

Foreword by Editorial Board

It is with great pleasure that we present the sixth volume of *Contemporary Challenges*. Established in 2020 within the University of Edinburgh School of Law, the journal remains rooted in the ethos of student-led scholarship, critical inquiry, and collaborative knowledge production. Each year, a new editorial board steps forward, learning from their predecessors, issuing calls for submissions, overseeing rigorous peer review, and crafting a publication that reflects both scholarly integrity and intellectual curiosity.

From its inception, the journal has aimed to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue on issues at the intersection of global crime, justice, and security. Our contributors represent a range of backgrounds, academic disciplines, and lived experiences, enriching the journal's scope and ensuring that its focus extends beyond disciplinary boundaries. This commitment to a transnational and comparative lens reflects not only the global nature of the subject matter, but also the international identity of the postgraduate community at the University of Edinburgh.

As part of the Edinburgh Law School community, one known for its longstanding commitment to critical, globally engaged legal education, the journal continues to grow in both reach and depth. This year marks a notable milestone, with a significant rise in both submissions and accepted manuscripts. *Contemporary Challenges* has also gained increased visibility through indexing on key academic platforms, demonstrating the journal's maturation and sustained engagement among students, reviewers, faculty supporters, and readers.

Across the submissions received for this volume, several themes emerged that mirror the complex realities shaping our contemporary world. The articles explore urgent questions relating to state power and accountability, border and migration governance, cybercrime and emerging technologies, environmental insecurity, armed conflict, and the enduring struggle for justice in systems marked by inequality. Together, these contributions reflect a shared concern: how to respond to evolving forms of harm in a world defined by interdependence, uncertainty, and rapid change.

Looking forward, each new edition presents an opportunity not only to continue the journal's work, but to reaffirm our purpose. As global legal and security landscapes shift at pace, we remain committed to amplifying postgraduate scholarship that interrogates, critiques, and reframes the systems and assumptions that shape responses to crime, justice, and security.

Contemporary Challenges endures as more than a publication, it is a collective effort, a learning journey, and a reminder that scholarship carries both responsibility and hope. Behind each contribution lies the conviction that research can illuminate injustice, inspire dialogue, and contribute to change, however incremental. We hope that as readers, you feel challenged, encouraged, and perhaps even moved to imagine what a more just and secure world might require of all of us.

Thank you.

On behalf of the Editorial Board,

Hevenly Padron, Editor-in-Chief

Sanjana Srivastava, Deputy Editor-in-Chief

Sofia Negri Nunes de Abreu, Deputy Editor-in-Chief

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