Editorial

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Since the end of the Cold War, societal security has emerged as a new and, at times, highly contested concept of political and interdisciplinary research. At its core, societal security research seeks to determine and understand the ability of societies to endure and prosper against a backdrop of ever-changing conditions, challenges, and threats. To this end, societal security research merges a range of considerations on risk and security from economic, political, ecological, social, legal, technological, and engineering perspectives.

With an emphasis on the interdisciplinary efforts of all the humanities and technological sciences, the *European Journal for Security Research* aims to provide a comprehensive platform to discuss a wide-range of security research topics. Such topics include, but are certainly not limited to, the inability of new security technologies to deliver definitive solutions, the phenomena of increased securitization, the epistemological, political, legal, and media framing of “safety production” and the disruptive potential of new technologies. By publishing original articles from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, the *European Journal for Security Research* offers a uniquely European forum for debate on social security research developments and how they are transforming our world.

In keeping with this multi-disciplinary spirit, the inaugural issue of the *European Journal for Security Research* contains articles from the fields of engineering, social sciences, and law. Klaus Thoma, Benjamin Scharte, Daniel Hiller, and Tobias Leismann begin the issue with an article on the ability of Resilience Engineering to overcome unexpected events and enable societies to be better prepared for their

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recurrence in the future. In so doing, the authors demonstrate how resilience models can be used to simulate technological and social systems and the complex interactions that exist between them. Building upon this discussion, in the second article of the issue Ivo Häring, Stefan Ebenhöch and Alexander Stolz look at how to better quantify the concept of resilience and suggest why this may positively contribute to the broader study of civil and societal security research. In the third article, Ralf Poscher assesses current trends and tendencies in public civil security law, with an emphasis on the situation in Europe in general and Germany in particular. He asks why an ever-increasing number of planning and regulatory issues are viewed from a security perspective and goes on to highlight the important legal, institutional and societal ramifications of this development. In the fourth and final article of the issue, Stefan Kaufman focuses on the dynamic growth of the security industry—especially its technologization—and presents a broad social-scientific critique of the often unintended consequences this entails. He explores how notions of security and insecurity are interwoven and, in broaching the intrinsic vulnerability of liberal societies, notes how technologization and the search for security can, paradoxically, create even more insecurity.

For colleagues and prospective authors, the *European Journal for Security Research* welcomes articles from any relevant disciplinary and/or methodological approach. Thematic areas that are of particular interest include:

- Security and safety paradigms and narratives, including their historical development;
- Generation, perception, and evaluation of security and insecurity;
- Effects of securitization on fundamental rights, security standards and technical norms;
- The impact of new technological developments and processes, such as the use of “big data”, surveillance, tracking and spatial analyses;
- Studies on crime, terrorism, catastrophic events, critical infrastructure and urban security.

Articles for consideration should be lodged electronically via <https://www.editorialmanager.com/ejsr> and should, as a rule, not exceed 8500 words. Book review articles as well as shorter contributions (i.e., significantly fewer than 8500 words) on topical issues are also welcome and will be considered for publication.

On behalf of the editorial board, the advisory board and the publisher, I would like to thank you for your interest in the *European Journal for Security Research* and look forward to publishing many stimulating and insightful articles on security research within its pages in the future.