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## EDITORIAL:

### The Dawn of a Global Scholarly Platform: *The International Journal of Justice and Police Sciences*

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Founding Editor-in-Chief, International Journal of Justice and Police Sciences (IJPS)

In an era where global justice and security challenges are changing so rapidly, the need for platforms of inquiry that engage in robust scholarship and that can transform inquiry into practical solutions/directions has never been more urgent. This editorial represents the formal launch of the International Journal of Justice and Police Sciences (IJPS), a new interdisciplinary academic journal. IJPS intends to create new and strengthen existing disciplinary divides, and serve as a forum for interdisciplinary dialogue and inquiry. IJPS is guided by the International Institute of Justice and Police Sciences (IJPS), and is intended to facilitate new knowledge and scholarship, inform practices and policies about transformative social justice, and promote equity in justice and policing around the world.

#### **1. The Foundational Ecosystem: International Institute of Justice and Police Sciences (IJPS)**

The International Journal of Justice and Police Sciences (IJPS) extends the academic reach of the International Institute of Justice and Police Sciences (IJPS), a not-for-profit academic organization and policy think tank. IJPS operates under the aegis of the Appa Education and Research Foundation (AERF), a registered organization with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Niti Aayog, Government of India, and is located at Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.

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Founded by Professor (Dr.) K. Jaishankar, an internationally ranked influential criminologist credited with the founding of the fields of cyber criminology and the Space Transition Theory of cybercrimes, IJPS has a robust record in research and training with an extensive portfolio of activities in criminology, victimology, cyber criminology, forensic sciences, policing, security management, and justice governance, as well as a commitment to a vision promoting socially responsible, ethical, and environmentally sustainable practices.

IJPS's range of educational and professional development services includes, but is not limited to, certificate and diploma programs, internships and mentorships, and online and hybrid learning formats. IJPS offers support for academic research, including dissertation supervision, journal publication editing, and research methodology training. IJPS can also organize seminars, workshops, certified professional programs, conferences, partner with international academic institutions, and facilitate faculty and student exchange programs.

IJPS is governed by a Principal Director and a core administration, together with a network of associate and honorary professors, research staff, visiting faculty, and international advisers. It has an advisory board of world-renowned scholars, including *Professor Joanne Belknap* from the University of Colorado, USA, a specialist in ethnic criminology, *Professor Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović* from Serbia, a victimologist, *Professor Gorazd Meško*, a comparative criminologist from the University of Maribor, Slovenia as well as Dr. Mohamed Chawki from Egypt, who is a cybercrime expert.

To develop its national and international field activities and partnerships, the IJPS has made official partnerships with several academic institutions through formalized mechanisms. IJPS has entered Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) with the Saveetha School of Law, Chennai, India; the Department of Law, Ajman University, Ajman, UAE; and the Centre for Criminological Analysis, University of Poland, to jointly develop research, educational training, and academic exchanges.

The IJPS, through its global outreach programs and member fellowship programs, is also actively developing a global network of researchers, practitioners, and institutions wanting to be part of the evidence-based and actionable justice reform and scientific policing movement. As such, this collaborative and institutional infrastructure serves the purpose of IJPS, organizing it as more than a publication vehicle, but a natural extension of its mission as IJPS as part of a more expansive, inclusive, interdisciplinary, and hopefully global space for transformative thinking about justice and policing.

## 2. The International Journal of Justice and Police Sciences (IJJPS): An Intellectual Arm

The International Journal of Justice and Police Sciences (IJJPS) will serve as the operational arm of IJPS's institutional mission on four closely related strategic pillars: *knowledge synthesis, equitable access, innovation incubation, and bridge building*. Each pillar connects with IJPS's existing capabilities and aligns with its overall mandate to change practice in the justice sector through research-informed implementation practices.

The IJJPS launch occurs during a uniquely pivotal time for the global justice and security space, which is undergoing profound transformations. The growth of digitally mediated crime, the rise of sophisticated transnational criminal syndicates, the erosion of civil liberties (often in the name of security and safety) driven by authoritarian developments globally and decreased public trust in law enforcement institutions all point to the need for new approaches to understanding a current context for justice issues. Given the need for innovation and integration of academic and practical approaches, IJJPS provides the scholarly means to ensure academic rigor linked with translational focus and accountability.

IJJPS seeks to overcome the long-standing disciplinary distinction between Justice Sciences and Police Sciences by bringing them together within a single field of inquiry. By facilitating direct communications and connections across fields, IJJPS supports interest in intersectional strategies and hybrid theoretical frameworks that support integrated bridges of understanding about complex issues.

In a time where misinformation is rife and the public increasingly distrusts knowledge produced by experts, IJJPS reiterates its commitment to the principle of open access as a fundamental aspect of its moral obligation. By adopting a Gold Open Access model, the journal makes empirical findings, normative contributions, and policy outputs available to all users of knowledge – researchers, educators, policymakers, NGOs, or grassroots movements. Open access is an important mechanism for expanding the reach of essential research and promoting evidence-based decision-making across a range of stakeholders.

The International Journal of Justice and Police Sciences (IJJPS) is encouraging manuscripts that address the multiple dimensions of justice and policing. *Justice Sciences* include studies in criminology and criminal justice, criminal and forensic psychology, victimology and victim justice, criminal law and justice administration, governance of criminal justice and public policy, criminal justice social work, international criminal laws, or other related disciplines of justice. *Police Sciences* include areas such as cyber security and cyber forensics, police science, crime analysis and crime science, evidence-based policing, translational criminology, embedded policing, forensic sciences and forensic medicine, security



management, forensic odontology, forensic victimology, and other related disciplines of police sciences. We support interdisciplinary research that links these important areas of research and practice.

### 3. Groundbreaking Contributions: IJPS Volume 1, Issue 1

IJPS Volume 1, Issue 1 contains seven peer-reviewed articles and a book review, each illustrating the journal's ambition of having international reach and cross-sectoral engagement. These articles include different methodological traditions, geographical locations, and academic disciplines, highlighting the diverse scholarship IJPS is committed to enabling.

In her article, *Hewawasam* uses factor analysis to understand the corporate fraud situation in Sri Lanka by identifying institutional supports of financial misconduct. They then developed a Fraud Resilience Index (FRI) to provide an evidence-based basis for internal audits. This represents an innovative and evidence-based tool to respond to financial misconduct, particularly useful for developing economies with limited compliance support as their regulatory frameworks evolve. Overall, the research lays a foundation for considering risk factors and other mitigating actions.

*Arivazhagan* et al. investigated the recruitment and use of child soldiers in Myanmar. Their examination is interdisciplinary, using legal analysis, trauma theory, and critique of policy. They have documented four intersecting forms of victimization. They have developed a trauma-informed reintegration framework, recommending support through ASEAN-level jurisprudence, considering the issue a humanitarian and legal requirement.

*Yem* et al. evaluate transnational crimes in Vietnam, particularly examples of narcotics, human trafficking, environmental crimes, and cyber crimes. After outlining case studies of different crimes and assessing the transnational treaties they are affiliated with, the authors present a three-tiered ASEAN-UN response mechanism. They suggest creating harmonized legislation, digital forensics laboratories that share best practices and evidence, and having communities create social networks where they collaborate and support each other. Overall, they illustrate the need for international cooperation for effectively fighting many types of complex violent and non-violent criminal networks.

*Rajavenkatesan* et al. address the problem of manual scavenging in India, despite the practice being legally prohibited. The authors use qualitative data, including court records, ethnographic interviews, and public health studies. They suggest rehabilitative justice strategies using robotic sanitation technology and rehabilitation for intergenerational perpetrators of the ancient profession of

manual scavenging. This paper brings an important social justice issue to light and offers potential solutions.

*Bhagat's* analyses of the pharmaceutical black market identify important regulatory gaps and institutional gaps across India, the European Union (EU), and China. The author proposes a Transnational Deterrence Index (TDI) which will assess the depth of regulatory abide and or defense, while supporting the strategic deployment of blockchain technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled screening to mitigate illegal pharmaceutical trade.

*Ranka et al.* critically assess Gujarat's implementation of India's Victim Compensation Scheme for rape survivors. Employing feminist criminology and quantitative methods, their research highlights procedural delays, instances of secondary victimization, and a profound lack of trauma-informed care. Their proposed Survivor-Centric Justice Model emphasizes mobile legal aid units and advocates for the statutory recognition of marital rape, aiming to enhance support for victims and ensure more equitable justice outcomes.

*Solomon et al.* examine the prospective role of Machine Learning (ML) in legal decision-making. Their research investigates the utilization of ML approaches such as supervised learning, unsupervised learning, natural language processing (NLP), and model interpretability to improve legal practice. The article illustrates use cases in areas of case prediction, contract review, compliance assessment, and sentiment analysis. Importantly, the authors also examine potential ethical, legal, and operational challenges brought on by ML about their potential in legal practice, specifically bias, privacy, occlusion, and accountability. *Solomon et al.* advocate for an interdisciplinary perspective by seeking emergent solutions such as fairness-aware ML and privacy-preserving ML.

#### **4. The IJPS Distinction: Rigor, Relevance, and Reach**

IJPS demonstrates its strength and relevance through a commitment to rigor and an emphasis on a global perspective. The journal employs a triple-masked peer review process with editorial, academic, and practitioner reviewers making contribution reviews. This triadic relationship balances not only academic rigor but also contributes to the research sub-sections' pragmatic requirements and real-world needs. The composition of the editorial board and not based only on academic settings, as well as each contributor is diverse and includes persons working from 22 countries, emphasizing the commitment of the journal to a range of epistemologies. Diverse publications of IJPS could consider the global context and impact.

The journal emphasizes translational scholarship, research that is applied to inform policy, legislation, and operational practice. It is actively seeking to publish contributions from scholars and practitioners, both from the Global North and



South, to include equal representation and ensure diversity of experience and perspectives. Moreover, IJJPS encourages authors to incorporate actionable policy frameworks such as legislative blueprints, forensic protocols, and implementation toolkits to further the usability of the research IJJPS publishes.

## 5. Acknowledgments and A Call to Action

I would like to recognize and thank the wonderful people who helped turn the first issue of the International Journal of Justice and Police Sciences (IJJPS) into a reality and supported its launch. I would like to thank the Editor, Associate Editors, and Assistant Editors for their scholarly commitment and support throughout the submission process. I would also like to thank the Editorial Advisory Board members for their excellence and informative reviews. I appreciate the efforts of our Editorial Assistants (and interns) who ensured that everything was airtight and ready for publication at every stage of editing. If it were not for the support, vision, and assistance of the members and well-wishers of the International Institute for Justice and Police Sciences (IJJPS), I would not have felt justified in trying to create this point of contact for justice and police sciences on a global basis - they were my motivation and my enthusiasm!

IJJPS has a vision larger than publishing. For the 2026–2027 period, we will be publishing special issues, as well as co-hosting global symposia on emerging technologies in criminal justice (in collaboration with the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Old Dominion University, USA). We will also expand our Practitioner Fellowship Program, which puts law enforcement practitioners in academic research contexts. The goal of these fellowships is that they are mutually beneficial. Researchers can gain in-the-field insight, while practitioners can work with theoretical advances that can be applied directly to their daily work.

Justice systems cannot simply become reactive enforcers in an era of algorithmic governance, digital authoritarianism, and transnational crime. They must be anticipatory, transparent, and unequivocally based on equity. IJJPS is an important vehicle to influence this future. IJJPS invites scholars, police officers, activists, policymakers, etc., to work with us either by submitting research, writing reviews, or proposing special issues. While we have much work to do, we are collaboratively poised to begin fundamentally transforming justice.