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Contents

Section of Law

1. Administration of Electronic Evidence in Criminal Proceedings: Regulatory Framework in Albania – Giola Cami
2. Revisiting the Consumer Laws in the Epoch of Influencer Marketing – A Way Forward? – Sujatha Samaradiwakara
3. Churches and their Status within National Borders in Central Europe – Károly Vigh

Section of Business, Economics and Management

4. Accounting for Cryptocurrencies – Diloobar Mirsadikova
5. The Crucial Role of Mental Health at Work: A Cornerstone for Employee Wellbeing and Business Effectiveness – Kawtar Hibaoui
6. Marketing Performance Management in Public Sector Organizations – Case Study: Republic of North Macedonia - Balanced Scorecard Approach – Fiona Jusufi

Section of International Relations

7. The Quiet Ascent: China's Growing Influence in the Arctic – Arta Haxhixhemajli
8. The EU's Security and Conflict Resolution Policy Towards the South Caucasus – Museyib Shiraliyev
9. Rethinking the Concept of Extended Deterrence and the Risk of Provocation in Contemporary International Politics – Unwaetor Joyce Samuel

Section of Peace and Conflict Studies

10. Cyberwarfare and Cyber Resilience: An Analysis of Advantages, and Disadvantages of Employing Cyberwars for the States and the Value of Preventative Measures Against These Attacks – Yasin Tokat

11. Rethinking the Responsibility to Protect: Libya as a Case Study – Amani Rawand Ben Brahim

12. Sino-Indian Comparative Response to the Rohingya Crisis – Shahadat Hossain

13. The Impact of the Voting Behavior of the Permanent Members of the Security Council on the East African Region Since 2011 – Hadeer Hassan Dawoud

Section of Humanitarian and Social Sciences

14. Analyzing Russian Disinformation Produced During the War in Ukraine Using Ibn Khaldun's Epistemic Theories – Otari Gulbani

15. An Analysis of the European Union's Methods of Combating Radicalism – Yaren Varol

16. "Social Media - Friend or Foe" An Exploration of Teaching Media Literacy in Kazakhstan – Aigul Yeleussiz

17. Personality Traits and Perceived Parenting Styles, the Concept of "Faking Good" in Men Aged 18 to 35 – Antonia-Maria Tsiami

18. The Changing Identity of Gypsies - Identity Patterns in Three Generations of Olah Gypsy Women – Fanni Maszlag

Section of Medicine

19. Management of Acute and Chronic Oral Mucosal Mechanical Trauma – Mariam Gogiberidze

Section of Law

Administration of Electronic Evidence in Criminal Proceedings: Regulatory Framework in Albania

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With the development of Communication and Information Technology, the relativity of electronic evidence in criminal proceedings has increased. This presents the need to equip current legislation with accurate legal provisions concerning the identification, acquisition, preservation, examination, and analysis of data stored in electronic devices. Understanding the current regulatory framework and practices in criminal proceedings is a prerequisite for identifying and improving issues related to the obtaining, seizure, analysis, and presentation of digital evidence.

This paper provides an analysis of electronic evidence management legislation under the Budapest Convention and its Annexes, typologies, and principles. It also identifies current challenges in criminal proceedings related to digital evidence.

By conducting an in-depth legal analysis of the Convention, its Annexes, data management provisions in the Criminal Procedural Code of the Republic of Albania, current literature, institutional capacities, and procedural means, this paper addresses the nature of challenges and explains how the existing gaps in the legal framework condition the effective implementation.

Keywords: electronic evidence, legislation, challenges, data management

Revisiting the Consumer Laws in the Epoch of Influencer Marketing – A Way Forward?

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With the advent of numerous platforms of social media, influencer marketing has become a major advertising strategy among companies, and customers tend to purchase goods based on the faith and trust they have built towards the influencers. Social media influencers have become an iconic part of promoting, boosting, and raising awareness for numerous brands, regardless of their quality. The influence of social media content creators can be seen in two ways: influencers as advertisers and influencers as sellers or traders.

The research paper aims to analyze who qualifies as an influencer, what constitutes influencer marketing, the relevance and implications of influencer marketing in consumer affairs, and the extent to which the existing legal regime protects and upholds the rights of customers in influencer-customer relationships. To achieve this, the author employs a qualitative methodology, utilizing scholarly articles and existing statutory frameworks to understand the concept of influencer marketing and the legal implications surrounding it. The paper recommends several suggestions for reforming the existing law, engaging in a comparative study of regulations in India and the USA.

The paper concludes that an exhaustive legal framework to govern and regulate the legal implications arising from the influencer-customer relationship should be introduced before a rise of litigation connected and incidental thereto is experienced.

Keywords: advertisement, consumer, influencer, social media, trader

Churches and their Status within National Borders in Central Europe

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In terms of the relationship between the state and the church, various models can be observed in European countries, including the state church model of cooperation and separation, radical separation, or the related model. However, these categorizations are not exclusive.

According to Protocol No 11 annexed to the Treaty of Amsterdam, the European Union states that the relationship between churches and the state is and will remain an internal affair of each country, regulated and governed at the national level (Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Part One – Principles, Title II – Provisions Having General Application, Article 17). Simultaneously, decision-makers in individual countries of the

Union, while upholding the equality of religious organizations, differentiate based on their societal influence and public benefit activities.

The aim of the research is to examine these issues, including the development of the relationship between churches and the investigated EU member states, the legal status of churches, and their legal organization in Austria, Hungary, Poland, and Romania.

To achieve this, methods, such as, concept and text analysis, legal history, and comparative analysis are used. The primary source of the research is the electronically accessible databases of European Union legal sources, particularly the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union and communications from the institutions, as well as national regulations of the countries under study. A direct source is the mapping of the literature in libraries with the possibility of accessing the electronic library databases.

The findings of the research reveal that state recognition of churches, within the studied states, is primarily based on political grounds. The status of a church as a public law entity recognized by a separate law, enacted by the Parliament, represents a political decision expressing a social consensus in the legislation of democratically based EU Member States. Moreover, it has been observed that the status of churches varies among the examined EU Member States. In terms of EU policies, it is indeed appropriate to involve churches in European integration; however, a dialogue on this matter has only recently begun.

Keywords: state, church, recognition, system of conditions, legal status, Hungary, Poland, Austria, Romania

Section of Business, Economics and Management

Accounting for Cryptocurrencies

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The topic of cryptocurrencies has been featured in news feeds, magazine covers, business newspapers, financial internet portals, and periodicals consistently for several years. Currently, the most prominent cryptocurrency is Bitcoin. However, when attempting to discuss Bitcoin, the common response from many is, "I've heard about them, but I'm not entirely sure what they are, how they work, and how to engage with them." Despite its popularity,

cryptocurrencies have received limited attention in legislative and regulatory acts. Instructions from the Accounting Service (RTJ) lack information on where to place cryptographic assets on the balance sheet and how to account for them. Additionally, the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) has only provided recommendations on how to reflect cryptocurrencies in accounting. In 2014, a search for "Bitcoin" on the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) website yielded no results. Although cryptocurrencies are gaining popularity as a means of exchanging assets, specific accounting guidelines are yet to be established (Raiborn & Sivitanides, 2015, 25).

The invention and utilization of cryptocurrencies by companies have influenced accounting practices. Firstly, the presence of cryptocurrencies on a company's balance sheet affects how accounting transactions should be recorded and verified, particularly by auditors. Secondly, when companies incorporate cryptocurrencies into their daily activities, they need to determine the accounting principles for such assets and present comprehensive financial data in their statements. Similar to other emerging developments, accounting standard developers are lagging behind in providing accounting guidance.

Approach: This article adopts a structural approach, defining the characteristics of blockchain technology in accounting practice.

Structure: The article begins with a theoretical exploration of blockchain technology's principles of operation, as well as the market and functioning of cryptographic assets. The practical section examines which balance sheet items can include cryptographic assets and suggests preferred accounting methods based on the company's activities. The paper also covers information on the taxation of cryptocurrency transactions, obtaining licenses, and reporting obligations to anti-money laundering authorities. Insights from experts experienced in accounting and auditing cryptographic assets are incorporated through interviews, providing guidance on important questions to ask potential clients seeking an accountant, as well as methods for reflecting and revaluing cryptographic assets.

Keywords: audit, system security, blockchain, accounting, data leakage risk minimization, cost reduction

The Crucial Role of Mental Health at Work: A Cornerstone for Employee Wellbeing and Business Effectiveness

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The contemporary crisis and challenges have significantly disrupted work culture and the business atmosphere. This disruption has brought about a range of far-reaching consequences, impacting not only companies' growth and performance but also the mental health of employees. Anxiety, stress, and other negative emotions are among the most serious repercussions resulting from economic, health, and political crises. Workers are facing significant stressors and a wide range of "crisis-related" mental disorders, which can profoundly and seriously affect their overall well-being. Conversely, poor mental health can lead to severe consequences for the organization, not just in terms of productivity and performance, but also in terms of sustainability and overall business effectiveness.

In this destabilizing context, organizations must recognize the importance of employees and prioritize their overall well-being and welfare in all actions and decisions in order to ensure a long-term positive work environment, success, and effectiveness in today's fast-changing business world. "Employees' Mental Health" needs to be firmly embedded in the company's managerial culture and approach.

This literature review discusses the significance of mental health and emphasizes why human resources managers and firm leaders must adapt their managerial style and prioritize practices that support and enhance employee mental health. The paper summarizes various studies conducted by different researchers, highlighting the dual impact of mental health on both employee well-being and company business effectiveness. Based on these research findings, the crucial role of good mental health in achieving performance goals is identified, and suggestions are provided for creating a mentally healthy work environment that fosters happy and productive workers, ultimately contributing to the success and effectiveness of the company.

Keywords: mental health, wellbeing, employee, business, crisis, effectiveness

Marketing Performance Management in Public Sector Organizations – Case Study: Republic of North Macedonia - Balanced Scorecard Approach

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The aim of the paper is to analyze the role of performance measurement in strategic marketing management in public sector organizations and establish a system for measuring and evaluating

performance in these organizations through the application of the Balanced Scorecard model. The elements of this system will be developed in detail through the analysis of a case study of a specific organization from the public sector in the Republic of North Macedonia.

Rapid changes in the environment and globalization have necessitated the introduction of modern approaches and models for measuring organizational performance that encompass both tangible (financial) and intangible (non-financial) metrics and variables. Non-financial metrics are particularly important when measuring organizational performance in the public sector, specifically in marketing.

The interdependence between financial and non-financial measurements when evaluating organizations' marketing performance is a subject of ongoing scientific research. Expressing organizational marketing development as a sum of individual contributions and variables is impossible due to the complexity of this category, which depends on numerous variables within the comprehensive model of organizational performance management.

The Balanced Scorecard model, as a performance management system, can serve as a central framework for organizing key management processes and providing organizations with a holistic performance management methodology that includes both financial and non-financial measurements. This is especially important for public sector organizations, as their key performance indicators (KPIs) vary significantly compared to business organizations.

Considering the fundamental differences between performance management in the public and private sectors, this paper examines innovative best practices in implementing the Balanced Scorecard model in the public sector. It focuses on structural adjustments to the public sector model rather than organizational change management practices.

Methodologically, in addition to theoretical elaboration, a blended approach will be implemented, primarily based on qualitative research methods such as case study analysis, benchmarking techniques, and the identification of best practices. Benchmarking techniques will be used for comparative analysis of the application of the Balanced Scorecard model in public and private sector organizations. The best practices technique will establish approaches that provide an empirical basis for identifying best practices in public sector organizations when applying the Balanced Scorecard model. Finally, the paper will present research conclusions and recommendations.

Keywords: strategic marketing performance, public sector, Balanced Scorecard

Section of International Relations

The Quiet Ascent: China's Growing Influence in the Arctic

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Considering China's growing presence in other parts of the world, the Arctic remains a matter of time before China leverages its influence in this region. Hence, China has expressed its interest in formulating a policy and outlining its position on the Arctic. For China, the Arctic represents economic and territorial opportunities as it seeks to play a significant role in the region. As a result, on January 26, 2018, China issued a White Paper stating its intention to develop and establish a Polar Silk Road in the Arctic. Furthermore, the White Paper explains China's aims and goals in expanding its Arctic role. Despite lacking territorial sovereignty in the region, China contemplates collaborating and aligning its interests with the Arctic states while minimizing its footprint. The Polar Silk Road aims to strike a balance between the protection and utilization of the Arctic, offering both social and economic potential while addressing environmental challenges. The report delves into questions such as why China seeks to establish a presence in the Arctic, the rationale and goals outlined in the White Paper, and the involvement of Arctic countries.

Keywords: China, Arctic, Polar Silk Road, White Paper, Russia, Arctic states

The EU's Security and Conflict Resolution Policy Towards the South Caucasus

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The Eastern Partnership (EaP) project stands as a prime example of the multilayered cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. When examining the implications of the EU's security policy in the South Caucasus, where Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia constitute a subgroup, this project holds particular relevance. The focus of this paper lies on this region, which carries immense geopolitical, trade, and energy significance. However, it is essential to consider the existing regional conflicts and relationships among the three countries and other regional actors when assessing the potential for EU security presence in the region. The South Caucasus is also significantly influenced by neighboring regional actors such as Iran, Russia, and Turkey. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the EU's role as a security actor in the region, one must take

into account the broader view of regional security issues, including the region's historical and present context. Despite the countries in the region desiring increased engagement with the EU, there exists a disconnect between the Union's security policy and the expectations of the South Caucasian states, leading to an inefficient security situation. Unless all actors undergo a shift in their foreign policy thinking, the capacity of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia to transition from neorealist behavior to positive peace, as advocated by the Union, will remain fictional. Otherwise, the security cacophony in and around the South Caucasus will persist.

Keywords: European Union, Eastern Partnership (EaP), South Caucasus, security

Rethinking the Concept of Extended Deterrence and the Risk of Provocation in Contemporary International Politics

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The concept of 'extended deterrence' continues to shape international relations and influence the risk of provocation in contemporary global politics. It has consistently served as a tool to discourage hostile behavior from nations, employing military and defensive capabilities to deter retaliatory attacks. However, as international relations evolve, there is a growing debate regarding the effectiveness of extended deterrence in the dynamic geopolitical landscape and how it can be reconfigured to benefit states and prevent further escalations of conflict. This research paper aims to analyze the prominent theories surrounding extended deterrence in current global politics, providing an assessment of its advantages and vulnerabilities from various perspectives. Additionally, this paper will explore potential revisions to the concept for modern times, proposing adjustments to key strategies that can enable a more adaptable approach tailored to specific risks, considering the unique nuances and complexities present in current conflict scenarios. Lastly, the paper will offer insights on the potential impact of such reassessment on the prevention of provocations between states in terms of arms races and diplomatic affairs. The research aims to contribute to both theoretical and practical debates by enhancing our understanding of the most effective principles of extended deterrence in today's context.

Keywords: extended deterrence, contemporary international politics, risk, provocation, arms race, conflict

Section of Peace and Conflict Studies

Cyberwarfare and Cyber Resilience: An Analysis of Advantages, and Disadvantages of Employing Cyberwars for the States and the Value of Preventative Measures Against These Attacks

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The twenty-first century has witnessed tremendous development in internet and computer technologies, leading to the construction of a global network consisting of billions of interconnected devices. This network connects not only personal gadgets but also devices belonging to government offices, military stations, power plants, electrical grids, hospitals, and other critical organizations and infrastructure. The technologies and processes facilitated by them have become indispensable for nations to thrive and expand. However, their growing significance also amplifies vulnerability to cyberattacks by both state and non-state actors. Therefore, safeguarding these systems is paramount to ensure sustained growth and prosperity.

During periods of conflict between offensive states, cyber operations may be utilized as a tool of aggression against one another. Cyber warfare has the potential to inflict substantial economic and psychological harm without causing the loss of human lives, reducing the risk of a conventional military confrontation. A competitive edge can also be gained by using a hybrid strategy that combines traditional combat and cyber warfare, leveraging modern information technology tools. Nevertheless, digital technology can also be covertly used for political purposes, such as spreading fake news, misinformation, cyberbullying, and other forms of digital abuse.

The primary aim of this study is to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the advantages and disadvantages associated with the implementation of cyber warfare strategies against other nations. Additionally, the research intends to identify mechanisms through which states can fortify their cyber resilience in the face of escalating cyber threats. The study will employ a range of case studies and descriptive-analytical techniques to examine cyber operations as a viable alternative to conventional military conflicts. Furthermore, the study seeks to identify potential preventive measures that can be implemented through collaborative efforts at the international level. The research attempts to contribute to the existing body of literature by bridging some of the existing knowledge gaps in the subject.

Keywords: internet and computer technology, cyberwarfare tactics, hybrid wars, cyber resilience, financial and psychological harm, international cooperation against cyber attacks

Rethinking the Responsibility to Protect: Libya as a Case Study

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The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is a principle adopted by the United Nations in 2005, recognizing the responsibility of states to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity, as well as the responsibility of the international community to assist states in fulfilling this responsibility. This principle consists of three pillars: the responsibilities to prevent, respond, and rebuild. The aim of this research is to analyze the missing third responsibility of R2P, the responsibility to rebuild, and its importance as an integral element of the doctrine. The research will also examine the extent to which the rebuilding process fulfills the measurement of R2P in the case of Libya and whether the intervention in Libya under R2P can be considered a success. Additionally, the research will explore the future of R2P.

The research will answer the following questions: To what extent is the responsibility to rebuild implemented by the international community following an intervention? To what extent does the rebuilding process fulfill the measurement of R2P in the case of Libya? Can the intervention in Libya under R2P be considered a success? What is the future of R2P?

The results achieved so far show that in the case of Libya, there has been a partial implementation of R2P, as the third pillar, the responsibility to rebuild, is notably absent. The failure to develop a post-intervention strategy, including disarming fighters, reconciling society, establishing restorative justice, and promoting economic development, made rebuilding the society and its institutions an impossible task. The research will offer recommendations primarily based on the positions of local stakeholders, both new state and non-state entities, on how to incarnate and implement the Responsibility to Rebuild within the Responsibility to Protect.

Keywords: humanitarian intervention, state sovereignty, Responsibility to Protect, Responsibility to Rebuild

Sino-Indian Comparative Response to the Rohingya Crisis

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Rohingya is a nation that is the most oppressed nation in the world. They have lost their homes, their identity, and their hope. Five years ago, more than 700,000 Rohingya were forcibly migrated to Bangladesh due to the genocide committed by the Burmese Army. The United Nations recognized it as Ethnic Cleansing. However, the Rohingya people have faced military persecution not only in 2017 but also in the past. The migration of Rohingya has a long history. During and after the independence of Burma, Rohingya people held many administrative positions and participated in politics, even serving as members of parliament. However, in 1982, the military dictator of Myanmar (formerly Burma) suddenly denied Rohingya citizenship, accusing them of being Bengali, despite no basis for the military regime's claim. This fascist decision led to an enormous refugee crisis along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

Currently, more than 1 million Rohingya refugees have been living in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh for over 5 years. Despite the passage of time, no repatriation has occurred after the Rohingya genocide. The Rohingya crisis also carries geopolitical implications. China and India, as influential neighbors of Myanmar, hold special attention to Myanmar, particularly in the Rakhine province where Rohingya people previously lived. China and India have significant investments and interests in Rakhine state. As a result, they have a constructive response to the Rohingya crisis that aligns with Myanmar's interests.

The paper extensively discusses the comparative response of China and India to the Rohingya crisis. It explores how their interests in Myanmar have contributed to the delay in finding a solution to the Rohingya crisis.

Keywords: Rohingya, refugee, China, India, Myanmar, Bangladesh

The Impact of the Voting Behavior of the Permanent Members of the Security Council on the East African Region Since 2011

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The East African region holds significant international importance due to various geopolitical, economic, political, cultural, and security factors. This has made it a focal point of competition for global powers, leading to the establishment of military bases in the Horn of Africa region.

These bases are often justified under the pretext of combating piracy, cross-border terrorism, and assisting host countries in managing internal conflicts within the East African region.

Consequently, the issues concerning the East African region have garnered attention and have been discussed in Security Council meetings. Major countries' voting patterns on resolutions related to internal conflicts, border and water disputes, terrorism, piracy, external intervention, and foreign military bases in the Horn of Africa vary based on their own interests and competition. These factors, in addition to those mentioned earlier, contribute to the overall maintenance of peace and security in the East African region, which forms the central focus of this thesis.

The objective of the study is to examine whether voting behavior within the Security Council has impacted conflicts and peacekeeping efforts within the East African countries or if it has been influenced by competition and national interests among the five countries. By utilizing the measure of the Index of Cohesion and Agreement, the study finds that the Security Council's ability to maintain international peace and security and effectively address crises has been negatively affected in the past decade.

Keywords: voting behavior, UN, East African region, security council, conflict cases in UN, United Nations

Section of Humanitarian and Social Sciences

Analyzing Russian Disinformation Produced During the War in Ukraine Using Ibn Khaldun's Epistemic Theories

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Russia's unjust and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, which began on the 24th of February 2022, has had a profound and ongoing impact on the international politics of the third decade of the 21st century. This recent event holds immense geopolitical significance, encompassing not only physical and material aspects but also a discursive dimension. Russia, as the direct successor of the Soviet Union, has inherited a legacy of distorting reality through the dissemination of information - a skill at which the USSR excelled due to its extensive espionage network and powerful propaganda apparatus. As the war unfolded, the Russian state propaganda machine went into full swing. This paper aims to analyze Russian disinformation using the epistemic

theories of 14th-century Arab philosopher Ibn Khaldun. I argue that his concept of partisanship is particularly valuable in deconstructing Russian state propaganda by offering a means of separating truth from fiction. To examine the information produced by Russian state media and officials since the onset of the war in Ukraine and identify the partisanship present in this information, the paper focuses on what I consider to be a 'manifesto' of the war—President Putin's speech delivered just before Russian troops entered Ukrainian territory. Following a close analysis of the speech, the text then shifts its focus to Russian media disinformation primarily disseminated through social networks. Ultimately, the paper seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the theoretical and ideological foundations of the invasion, as well as the nature of Russian statehood, which plays a crucial role in shaping events and the information produced.

Keywords: Russia, Ukraine, invasion, disinformation, propaganda, Ibn Khaldun

An Analysis of the European Union's Methods of Combating Radicalism

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"How did the Madrid and London terror attacks strengthen radicalism in the European political culture within the mid-2000 EU institutional framework in which the EU counter-terrorism policy is set?"

The objective of the paper is to conduct research aimed at understanding the political and ideological shifts towards radicalism in Europe. The research has taken real findings and events into consideration. Following the September 11, 2001 attacks, Europe's security vulnerabilities became apparent, leading to various measures being implemented to combat terrorism. These measures were further intensified by the Madrid attacks in 2004 and the London attacks in 2005. The emergence of ISIS, coupled with the forces of globalization, necessitated efforts to combat foreign fighters and radicalism. The paper presents two case studies that illustrate the strengthening of radicalism within Europe's political culture, supported by primary sources. It examines the evolution of terrorism and the EU's counter-terrorism efforts during the mid-2000s.

The paper delves into how the Madrid and London terror attacks bolstered radicalism in the European political culture within the mid-2000 EU institutional framework, where the EU's counter-terrorism policy is established. It aims to find answers regarding how the European Union formulates its counter-terrorism policy at the EU level and how these two terror attacks influence radicalism within Europe's political culture.

Keywords: radicalism, European Union, counter-terrorism, Europe

“Social Media - Friend or Foe” An Exploration of Teaching Media Literacy in Kazakhstan

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Acquisition of media literacy becomes vital for all generations because, without it, both adults and children cannot sustain themselves and fully function as members of the community. This paper examines how, in the context of the media's pervasive influence on society, teachers in modern Kazakhstani universities have attempted to broaden the notion of "literacy." The research aims to conduct an in-depth analysis of teachers' beliefs, understandings, assumptions, and practices regarding the teaching of media literacy in foreign language classrooms. The application of media literacy and language-integrated learning in foreign language lessons is explored through the cases of two universities in Kazakhstan. Data were analyzed using inductive thematic content analysis. The main findings indicate that pre-service teachers support the integration of media literacy components into their lessons, although they encounter certain difficulties in implementing them. Data collection instruments included focus group structured interviews, documentary analysis, and a questionnaire administered to pre-service teachers in two pedagogical universities in southern Kazakhstan. The findings suggest that teaching media literacy alongside foreign languages proves to be effective. However, the implementation of media literacy is contingent upon the financial and managerial decisions of university administrations and the attitudes of education stakeholders. The data also shed light on factors that enable or hinder the development of media literacy at the university level. The findings provide opportunities to propose further actions for enhancing media literacy education and promoting universal youth literacy in the region.

Keywords: education for sustainable development, media literacy, pre-service teacher training, social media

Personality Traits and Perceived Parenting Styles, the Concept of “Faking Good” in Men Aged 18 to 35

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The study aims to highlight the following concepts: the importance of parental typology in men's personality traits and a deeper comprehension of "faking good," which can be briefly described as a tendency to respond in socially desirable ways or provide positive self-descriptions. Our main hypotheses are as follows: a) there are variations in the scores of personality traits (EPQR-S) based on perceived parental style (PBI), separately for the mother and father typology of the participants, and b) there is a negative correlation between neuroticism and the lie scale (EPQR-S), indicating the motivation to fake good, whereby a decrease in neuroticism scores corresponds to an increase in lie scale scores in the sample. A total of 317 men aged 18-35 years participated in the study. The "Parental Bonding Instrument" was used to categorize parental typology, and the "Eysenck Personality Questionnaire-Revised Short Scale (EPQR-S)" was used to categorize personality traits. The first research hypothesis was partially confirmed, as statistically significant differences were found in the mother's parental typology, specifically in terms of neuroticism ($p < .002$) and psychoticism ($p < .001$), while in the father's typology, differences were found in terms of neuroticism ($p < .02$) and extraversion ($p < .02$). The second research hypothesis was fully confirmed ($p < .001$). The study has limitations due to its contextual nature, which restricts inferences about causal relationships, and the lack of statistical power in some cases. However, the statistically significant findings emphasize the importance of parental style in personality development and highlight the need for further research in similar population groups. Additionally, the confirmation of the negative correlation between neuroticism and the lying scale indicates reliability and suggests the presence of the pretense motive known as "faking good" in different samples.

Keywords: personality traits, faking good, lie scale, neuroticism, parenting style

The Changing Identity of Gypsies - Identity Patterns in Three Generations of Olah Gypsy Women

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The accelerating economic and social transformation of modern-day Europe has brought changes in a myriad of areas, including schooling, childbearing, employment patterns, and

traditional gender roles. These changes have also had significant impacts on the lives of Roma groups within society and the mainstream population.

The infiltration of globalization and modernization into traditional communities is not only transforming the lives of Gypsy women at the individual level but also altering the framework of social integration, the transmission of culture, and the expression of Gypsy culture and values. The changing environment gives new meanings to traditions, influences the transmission of culture, and shapes the values that govern everyday life within the community. This process of change does not entail the permanent disappearance of Gypsy traditions and customs but rather the simultaneous emergence of national values, behavioral patterns, and identity variations alongside existing ones. The role of Gypsy women in this transformative process can be crucial for the integration of the minority group. On one hand, they ensure the transmission of traditions, while on the other hand, they act as catalysts for change. Examining the development of this dual role in the lives of three generations of Gypsy women becomes particularly interesting, as it provides insights into the extent to which the preservation or abandonment of traditions has aided or hindered the social integration of Gypsies over the past 20 years.

However, fulfilling this socialization role is not easy in a time when environmental changes fundamentally reshape the role of Gypsy women within their communities. There is no simple recipe for determining the extent to which Gypsy women, in transmitting values and cultural patterns, adhere to the traditions that guarantee the preservation of ethnic identity or embrace the new models of integration offered by modernization, which simultaneously weaken the bonds of community belonging.

Keywords: Roma groups, social integration, Gypsy women

Section of Medicine

Management of Acute and Chronic Oral Mucosal Mechanical Trauma

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Oral mucosal lesions have a significant impact on the quality of life of many patients and serve as an evident indicator of oral and general health. The dentist often plays a crucial role as the first person to detect mucosal alterations in the oral cavity. The most common type of mucosal alteration is acute mechanical trauma, which occurs due to accidental biting while talking,

sleeping, or eating, irritation from hard food or sharp edges of the teeth, or excessive tooth brushing. Chronic trauma of the oral mucosa occurs when there is repeated and persistent mechanical irritation from an intraoral injury agent, and it is associated with the development of oral cancer. Furthermore, nervous habits or self-injurious behaviors such as fingernail scratching of the gingiva can lead to oral ulcers. Chronic traumatic ulcers are frequently observed on mucosal surfaces that experience trauma from dentition, such as the buccal mucosa, lateral border of the tongue, or lips. Lesions in other areas, including the mucobuccal folds and gingivae, are linked to other sources of irritation like trauma from toothbrushes or food. Early diagnosis and proper management are essential to prevent unfavorable outcomes. This paper focuses on highlighting the relationship between acute and long-standing irritation, trauma, poor oral hygiene, and young age, all of which are risk factors for malignant transformation. Additionally, interesting cases with oral mucosal manifestations will be presented.

Keywords: oral mucosal lesions, acute mechanical trauma, oral hygiene and risk factors

For further detailed information regarding the conference, please access the following links provided below:

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