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Inaugural Issue Introduction

Eileen Servidio

AGS President, Professor, Chair of International Public Law, Head of the Research Center

The American Graduate School in Paris is introducing its inaugural issue of the Journal of International Relations, Peace & Development Studies.

Associated with Arcadia University's M.A. program in Peace and Conflict Resolution, this journal aspires to encourage discourses that promote non-violence in all aspects of international affairs. Nevertheless, keeping with AGS's standard of respecting and listening to "the other", all articles that meet AGS's high standards of research will be considered for publication, no matter the opinion.

Many policy makers believe that academics live in their unrealistic, often idealistic world, writing for each other's sake. While academics may think that the policy makers have forgotten the importance of intellectual abstraction to better understand issues—that they are reacting more than acting with long-term purpose. Hopefully receiving and publishing articles from both groups, academics & practitioners, AGS and Arcadia will be able to begin narrowing a growing gap between them. A gap that is greatly detrimental to world affairs.

AGS and Arcadia are hoping also to create an inclusive platform for students and established scholars to published and disseminate their work.

We want to provide a platform for new ideas on how to understand and react to international issues so that new solutions may be found or at least considered. We would particularly desire to foresee potential crises in order to underline the importance of prevention.

The articles selected and presented in this first edition concern themselves with very different questions. For example, in , "Environmental Imperatives and International Relations" Mark Stoller argues that Canada's challenge to environmental diplomacy can be an example for the international community as a whole. Using as examples the Arctic region, Northern Alberta and the fact that Canada has withdrawn from the Kyoto Accord, Stoller demonstrates how environmental politics enlarges political participation while engendering deep ideological divisions in society.

In Ashley Gorham's article concerning the "Does information want to be free?" question, the author critiques the notion that the freedom of information brings with it equality and democracy and offers an alternative "democratic" view.

The 'War on Terror' with its consequences such as non-localized warfare, fighting against individuals and not with States, has posed many questions concerning modern warfare, many of which concern directly the 'citizens' and their rights. Who is a friend or enemy? Who is an insider or an outsider? Drones and the 'right to kill' and the 'just war' principles. All of these delicate questions are analyzed by Lina Nasr El Hag Ali in her article on "Waging War on the Citizen: State Sovereignty, Citizen Death and the War on Terror."

Jozef A. Kosc discusses the future of "Moral Diplomacy" analyzing two contemporary theories in international relations: Lyn Boyd-Judson's Strategic Moral Diplomacy and Robert Frost's Constitutive

Theory of International Relations. The author then applies a variant of Strategic Moral Diplomacy to such crisis as that of Ukraine.

As an institution of higher learning, we can aspire to no greater goal than to contribute to a better understanding of the environmental, political, economic and social challenges of the complex, confused, and troubled world we live in.

Eileen Servidio is AGS President, Professor, Chair of International Public Law and Head of the Research Center. Her fields of expertise are International Public Law, International Criminal Law, French/American Criminal Law, Comparative Law and Human and Civil Rights.