
Editor's Note

Armed conflicts between Armenia and Azerbaijan between 2020 and 2023 over Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Artsakh, are tragic examples of a long-running ethnic and geo-political dispute that became a flashpoint for war after the Soviet Union collapsed. The conflict is frequently contextualized from a historical perspective among other protracted territorial conflicts that have re-escalated into war in former Soviet Republics in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, including in Georgia, Chechnya, the annexation of Crimea by Russia, and the 2022 invasion of Ukraine by Russia and its attempt to set up a separatist-backed state in the Donbas region.

In 2023, the *Journal of International Media & Entertainment Law* organized a global symposium conference entitled *In the Shadow of Territorial Conflict: Legacies of Soviet-Era Media Control and Speech Norms*. The symposium's Call for Papers sought scholars proposing to examine the role of media institutions, government censorship, and social media speech norms in areas scarred by post-Soviet-era disputes over land and ethnicity. Is there a shared legacy of Soviet-era media control and speech censorship that informs speech norms and media practices in the region today? The research papers that were accepted to this symposium, which form the basis for the articles in this and the next two issues, set out to address this question.

Leading off this issue is "Censorship as a Tool Against State Disinformation: the Freedom of Expression Implications of the Russian-Ukrainian War," by Dr. András Koltay. Dr. Koltay is a professor of law at both the University of Public Service and Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Budapest, Hungary. Dr. Koltay argues with nuance that the European Union's ban on Russian media may lead to unintended impacts and consequences in the debate over the Ukraine war. Dr. Koltay currently serves as the president of the National Media and Infocommunications Authority in Hungary.

Dr. Andrei Richter, Professor Researcher at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, was the keynote speaker at the *In the Shadow of Territorial Conflict* conference. His symposium article, "International Legal Responses to Propaganda for War in the Modern Warfare," analyzes evolving understandings of what constitutes "propaganda for war" in the digital era, with an eye on the Ukraine War and other post-Soviet armed conflicts, as well as military attacks by radicals in the Middle East. From 2016-2022, Dr. Richter served as Senior Media Advisor at the Organization

for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna. His keynote address is being revised as an essay for a subsequent issue.

Rounding out this issue is “An Exploratory Comparative Study on Misinformation and Disinformation in Visegrad Countries and Beyond,” by Dr. Andrej Škol kay. Dr. Škol kay is Research Director of the School of Communication and Media in Bratislava, Slovakia. Dr. Škol kay offers a qualitative analysis of keywords in mainstream newspaper databases and diplomats’ social media pages related to regional conflicts involving the Russian state.

My thanks to our faculty peer reviewers, and to our hard-working student editors, led this year by Adam Arnold. As always, the *Journal* welcomes feedback from its readers.

Michael M. Epstein
Supervising Editor