

Editorial Preface

Brett van Niekerk, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Westville, South Africa

Graeme Pye, Deakin University, Geelong, Australia

It is with great pleasure that we would like to present this fourth issue of the International Journal of Cyber Warfare and Terrorism (IJCWT) for 2018. This publication contains three articles and a book review submitted to the journal for consideration.

The IJCWT publishes original innovative findings on ethical, political, legal, and social issues relating to security and cybernetic wars. This journal focuses on cyber warfare, security and terrorism using examples from around the world. IJCWT covers technical aspects, management issues, social issues, and government issues that relate to cyber warfare, security and terrorism.

The mission of the IJCWT is to explore a range of security related topics and generate research debates in relation to cyber warfare, security and terrorism. Targeting researchers, practitioners, academicians, government officials, military professionals and other industry professionals. The IJCWT provides a forum to discuss human, technical, and policy issues in relation to cyber warfare and terrorism.

In this issue of the IJCWT, the following three research articles represent the substantial and expansive research undertaken by the authors' who have submitted their research and discussions to the journal. The articles presented here have undergone a double blind review process.

The first article, *Jihadist propaganda on social media: An examination of ISIS related content on Twitter* by Ahmed Al-Rawi and Jacob Groshek, uses mixed methods research to enhance understanding of the Twitter-based propaganda by ISIS. The authors conclude by indicating that simply blocking access to social media is insufficient, and calling for improved strategies to mitigate the online distribution of ISIS's propaganda. The article also illustrates the potential of big data to aid in understanding online activity by extremist groups.

The second article, titled *Determinants of Terrorism in South Asia: Insights from a Dynamic Panel Data Analysis*, is authored by Ramesh Chandra Das and Sovik Mukherjee. The authors investigate the significance of a range of socio-economic factors for seven South Asian countries and China for 14 year period as indicators for terrorism. They conclude by proposing that policies supporting overall socio-economic development rather than pure economic growth will aid in mitigating terrorism.

The third article, *Filtration of Terrorism-Related Texts in the E-government Environment* by Ramiz M. Aliguliyev and Gunay Y. Niftaliyeva, proposes to detect possible terrorism-related activities based on user comments in the e-government environment. An algorithm to calculate the polarity of comments is proposed, which aims to identify suspects for further monitoring and investigation.

Finally, to close out this issue of the IJCWT. Prof Maximiliano Emanuel Korstanje of the University of Palermo and former Editor-in-Chief of the IJCWT journal, has kindly contributed an insightful book review of *Globalization and the Economic Consequences of Terrorism* by Brenda Lutz and James Lutz.

Brett van Niekerk
Graeme Pye
Editors-in-Chief
IJCWT