

## Editorial

From 2021 we have finally added the “online first” feature in STSS. We are still trying to figure out a few things, but the good news is that authors whose articles are accepted will not need to wait several months to share the online version of their article (which will then be published in the next available issue). Thanks to this feature, we have been able to work with several authors who are now featured in this June 2021 issue offering unique perspectives on regions of the world that have often been overlooked.

The issue starts with an article in which Rune Steenberg (2021) discusses the relationship between legal, moral and legitimate. The article complements debates that have recently emerged about the role of the state and forms of welfare (Polese, Morris & Kovacs, 2016; Steenberg, 2016) by suggesting that practices labelled as “corrupt” by international organisations seem much too diverse to meaningfully be covered by the same term. As a result, his article argues that condemning discourses on corruption are often used by the powerful both nationally and internationally to dominate colonised and marginalised groups. As a consequence, anti-corruption and the anti-corruption industry (Sampson, 2013) become a weapon of the strong against the weak, aligning with a long history of colonial tradition of domination and vilification of those “yet-to-be-civilised.” He then proposes to avoid conflating a legal state-notion of corruption with a moral one, thus accepting as default the perspective of the dominant groups running states and organisations.

The next article by Hasić, Karabegović and Turković (2021) explores the relationship between victim-oriented advocacy roles taken by the NGO Mothers of Srebrenica and the resulting formulation of a ‘culture of remembrance’ as an unofficial part of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s cultural and public diplomacy portfolio. After surveying the Mothers’ advocacy work in promoting genocide remembrance and fighting genocide denial within the country’s foreign policy agency framework, they trace three types of advocacy engagement to engage with scholarship on the influence of non-state actors in public diplomacy by examining the role of advocacy organizations on local, regional, and global levels.

The following study by Oliver Scanlan (2021) investigates the implications of donor agencies pursuing contradictory approaches in the same locale. Looking for answers to the question of why and how donors sometimes collide, his paper suggests a set of consequences for general development theory and development in practice: a) more work is required on inter-donor conflict as a cause of development failure; b) the future of development is likely to continue being dominated by old questions of politics, participation and institutions, and c) blanket endorsement of “national partnership,” particularly in more authoritarian contexts, is likely to result in significant human and environmental costs.

The last article by Azad Namaki, Mohammad Fazeli and Yaghoub Ahmadi (2021) suggests that disparate human development levels in Iranian provinces, as a result of the concentration of resources and wealth in some regions, are contributing to the diverse levels of emerging democratic values and attitudes across the country and among provinces, which in turn has driven the country to a cultural heterogeneity in terms of these new values. Furthermore, the inconsistent case of Kurds indicates that there is still room for the cultural heritages of small worlds to impose their forces on national political culture structure.

Two book reviews conclude this issue of STSS. The first one by Gian Marco Moisé (2021) is about a form of informality that has been emerging lately in informality debates. Drifting away from the economic and more recent social science definition of informality, the book *The Origins of Informality: Why the Legal Foundations of Global Governance are Shifting, and Why It Matters* sets the basis for a more comprehensive understanding of the informality present in political negotiations and international organisations, yet surprisingly absent from IR debates for many years. The second review by Katarina Kušić explores the contested territory of the recent former Yugoslavian wars and, in particular, intervention and transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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