analyzed through psychological theories. Additionally, an analysis of the 2023 Common European Asylum System reform employs a Foucauldian lens, critiquing the securitization of migration. Lastly, discussions of prosecutorial strategies, cyber warfare, and the use of armed robots in conflict zones demonstrate how legal systems are adapting to modern challenges, from terrorism to technological advancements.

Many thanks are owed. The contributors to Volume 5 reflect a diverse and global cohort, with expertise spanning various areas of law, criminology, and social justice. As is tradition, many authors are University of Edinburgh students, but we are grateful for the participation of academics from around the world. Each article is penned by an author(s) deeply engaged with the subject matter they explore, and we are especially grateful for their enthusiasm and dedication, as most readily agreed to contribute despite the tight

deadlines. Their willingness to engage with the editorial process, including multiple rounds of revisions to ensure clarity and coherence, demonstrates their commitment to fostering thoughtful discourse. We hope their thoughtful contributions will leave readers with much to ponder and look forward to your future participation as an author, reviewer, or commentator.

We sincerely appreciate our article editors, all of whom are master's students at the University of Edinburgh Law School, for their close attention and valuable suggestions for revisions. Despite the demands of pursuing their degrees, they expertly balanced their academic commitments with the responsibility of peer-reviewing articles and ensuring objectivity throughout the process. As you move through these pages, please know that this volume is a product of their teamwork, attentiveness, and intellect.

CCJ's vision, to allow postgraduate students at Edinburgh Law School to publish legal research, would be unattainable were it not for the generosity of our sponsors. We would like to acknowledge the enthusiastic mentorship of Dr Milena Tripkovic and Dr Andy Aydin-Aitchison throughout this journey. Whenever we needed advice or direction on editorial decisions, their insight was always there to guide us. Warm thanks are due to Rebecca Wojturska as well, for her tireless efforts in maintaining the CCJ website and workflow which made the editorial process much smoother. We are also grateful to the Edinburgh Law School Postgraduate Office team for their assistance in allowing us to book teaching rooms and accommodate our large team for our meetings.

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