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EDITORIAL

War, Economic Strife, Climate Change: Understanding Intersectional Threats to Inclusion and Security

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Abstract

When we discuss global security efforts, we must ask whom these initiatives genuinely serve. This volume seeks to address this question by presenting perspectives from scholars around the world on issues of inclusion and security, particularly for those who are marginalised by virtue of their indigenous background, ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality, disability, illness, socio-economic position, and class. We ask why these vulnerable groups are often left to struggle alone. Are they being excluded from existing security frameworks—or are such frameworks even available? Furthermore, how do these global dangers affect their sense of safety, their trust in society, and their ability to access essential services? To capture this complex reality, we invited contributions not only from academics but also from NGOs, barristers, and practitioners with direct experience of these hardships. The resulting collection offers both conceptual analyses and case studies on specific issues affecting ethnic minorities, disabled individuals, and gender minorities.

Keywords

displacement; (in)justice; insecurity; intersectionality; marginalisation; refugee/migrant vulnerability; social crises; violence; war

1. Introduction

At the time of writing this editorial, we are in the midst of a plausible genocide in Palestine, continued war in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, mass displacement of refugees across the globe, and most recently, the end of a US election that has resulted in the re-election of President Donald Trump. Given this

context, the post-World War II optimism for global development, embodied by international organisations and ambitious initiatives, now feels increasingly tenuous. Despite some successes, brought by such programmes as the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, and more recently, their Sustainable Development Goals, wars, economic instability, and climate change continue to undermine prospects for a socially just and equitable world. This disillusionment deepens given past beliefs in the so-called end of history (Fukuyama, 1992), when prosperity was expected to follow the global implementation of neoliberal solutions. Today's most acute anxieties certainly relate to direct experiences of suffering, such as hunger, unrest, violence, and displacement. Equally critical, however, is the instability of value systems, weakened solidarity, eroding trust, the culture of fear as well as shock doctrines implemented in the most vulnerable regions of our planet—phenomena that make our world feel increasingly unwelcoming.

Like prosperity, insecurity is distributed asymmetrically across the world, both within and between the states. As numerous surveys demonstrate (IEP, 2023; Ipsos 2023; Roser, 2017), perceptions, hopes, and expectations are also distributed differently in the world depending on socially and historically conditioned perspectives. For some, especially those who have recently achieved improvements in living standards, the world may still seem full of opportunities. For those in crisis-ridden regions or experiencing even modest economic decline, the outlook often feels far grimmer.

The key conceptual instrument for understanding how multiple subject positions and systems of oppression interact to create obstacles and compound inequality is intersectionality. Coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw in her work on the unique inequalities experienced by women of colour, intersectionality offers a framework for exploring and analysing the collision of threats across multiple dimensions of society (Crenshaw, 1991). The intersection of these threats, as this thematic issue explores, amplifies one another and generates pervasive fear. Much like a weakened organism susceptible to various infections, social and economic structures deprived of the resources to withstand these threats are vulnerable to compounded layers of adversity imposed by external pressures. War and poverty become catalysts for further hardship, which often leads to a sense of hopelessness and a feeling that these issues are insurmountable. Most distressingly, we see populist and exclusivist tendencies developing among those most at risk. Such groups not only face exclusion from stronger states, social groups, and entities that seek to protect their own resources, but they also fall prey to internal divisions. Hatred and mistrust, often rooted in racism, ethnicism, sexism, disablism, or similar, only increase in times of crisis, exacerbating the fragility of these communities.

When we discuss global security efforts, we must ask whom these initiatives genuinely serve. This volume seeks to address this question by presenting perspectives from scholars around the world on issues of inclusion and security, particularly for those who are marginalised by virtue of their indigenous background, ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality, disability, illness, socio-economic position, and class. We ask why these vulnerable groups are often left to struggle alone. Are they being excluded from existing security frameworks—or are such frameworks even available? Furthermore, how do these global dangers affect their sense of safety, their trust in society, and their ability to access essential services? To capture this complex reality, we invited contributions not only from academics but also from NGOs, barristers, and practitioners with direct experience of these hardships. The resulting collection offers both conceptual analyses and case studies on specific issues affecting ethnic minorities, disabled individuals, and gender minorities. The following provides an outline of the contributions that make this thematic issue.

2. Contributions

The complexities of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations and their implications for regional security are examined by Syed Sibtain Hussain Shah, Arshad Mahmood, and Muhammad Kamran in their text, "Resurrection of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan Amidst Afghan Regime's Indifference: Threats to Intersectional Security Strands in the Region." Their analysis explores how terrorism and armed conflict generate intersectional insecurity across multiple dimensions of society.

Katarzyna Maniszewska's analytical study, "Globalization of Security Threats: A Vicious Circle," further examines terrorism's impact, showing how various types of threats—terrorism, violent conflicts, ecological crises, and political and economic instability—intersect and reinforce one another. As the author argues, these problems transcend national borders, demanding coordinated and multi-dimensional solutions at the international level.

Çağlar Akar, Doğa Başar Sariipek, and Gökçe Cerev's piece, "Poverty-Armed Conflict Nexus: Can Multidimensional Poverty Data Forecast Intrastate Armed Conflicts?" highlights how poverty contributes to, and is exacerbated by, internal armed conflicts. As the extensive literature on the subject indicates, these conflicts by the mechanism of coupling feedback lead to a cascading impoverishment of conflict-ridden countries, perfectly illustrating the tragedy caused by the overlapping of these factors. As the authors argue, gender inequality and limited access to education and public services, fuel poverty, which in turn undermines social cohesion, further depriving the community of methods to cope with the crisis.

Three further studies reveal the consequences of these phenomena on the daily lives of people displaced by armed conflict. Yasemin Karadag Avci and Irem Sengul's work, "Navigating Intersectional Complexities: A Narrative Analysis of Syrian Refugee Women With Disabilities in Turkey," offers a layered view of the challenges Syrian refugee women with disabilities face in Gaziantep, Turkey. Their experiences illustrate how intersectional vulnerabilities—disability, displacement, gender—increase exposure to violence, restrict mobility, and limit access to rights and services.

Ana Sofia Branco and Roman Xerez, in "Asylum Seekers' Trajectories of Exclusion: An Analysis Through the Lens of Intersectionality," address the need for robust social integration frameworks. They analyse the situation of migrants in Portugal who face multidimensional discrimination based on religion, ethnicity, sexuality, and social status. This article illustrates the precariousness of social protection for individuals denied asylum and excluded from security networks.

In "Untold Stories of Displaced Rohingya Pregnant Women Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence in Camp Settings," Istiaque Mahmud Dowllah and his co-authors investigate the plight of displaced Rohingya women, highlighting how intimate partner violence compounds the vulnerabilities these women already face in camp settings. While the geopolitical and cultural context of this research is different from the studies of Branco and Xerez and Avci and Sengul, we also observe a number of structural similarities that collectively reveal a multifaceted picture of the violence experienced by individuals exposed to a large number of threats and deprivations simultaneously.

Rakesh Mochahary and Loung Nathan K. K., in "Rise of Populism in Northeast India: A Case of Assam," analyse how social risks and the erosion of solidarity foster exclusivist policies and populism. This study demonstrates

how war, economic instability, and climate challenges intertwine with manipulation and discursive violence, creating particularly adverse hybrid political landscapes, as seen in the case of the Assam region.

Addressing the direct link between war and economic strife, Kamil Matuszczyk and Kamila Kowalska's "Are Labour Markets Inclusive for Ukrainian War Migrants? Perspectives From Polish and Italian Migration Infrastructure Actors" touches on the situation of several million Ukrainians who came to the EU due to the aggression of the Russian Federation, which has created risks not seen in the European area since the conflicts in the Balkan peninsula. The researchers analyse migration infrastructure in its multiple dimensions, which is a key factor translating into the level of inclusiveness and security of those who find themselves in a situation of multi-vectoral risks.

Maria Theiss and Anna Menshenina's "Narrating Solidarity With Ukraine: European Parliament Debates on Energy Policy" scrutinises the actual substance behind diplomatic discourses of solidarity, revealing the hypocrisy within international political discourses oriented towards proclaiming global solidarity and cooperation. Their analysis lays bare the structural power imbalances that perpetuate poverty and suffering, challenging the façade of global cooperation.

3. Conclusion

The range of examples presented in this volume—analysed through diverse lenses and from both theoretical and practical perspectives—aims to reveal the relational connections between different instantiations of injustice while also highlighting the fundamental unsustainability characterising today's world. Simplifying these perspectives by analysing them in isolation would lead to cognitive and analytical inadequacy; it is only through understanding their interconnections that we can appreciate the full scale of global injustices. With this holistic view, we can also see the importance of inclusivity for global security and take steps towards a more resilient and equitable future.

Conflict of Interests
The authors declare no conflict of interests.

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