

## **From the Editor-in-Chief**

It is my honour and pleasure to introduce the first issue of this new journal. The aim of the journal is to bring together specialists on various social studies such as philosophy, law, psychology, international relations and potentially also other social sciences whose interests go beyond one geographic region. Although Estonia is a European country and member of the European Union and other European institutions, it is one of the easternmost members of these bodies. Therefore it is only essential that in our country we study not only Estonian and European but also global issues, including East-West relations and problems. East-West relations transcend European boundaries and in today's globalising world where new centres of power, such as China, India, Russia, Brazil (the so-called BRIC countries) are emerging it is only natural that we intend to cover a wide range of issues and publish authors from different countries and continents. Although great English poet Rudyard Kipling wrote about the East and the West that 'never the Twain shall meet, Till Earth and Sky stand presently at God's great Judgement Seat' we see that today not only are they meeting; some quite influential politicians and academics predict a forthcoming clash between them. To avoid such a clash and promote cooperation it is necessary to understand and work together. The journal intends to contribute to better understanding of problems facing all peoples in our inter-dependent world.

The first issue is slightly more Eurocentric offering several articles dealing with problems of European integration, particularly from the Estonian point of view, though articles by Professor Rein Müllerson, PhD Indrek Grauberg and PhD Tanel Kalmet analyse problems that far cross European boundaries. The editors are eager to consider articles for publication from Estonia and abroad.

Rein Müllerson