Editorial

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When the Journal of Interdisciplinary Conflict Science (JICS) was first envisioned the project had two main foci. The first was to create a free, open source, high quality academic journal, available to all, where research and ideas, and the responsibilities of peer review could be shared by scholars, both new and established. The JICS focus would not be limited to satisfying only those in academia, but would embrace the philosophy of interdisciplinary cooperation and exchange in the pursuit of knowledge. All disciplines would be welcome to publish research and reviews that addressed the complex and universal societal condition, conflict. The philosophy of the JICS is that the examination of conflict from every discipline only enhances our knowledge and thereby increases our likelihood of understanding. The research of interpersonal conflict which the sociologist studies may have value to the political scientist engaged in an international conflict event.

The second focus was to promote the ideology of conflict as a subject worthy of classification as a standalone discipline of scientific study. Conflict studies have traditionally been relegated to sub-topics within the established fields of political science, international relations, or sociology. Academic programs, in the United States, focus on Conflict Analysis and Resolution, with much emphasis on the resolution aspects. However, conflict is, unfortunately, so much more. Conflict, in one manifestation or another, touches every person and every aspect of society. Nothing is immune to conflict, yet the path to ending conflict exists within that which created it, humanity. But to accomplish the utopian desire to end conflict, scholars, researchers, and practitioners must treat conflict as a societal disease; a disease which requires the best of empirical scientific study, including the development of new theories and research designs of a quality that new knowledge could lead to new mitigation and resolution practices, which promote lasting peace initiatives. Conflict is a subject that is so important and ingrained within society that it deserves its own scientific discipline, lest we are to never have hope of breaking the cycle of violent conflict.

This issue, which I hope is the first of many, is a reflection of these ideologies. The works of post doctorial scholars and pre doctoral students are presented. We are happy to present an international submission and topics engaging subjects such as terrorism, cultural differences in negotiation techniques, conflict economics, and post conflict sustainability. It is our hope that somewhere within these pages our readers might gain new insight which will advance their own research endeavors.

Finally, as this is our first issue, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who helped see this project to realization. To Dr. Elizabeth Holden and Dr. Aleksandra Nesic, Content Editors, for your participation and assistance. To all of those who took the time to provide peer review of the manuscripts received. To Dr. Rachel McGinnis, our Submissions Editor, who kept us on the straight and narrow, and whose job is just beginning. And, finally, a special thank you to Amanda Hastings, the JICS Publication Editor, who not only took on a daunting editorial mission as our international language editor, but also provided invaluable editorial insights. All the Ph.D.’s on staff know who the boss is. And, of course, our authors, whose work is the reason the Journal exists.

So, without further ado, we present the Journal of Interdisciplinary Conflict Science, and I invite you to take the journey of discovery with us.

Best regards,

Mark George Bound, Ph.D.
Editor-in Chief