

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Faculty of Organisation Studies in Novo mesto, Slovenia

2nd International Scientific Conference »Challenges of the Modern World«

Decline of Democracy and Geopolitical Friction

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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2nd International Scientific Conference "Challenges of the Modern World" Decline of Democracy and Geopolitical Friction Book of Abstracts

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EDITORIAL THOUGHTS ABOUT DECLINE OF DEMOCRACY AND GEOPOLITICAL FRICTION

The rapid pace of global development presents a tremendous challenge in remaining aware of the multiplicity of daily changes. Although the rapid development of technology provides impressive progress, it also presents us with a range of complex issues that define our modern society. These factors encompass the decreasing of democratic systems and the rise of authoritarian authorities, public protests against immigration, the erosion of fundamental human rights, escalating armed conflicts coupled with the risk of nuclear proliferation and weapons of mass destruction, and urgent concerns such as climate change and environmental deterioration.

Furthermore, we are confronted with economic disparities, worldwide health emergencies, technological disruptions in addition to cybersecurity risks, concerns about access to food and water, issues related to migration and refugee crises, discrepancies in education, a decline in mental well-being, and an increase in political polarization and social divisions. Although these problems may seem overwhelming, they can be overcome. They serve as a reminder of our collective obligation and the pressing necessity for cooperative measures.

Amidst these difficulties, there is a chance for creative thinking, flexibility, and substantial transformation. The complex connection of various issues offers us the opportunity to develop comprehensive, holistic solutions. Through leveraging our combined knowledge, embracing flexibility, and promoting a sense of collaboration, we can directly confront these obstacles and provide the groundwork for a future that is both environmentally sustainable and equitable for all.

At this crucial point in history, the responsibility to undertake action is apparent. We need to actively participate in positive oriented conversation, employ our numerous perspectives, and actively endeavour to establish a world where progress, well-being of people and sustainability are intertwined. Collectively, we have the capacity to transform these difficulties into catalysts for positive transformation, shaping a society that is flexible in the wake of diversity and rich in prospects for everyone.

Therefore, it is crucial to emphasize the significance of human rights in the future, aiming to restore the acknowledgment of the value of human lives and advocate for democracy and adherence to the rule of law. Additionally, it is essential to promote awareness of human rights in relation to a sustainable and unpolluted environment. We must establish a new framework to effectively confront the increasing challenges to human rights. Mentioned desire reflected in organisation of our 2nd international scientific conference "Challenges of the Modern World" with the title "Decline of Democracy and Geopolitical Friction", which was divided among 8 panels with 25 participants from 8 different countries around the world.

The conference started with the Panel 1, "Migration," which delved into the complexities of movement among people, particularly focusing on Iranian elites and youth, and how their migration is shaped by the pursuit of democracy and innovation. It also examined Poland's legal framework in supporting displaced Ukrainians, especially in housing, and evaluated the adaptability of public administration roles in the EU to remote work under specific directives. The EU's decision-making in the refugee crisis is scrutinized, shedding light on bureaucratic and humanitarian responses.

Panel 2, "Social Responsibility," embarked on an exploration of sustainable development within EU-OCAPS Group trade relations. It also discussed the interplay between tertiary education returns, income inequality, and the cost of higher education, highlighting the pivotal role of higher education institutions in fostering social responsibility and sustainable practices.

In Panel 3, "Sustainable Development," the focus shifted to regulatory measures in food marketing in America and their implications for childhood obesity. It also encompassed an in-depth look at climate change strategies and citizen engagement in Argentina, revealing the region's unique challenges and responses from 2010 to 2020.

Panel 4: "Hate Crime and Freedom of Speech" confronted the delicate balance between combating extremist speech in the EU and preserving democratic values. It analysed the critical role of the judiciary in democratic societies, particularly in the context of hate crimes and freedom of expression.

Panel 5 discussed "Free Elections and Other Contemporary Human Rights Issues," presented an insightful examination of state media's influence in Poland, the dynamics of the sharing economy, senior volunteering, and their broader impacts. The relationship between human rights proliferation and economic growth was also explored, offering a nuanced perspective on contemporary societal issues.

The Panel 6 delved into "Digitalization, Ethics, and AI," where various aspects of technological advancement, such as algorithmic discrimination, AI in cybersecurity, and the right to truth in the information-privacy balance, were scrutinized. The panel also evaluated the risks AI poses in the litigation process.

In Panel 7, "The Dual Challenges of Democratic Crisis and Crisis in Democracy," the focus shifted to the realization of democracy in Europe, with a special emphasis on Ukraine. It discussed the resilience and adaptability of democratic systems in the face of modern challenges.

Finally, Panel 8, "Geopolitical Frictions," offered a thorough analysis of the BRICS coalition's internal alignment, the diplomatic intricacies for TSI countries with Taiwan, the efficacy of public international law, and the role of hybrid courts in post-conflict states, with a specific focus on Kosovo. It also explored how geopolitical frictions influenced space law and policy.

Let us finish these editorial thoughts with the words of Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan: "When you deprive people of their right to live in dignity, to hope for a better future, to have control over their lives, when you deprive them of that choice, then you expect them to fight for these rights." We hope that this conference presents a small, but hopefully important step in ensuring a better future for us all.

Editor

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EXAMINING THE REASONS FOR THE MIGRATION OF IRANIAN ELITES AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR EDUCATION AND LIFE. ISN'T THE CURRENT IRAN A SUITABLE PLACE FOR THE GROWTH OF DEMOCRATIC AND NEW IDEAS

Hedieh Eskandari

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Research Question (RQ): What are the primary factors driving the increasing trend of emigration among educated Iranians in the last two decades?

Purpose: The study aims to understand the critical factors driving the high rate of emigration from Iran, focusing on economic challenges, the desire for democratic freedoms, and environmental concerns, contrasting these factors with the perception of opportunities in more developed countries.

Method: The research employs a multi-dimensional approach, including qualitative analysis of sociopolitical and economic data, interviews with Iranian emigrants, and comparative studies of immigration policies in target countries like the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

Results: Preliminary findings indicate that severe economic problems, lack of motivational and growth opportunities, desire for democratic freedoms, and environmental concerns are primary drivers of emigration from Iran, alongside the aspiration to achieve a higher quality of life in more developed and democratically open societies.

Organization: This research can guide organizational leaders and policymakers in understanding the socio-economic dynamics influencing workforce migration patterns, aiding in strategic planning for talent retention and addressing the brain drain phenomenon.

Society: The study highlights the broader societal implications of mass emigration, including the impact on cultural diversity, the challenges of integration into new societies, and the potential for policy reform in countries experiencing high emigration rates.

Originality: The originality of this research lies in its comprehensive exploration of the multifaceted reasons behind Iranian emigration, offering a nuanced understanding that extends beyond economic factors to include political, environmental, and cultural dimensions.

Limitations / further research: The research is limited by its focus on Iranian emigrants and may not fully capture the experiences of those choosing to remain in Iran. Further research could explore the perspectives of non-emigrants and examine the long-term impacts of emigration on Iranian society and the diaspora.

Keywords: immigration, young Iranians, elites, America, Canada, economic problems.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hedieh Eskandari (Master Student in Ancient History, Tehran University, specializing in Iran's ancient history has a long-standing interest in ancient civilizations, particularly those of Mesopotamia, Assyria, Akkad, and ancient Iran, stemming from his undergraduate studies in history at Allameh Tabatabai University, Tehran. With five years of experience teaching English both online and in-person, he has developed strong skills in communication, problem-solving, and adaptability to challenging situations).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EU AND OCAPS

Tomasz Wnuk

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Research Question (RQ): What is the impact of European Union trade policy on sustainability in OCAPS economies?

Purpose: Evaluation of implemented trade policy instruments in OCAPS countries through the lens of sustainable development.

Method: The paper was mainly based on scientific literature. Trade data provided by the European Statistical Office were used for the evaluation. Descriptive statistics method was used to analyse the data.

Results: The European Union, within the framework of the Common Commercial Policy, has the appropriate instruments to use them to effectively promote sustainable development and the protection of human rights among its trading partners.

Organization: It can be useful for EU decision-makers when making decisions on trade policy and sustainable development.

Society: The research paper could explore how the EU's trade policy can be further improved to promote sustainable development and human rights in OCAPS. It could also examine the potential impact of such policies on the environment and social responsibility.

Originality: The added value is its theoretical value, which addresses the issue of sustainable development in the European Union's Common Commercial Policy in one coherent text using the example of the OCAPS countries.

Limitations / further research: A clear statement on the extent to which EU trade policy has contributed to sustainable development is difficult because of the multi-faceted nature of the issue. Future impact of new post-Koton agreement on sustainable development in OCAPS countries is in question. Trade cooperation is not the only way to influence other countries in economic cooperation. On the other hand, it can certainly be said that there is great potential in the new agreement. It should also be added that the above work does not have a decisive impact on the evaluation of trade agreements between the EU and OCAPS, and it is recommended that in-depth research be conducted to investigate this issue more thoroughly.

Keywords: sustainable development, trade policy, OCAPS, European Union, Cotonou Agreement.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tomasz Wnuk. Tomasz graduated from International Economic Relations with a specialization in International Business at the Poznan University of Economics and Business and is currently pursuing a master's degree in marketing. Academically, he is interested in sustainable development. In this regard he is active in the Student Club at his university, serving as vice president. The Student Club is involved in activities related to educational projects aimed at spreading the idea of fair trade and sustainable development. Tomasz was involved in preparing workshops for young people related to the harms of the fast fashion industry, as well as lectures on Fair Trade certification. Professionally for 3 years Tomasz is working as a business consultant in polish-Finnish consulting company, helping foreign companies to enter polish market.

Challenges of the Modern World

THE ROLE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF HYBRID COURTS IN POST-CONFLICT AND TRANSITIONING STATES: A FOCUS ON KOSOVO

Blerta Ahmeti

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Research Question: What is the impact of hybrid courts on societal transition in Kosovo?

Purpose: To evaluate the effectiveness and role of hybrid courts in fostering human rights in Kosovo following conflict.

Methods: Methods used in the research are case study, where we analysed specific instances of hybrid court interventions in Kosovo and literature review, where we synthesized existing studies and reports on the topic.

Results: Hybrid courts in Kosovo have not had any negative effect, yet they do not appear to contribute to improvements of human rights.

Organization: Findings could influence policymaking within organizations or governments involved in post-conflict resolution by highlighting successful strategies or areas needing improvement.

Society: While not directly related, the research might indirectly contribute to societal healing and reconciliation, aiding community cohesion and trust-building post-conflict.

Originality: Offering new insights by exploring the long-term societal impact of these courts in transition phases.

Limitations: Focusing solely on Kosovo might limit broader comparative analysis.

Keywords: hybrid courts, post-conflict societies, Kosovo, trials, human rights, transitional justice, war crimes.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Blerta Ahmeti (a current PhD Candidate at the Doctoral School of Law and Politics at the University of Szeged in Hungary. She holds a master's degree in human Rights Law from the University of Kent. Her interest includes human rights, criminal justice, and transitional justice).

RISKS OF USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN THE LITIGATION

Alqatawna Ammar

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Research Question (RQ): The utilization of AI in the judicial system has witnessed a significant increase lately. However, there are concerns regarding its impact on access to justice, changes in the nature of litigation, and potential algorithmic bias. These concerns could have a significant effect on human rights. What are the risks of using AI in the judicial system?

Purpose: The author inquired about the risks and effects of using AI in the judicial system and recommended measures for balancing them with the advantages.

Method: The critical and comparative research methods are used, along with a review of available research and reports from various countries.

Results: After reviewing literature and country experiences, the author analyses the risks of using AI in litigation and its effects.

Organization: The article highlights a number of concerns that policymakers, AI developers, and judges should take into account to ensure the best application of AI in the courtroom...

Society: The article discusses how AI could impact justice and human rights in court, stressing the importance of responsible use and collaboration among involved parties.

Originality: There are numerous articles that highlight the benefits of integrating AI into legal proceedings, but there has been little examination of the potential dangers of AI in this field and how these risks might affect the nature of the litigation process. This article addresses this research question by presenting more concrete examples of AI's applications in judicial systems worldwide.

Limitations / further research: This article delves into the possible dangers of utilizing AI in the legal system as a whole without examining specific concerns associated with the application of AI in particular stages of the litigation process. It emphasizes the importance of conducting more research into the potential hazards of particular tasks, such as risk assessment tools.

Keywords: artificial intelligence (AI), litigation process, AI risks, access to justice, AI bias, future of AI, AI and human rights.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ammar Alqatawna (a Jordanian Ph.D. student at the University of Miskolc (Hungary), my dissertation is on using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the judicial system. I have a master's degree in intellectual property law. I have been working as a Jordanian judge since 2018, a specialist in civil and commercial cases, and a legal researcher in applying artificial intelligence in the litigation processes, online courts, and online dispute resolution (ODR). Participating in several international scientific conferences related to the effect of AI on the judicial system).

RIGHT TO TRUTH?

Marcin Kilanowski

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Research Question (RQ): Is still possible to defend the idea of reaching for the truth, of gaining information and knowledge while respecting the right to privacy and right to freedom in democratic societies?

Purpose: We are facing a crisis in our democracy – the crisis of the notion of truth and knowledge. We also experience difficulties in getting access to information and with protection of privacy due to the systematic manipulation of data that supports the relentless targeting of citizens, without their consent, by campaigns of fake news, disinformation and messages of hate. The prevalence of the fake news phenomenon can be mainly ascribed to the popularity of social media as channels of communication between people. Drawing knowledge from a small number of sources and closing oneself in information bubbles favours proliferation of false content. Some researchers emphasize that although projects aiming to counter disinformation are implemented both at the national and international level, the chance of controlling this phenomenon is small. Social media, where the content is based on private opinions of users, will always be subjective. As Internet users have the right to express their own opinion, based on personal knowledge and experience, it is mostly up to the readers and viewers themselves to assess the credibility of the information they encounter. The awareness of citizens is the greatest potential weapon in the fight against fake news; thus we need to educate the society in critical thinking, as well as to disclose sources of information and enable the Internet users to have greater control over search results. Moreover, we need new legal and institutional arrangements.

Method: The research was conducted by using the descriptive method as well as content analysis of relevant literature (analysis of the discourse) and - due to the legal nature of some parts of the project - a crucial role will be played also by the dogmatic method.

Results: In this research, the focus was firstly given on the clash between the right to information and the right to privacy, and how they are at risk due to the development of new technologies. In light of that risk, it is also a crucial question whether it is still possible to obtain unbiased knowledge about the world, whether the truth can be protected from falsification, and whether it is possible to speak about the "right to truth". The aim was to answer two questions: How can we search for the truth and protect the truth today in the times of new technologies? What actions may help us deal with new technologies, considering the opportunities and threats they pose? In conclusion, the research presents a set of recommendations that can help overcome the difficulties and dangers that our societies and democratic systems started to face due to the rapid technological progress.

Organization: Organizations can use this research to enhance their understanding of information

dynamics and improve data privacy practices, crucial for developing effective communication strategies and ensuring compliance with contemporary challenges. The insights on critical thinking and digital literacy can inform educational initiatives for employees, bolstering their ability to navigate the complex information landscape. Additionally, the research offers a framework for balancing technological innovation with ethical considerations, aiding in strategic planning and corporate social responsibility efforts.

Society: The recommendations present in the article can be a basis for legal regulations concerning education, freedom of speech, journalism, corporate governance, and state responsibility that will help to use the new technologies for the common good instead of the benefit of the few.

Originality: A new and important topic for the protection of or rights.

Limitations / further research: Further research on the notion of right to truth is much needed.

Keywords: rights to truth, right to privacy, right to information.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Marcin Kilanowski (Professor of law at Nicolas Copernicus University. After completing his undergraduate, graduate and doctoral studies in philosophy and law at Nicolas Copernicus University, Utrecht University, Oxford University, and Harvard Law School, he was a visiting researcher and visiting scholar at John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, the Institute for Social Research at Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Mine, the Department of Philosophy at Harvard University, and Science-Po's Ecole de Droit in Paris. Marcin Kilanowski has also worked as a member of The Prime Minister of Poland Working Group on Corporate Social Responsibility. He is a founder and Director of the think-tank Institute of Legal and Political Research and a member of editorial board of Res Publica Nova. He is the author of three book, (most recent: "Toward Freedom as Responsibility" SUNY Press 2021), dozens of scientific papers and articles published in Poland and abroad and an opinion contributor for various media outlets. He teaches on matters of jurisprudence, public law and global governance.

THE ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN CYBERSECURITY

Huthaifa Albustanji

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Research Question (RQ): What are the key vulnerabilities in current cybersecurity technologies, and how do they affect the effectiveness of these systems in combating online threats?

Purpose: Highlighting the significance of artificial intelligence in cyber defence as a novel and intelligent means to combat cyber threats effectively.

Method: Utilizing a literature review approach to investigate the intersection of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. It involves analysing existing scholarly works and studies to understand the challenges posed by evolving cyber threats and the limitations of conventional security systems.

Result: Demonstrating how AI can be leveraged to improve cybersecurity.

Organization: Clarifying AI measures to fight cyber-attacks that targeting companies and financial institutes

Society: Using AI for discovering cyber threats will make people more of confidence in using their devices that connected to internet.

Originality: The significance of AI in cyber defence will be heightened by this study as there is a limited amount of research conducted on this particular subject matter.

Limitations / further research: This reach is limited to specific issue which is using AI as cyber defence tool to detect cyber threats. / It is crucial to address the importance of utilizing AI as a means to enhance cybersecurity and I support researchers to discuss this issue.

Keywords: cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (ai), cyberattacks, cyber defence, technology, ai risks.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Huthaifa Albustanji (A Jordanian PHD student at university of Miskolc (Hungary), currently writing dissertation on the future of cybersecurity. He studied bachelor, judicial diploma and Master degree in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He worked as a judge from 1/9/2019 until 1/9/2023. He participated in many conferences in Europe and middle east and have three publications – two articles in reviews and one book).

PROLIFERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Filip Hałas

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Research Question (RQ): What are human rights according to the deliberative approach and what is their value in economic growth, especially for individuals.

Purpose: The purpose of the paper is to promote human rights as a beneficial factor in economic development and progress. Such idea, meaning that human rights' proliferation is beneficial can prove to be very important for future relations with the developing countries.

Method: The Author chooses the method of literature review, mostly covering topics of poverty (primarily J. Davison: "Agriculture, Women, and Land. The African Experience") and collapsed states (mainly I. William Zartman: "Collapsed States: The Disintegration and Restoration of Legitimate Authority")

Results: Human rights are beneficial for economic growth, especially when considering fostering economic freedoms granted to the individuals.

Organization: The paper contributes to the literature regarding human rights, especially as it stands against the notion of human rights as a universal, never changing concept derived from natural law, while also not undermining them, via reductant use of cultural relativism, for they constitute the only system of values in history, that was designed to function globally.

Society: The paper prompts further proliferation of human rights, especially in places where most needed. It gives good grounds to promote the part of 'western' values, that can truly be universal. **Originality:** The article, for the reason of mild deliberative approach towards human rights, is in a minority, allowing for the element of rationality to prevail before absolute universality or cultural relativism.

Limitations / further research: The following considerations can be a foundation to further contemplate on 'western' values, axiology of human rights, cultural differences, reasons behind poverty and possible solutions to it, especially in Africa.

Keywords: human rights, western culture, dignity, poverty, collapsed states.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Filip Hałas. 4th year law student on Wars Studies University in Warsaw. Participant of Erasmus+ Programme on University of Nicosia and Universidade Nova de Lisboa. The Author often engages in scientific conferences, primarily regarding EU law and environmental law. Moreover the Author is interested in data protection, security sciences and human rights. Author published 'Apt anger —

its place, value and risk on '52 MSKN', speaker on '51 MSKN' on University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, 1st national student conference 'WYZWANIA NAUK SPOŁECZNYCH w XXI wieku' on Siedlce University of Natural Sciences and Humanities and 1st national conference 'Pożądane kierunki zmian legislacyjnych' on War Studies University.

THE BRICS COALITION: HOW ALIGNED ARE THEY?

Camila Carvalho

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Research Question: To what extent and in what areas are the BRICS countries cohesive in the international arena?

Purpose: Through this study I aim to illustrate the preferences of these countries as a collective and to ascertain whether and how these preferences diverge from those of other nations.

Method: The present article analyses data from the United Nations General Assembly and employs quantitative statistical methos to elucidate these countries' behaviours in resolutions and across various agendas.

Results: Preliminary findings indicate that while the BRICS countries exhibit a higher degree of convergence, internal divisions and agenda variations exist concerning coordination. These findings suggest that while they serve as a distinct coalition for targeted agendas within the international realm, particularly related to economic development, their influence does not significantly restrict the countries' foreign policies.

Organization: It is noteworthy that the coalition gains increased strength in the absence of certain countries, revealing disparities in internal significance among the member states, which has substantial implications for their coordination.

Society: Following distinctive agendas can have significant implications for society, especially those related to control and disarmament of nuclear weapons.

Originality: While literature commonly highlights the heterogeneity within the BRICS framework, my paper delves into identifying commonalities, elucidating their strengths, and pinpointing divergences in terms of agendas.

Limitations/further research: To gain a comprehensive understanding of the coordination mechanisms and the effectiveness of this coalition, further in-depth analysis is imperative. This will shed light on how the BRICS collectively navigate their shared goals and challenges on the global stage.

Keywords: BRICS, coordination, coalition, voting-behavior, unga, agenda, politics, foreign policy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Camila Carvalho (Master's student in Political Science at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, holding a Bachelor's degree in Social Science from the same institution. She is also a Foreign Policy

Analyst certified by Friedrich Ebert-Stiftung and ABONG. She is actively engaged in research, focusing on national political elites' preferences and regional integration at the Center of Legislative Studies. Additionally, she contributes as a researcher in the realms of international coordination and political institutions at RIPPERP).

MEASURING OF GOODS BY JUDICIAL POWER IN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

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Research Question (RQ): What are the main rules in the lines of case law that describe the model of courts' ruling when the conflict of goods occurs?

Purpose: My purpose is to check if we can draw a more or less consistent modus operandi based on case law for the situations of conflict between personal goods and public interests.

Method: Comparative, formal-dogmatic method.

Results: In contemporary Polish law there are no strict rules on the situations with a conflict of goods. Although Poland does not have a common law system, in this case, the judicial power is the strongest to set rules ad casum. I will endeavour to elucidate the mechanisms employed by the judiciary to gauge the balance between personal goods and common or public interest within the realm of case law. I will introduce four exceptions to the protection of personal goods as outlined in Polish legal doctrine.

Organisation: In light of these considerations, I will explore the implications for democratic and constitutional values. I will examine whether there are any threats to the democratic system arising from the necessity for the courts to make determinations regarding the relative importance and protection of two competing goods in certain cases. It is especially important for organisations whose purpose are maintaining democracy and constitutionalism.

Society: One of the most pivotal and fundamental principles in a democratic society is the freedom of speech and the right to privacy. In contemporary times, these principles often conflict with the common good, such as public interest and safety. Under Polish law, the rights to personal integrity, freedom of speech, and privacy are safeguarded within the framework of civil law, collectively referred to as personal goods. These values also enjoy protection under the Constitution. However, other values, such as safety, are equally essential in a democratic society. Occasionally, it becomes evident that these values can only sometimes be simultaneously upheld. **Originality:** The originality of the study lies in the combination of exploring the impact of Human Rights and constitutional values and also the most recent judicial lines from last years. It is especially crucial as Polish law gives great power to the judicial branch as far as those cases are concerned.

Limitations / further research: Limitations of the study include that it relies mainly on the most recent doctrine in only one contratype (justification). As the Polish legal doctrine uses four justifications, there will be less said about the remaining three. Also, I focus mainly on the newest case law.

Keywords: personal goods, civil law, constitutional law, judicial branch, judicial power, protection

of personal goods, conflict of goods, case law.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Katarzyna Dudek (5th year student at the University of Warsaw (Faculty of Law and Administration). Her main interest is civil law. Her Master Thesis subject is Acting in the public interest as a circumstance excluding the illegality of the violation of a personal good. She did her student internship at the Polish Ministry of Internal Affairs and one of the biggest Polish law firms in Warsaw).

POLITICAL ATTITUDE OF THE PUBLIC MEDIA IN POLAND – DIAGNOSIS AND QUESTION OF LEGAL REMEDIES

Michał Bartoszewicz

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Research Question (RQ): Legal tasks of the public media in Poland include obligation to reflect political pluralism and promote awareness of different opinions in the society. Thus a question arises: have these legal standards been complied with in recent years in Poland and, if not, what are possible measures to fulfil them?

Purpose: The main research objective is to show the impact of the state depended media on the electoral campaign in the context of the principle of free election. The second purpose is to postulate de lege ferendae taking into account the current state of affairs.

Method: The goals of the research have been achieved with the dogmatic method, analysis of some soft law acts of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and case study analysis.

Results: Evidence of political bias of the state-owned media in Poland in recent years. Consideration of certain remedies.

Organization: The research may have impact on policy towards the public media and possible reforms.

Society: The research may have impact on policy towards the public media and possible reforms. **Originality:** The results of the research are the added value to discussions on relations between public media and fair election standards. The survey is an attempt to integrate different social sciences (legal sciences, political science, media studies) perspectives.

Limitation/further research: While the influence of the media on the rules of fair play in elections is clear, what is more difficult to prove is the degree of influence on the election results. This question would be examined within political science research.

Keywords: public media, state depended media, political pluralism, political bias, propaganda, free elections.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michał Bartoszewicz (Professor at the Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa, Faculty of Law and Economy and "doctor habilitowany" (post-doctoral degree at the University of Wrocław, 2018). Author of two monographs: "Supervision over the Political Parties in the Polish Constitutional Order", Warszawa 2006; "The Polish Language and its Legal Protection in the Constitutional Order".

of the Republic of Poland", Warszawa 2017. Author of many publications in the area of constitutional law. Main areas of research: human rights, especially political rights, Polish parliament, language rights and legal status of languages).

Challenges of the Modern World

THE IMPACT OF GEOPOLITICAL FRICTION ON SPACE LAW AND POLICY

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Research Question (RQ): How does geopolitical friction influence the development and implementation of space law and policy, as evidenced by the work of the Legal Subcommittee within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) at the United Nations?

Purpose: The space law and policy are the instruments extremely susceptible to political influence resulting from the current geopolitical situation. During the Cold War, the key influence on space law had two superpowers- the USA and the USSR. Those states had a key role in developing the first instrument of space governance -the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. In 2023, the arena of space activities looks more diverse. The Global Risk Report from 2022 mentioned countries that have expressed interest in space exploration. The Report listed, among others: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates Australia, South Korea, and Vietnam. The friction takes place in different fields of exploration. The most visible are the race for a place in the Low Earth Orbit and the Medium Earth Orbit instead of the traditional race for a place in the Geostationary Orbit. Struggle to create the most effective space forces, or scientific programs which aim to reopen the exploration of the Moon.

Method: The method used is typical for legal studies, including the dogmatic method and analyses of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) at the United Nations and its subcommittees.

Results: Modern society still needs to fully understand the dynamic of space exploration, space law and policy creation. Understanding of the mechanisms taking place in this area allows them to be better anticipated and shaped.

Organization: The papers open the question of how geopolitical friction impacts space law and policy.

Society: The friction takes place in different fields of exploration and most of them have an impact on modern society and the environment.

Originality: This research consists of analyses of the current stay of affairs accompanied by recommendations based on participation in LSC COPOUS.

Further research: There are method limitations, concerning the lack of access to various policies and practices of organizations not published.

Keywords: space law, space policy, COPOUS, LSC COPOUS.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Zuzanna Kulinska-Kępa (PH.D. is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw (Department of International Aviation and Space Law) and a lecturer at the District Bar Council in Warsaw. Between 2007-2011 and 2015-2017, she served as president of the Amnesty International Poland Association and was the first woman from Eastern Europe to sit in the International Executive Council of Amnesty International (2011-2013). She is the author of scientific publications on international law, human rights protection, and space law issues. Fellow of the Hague Academy of International Law. Member of the Polish Group of the International Law Association (ILA)).

SUBJECTS OF PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW — TIME FOR REFLECTION

Kamil Strzępek

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Research Question (RQ): Public international law is intended to, among other things, introduce an element of stability in international relations. Public international law is created by the subjects of this law which are the holders of the rights and obligations under this law. However, we can distinguish a number of entities which, despite the lack of international legal personality, influence international relations. The question arises — whether the existence of these other entities does not weaken the actions of the classic subjects of public international law, namely states and international organisations?

Purpose: The research purpose of the presentation was to define a catalogue of entities that, despite the lack of international legal personality, influence international relations.

Method: The research was based on scientific and popular science literature. The research method used in the paper was a descriptive analysis and critical interpretation of recent trends in the area of international relations.

Results: The research results show that in addition to the classic catalogue of entities such as states and international organisations, we can distinguish a number of other entities that influence international relations, for example international corporations, non-governmental organisations, or non-institutionalised forums for cooperation.

Organization: The research results, by distinguishing other (than classic ones) entities operating in international relations, may contribute to greater stability in international relations.

Society: The stability of international relations affects the security of nations and individuals.

Originality: The originality of the research is critical approach to the existing catalogue of the subjects of public international law.

Limitations / further research: The research results may contribute to the debate on actually existing entities in international relations that influence international relations. Further research may even result in expanding the traditional catalogue of the subjects of public international law.

Keywords: subjects of public international law, states, international organisations, international relations, stability.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Kamil Strzępek (Doctor of Law, legal advisor, academic teacher at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. A long-time employee of the Supreme Administrative Court (Poland), the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg (France), and the Constitutional Tribunal (Poland). He completed master's degree at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. He obtained his doctorate in law from the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw. Author of publications in the field of constitutional law, administrative law, European law and human rights. He is fluent in English and French).

POSSIBILITIES FOR TSI COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN

Marceli Hazla

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Research Question (RQ): What are the possibilities for Three Seas Initiative (TSI) countries to maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan, given its low international recognition amidst the "One China" policy?

Purpose: The aim of this paper is to present the opportunities for TSI countries to maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan, taking into account the legal, economic and political conditions. This approach is inspired by the theory of institutional economics, according to which the final political arrangements are derived from the legal and economic conditions (i.e. institutions), which helps to clarify certain issues in international relations - in this case, the status quo of Taiwan.

Method: Main research methods include stylised facts, analysis of statistical data, literature review and comparative analysis.

Results: The question of maintaining diplomatic relations with Taiwan now largely depends on political arrangements, and the decision in this regard should therefore be tailored to the agenda and objectives of each country (or group of countries, such as TSI) that is considering establishing such relations. Over the past few years, for example, one could observe a slow shift in stance in this regard from the United States, Japan and EU member states, which, in the face of the war in Ukraine and rising tensions between Western countries and China, have begun to express support for Taiwan's democratic society with greater boldness. TSI countries, due to their growing dissatisfaction with the economic cooperation with China and especially in view of the Chinese position on the war in Ukraine most likely will revise their policies towards China in the coming years.

Organization: Taiwan is currently not represented in the United Nations or its affiliated organisations, making it difficult for Taiwanese government to pursue its foreign policy and international cooperation objectives. The paper presents arguments that democratic countries can use as a rationale for showcasing greater support for Taiwan in the international arena.

Society: This paper can serve as an awareness-raising factor for democratic societies about the situation of Taiwan's 24 million population in the face of aggressive Chinese foreign policy.

Originality: Despite the existence of a significant number of studies touching on the issue of Taiwan's international legal status, this paper aims to bring a slightly different perspective to the discussion thanks to the inclusion of economic and political conditions into the analysis.

Limitations / further research: Main research limitation is associated with the lack of statistical data availability from years 2022-2023, which are crucial to the topic due to the war in Ukraine.

and its vast implications for the CEE region. Therefore further research should include statistical data from those years when it becomes available.

Keywords: three seas initiative, CEE countries, China, Taiwan, diplomatic relations.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Marceli Hazla is a 2nd year PhD candidate at Poznan University of Economics and Business and postgraduate student at Wroclaw University of Economics in the field of prevention of economic crimes. He is an author of several scientific publications and speeches at conferences in the field of international economics, geopolitics, finance and sustainable development, as well as a columnist at Polish financial newspaper "Parkiet Gazeta Giełdy" and an associate expert at "Blue Europe" think-tank. Holder of Polish stockbroker's licence, European banking certificate, and several other finance-related qualifications, he gained his professional experience working as a financial analyst. His current research interests include global economy, geopolitics and sustainable development.

CRISIS OR DEVELOPMENT? DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS IN THE FACE OF CONTEMPORARY CHAILENGES

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Research Question (RQ): Nowadays, there is increasing talk of a crisis of democracy. The unstable political situation and numerous social protests in various European countries seem to confirm this. Consequently, it becomes desirable for both scientific and social reasons to answer the following three questions: What is to be understood by the term crisis of democracy? What factors are at the basis of the crisis? What are the challenges for contemporary democratic states? **Purpose:** Creation of a universal model of systemic modifications resulting in an effectively functioning democracy within a system based on the coexistence of indirect and direct forms of exercising power.

Method: The first step is to operationalise the concept of crisis of democracy. Then, by using the behavioural methods, the systemic analysis method and the legal-comparative method, it is possible to identify the underlying causes of the crisis of democracy and to find systemic solutions to solve the problem. The theoretical background for the research is J. J. Rousseau's concept of democracy, suitably adapted to the contemporary political reality.

Results: The following conclusions are drawn from the research conducted. General conclusion: crises of democracy are related to the shortcomings of the representative form of exercise of power. Three detailed conclusions:

- 1. As soon as representatives are elected, citizens lose influence on decision-making they become fully dependent on their elected politicians. Such a situation creates a real threat to citizens taking action against their will and decisions against their interests.
- 2. Social protest by itself is insufficient. This is because the authorities do not always change their previous decisions as a result of a protest. Without legal instruments to influence the decisions of the authorities, citizens are forced to wait until the term of office of elected politicians comes to an end. However, there is no guarantee that representatives elected in subsequent elections will respect the will of the society.
- 3. The remedy for the crisis of democracy is to carry out an appropriate modification of the system of government, involving the implementation of mechanisms of direct exercise of power by citizens.

Organization: Systemic modification of the relationship between citizens and elected authority. Elimination of the monopoly of political parties on the exercise of power.

Society: Effective implementation of the principle of national sovereignty, development of civil society.

Originality: The value of the research is undoubtedly the timeliness of the issues undertaken and

the high social utility of the proposed systemic solutions.

Limitations / further research: Difficulties in formulating an universal model of systemic solutions. While it is possible to indicate specific instruments, a universal presentation of all the details of their regulation already raises difficulties due to the systemic differences of particular states. / Research should constantly verify the impact of systemic modifications on the shape and efficiency of democracy.

Keywords: political system, crisis of democracy, social protest, representative democracy, direct democracy.

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Jakub Sromecki. PhD student at the Doctoral School of Social Sciences, University of Łódź, in the discipline of legal sciences. In his research work, he deals with issues in the field of constitutional law and political sciences, in particular the theoretical and practical side of the functioning of modern political systems, tools of direct democracy, as well as the concept of separation of powers, both in its historical and currently applied form.

PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF ADDRESSING ALGORITHMIC DISCRIMINATION – BETWEEN COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS?

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Research Question (RQ): Whether a lack of human rights compliance in cyberspace results from procedural obstacles in municipal laws?

Purpose: The paper proposes a model demonstrating interdependencies between human rights in the cyberspace and the scant regulations of jurisdiction over algorithmic discrimination.

Method: By utilizing international human rights law incorporated into municipal laws, the paper uses case studies from the Dutch (complemented by the EU) and US laws. This research is located in a law-in-context approach, with the starting point being the challenges arising out of developing and deploying ADM for society. Because of its decentralized and relatively primitive character, as well as limited legislative, judicial and executive functions, international law used here becomes problematic in terms of addressing the socio-technical challenges of ADM. At the same time, this very international normative framework provides for some political rearrangements, especially in the context of business responsibility and human rights, which may be given priority to resolve the described challenges. Even more, international human rights law, as primarily codified in treaties, reflects the will of the primary decision-makers (states) towards interpreting the interdependent (post-global) values to be protected.

Results: There are violations of non-discrimination clauses in the cyberspace, but there are limited possibilities, if any, to claim these violations as long as human rights law is not integrated to municipal laws. If, on the contrary, collective and individual interests become interdependent, then procedural obstacles to claiming algorithmic discrimination are reduced. The way the existing (digital) human rights are perceived at the moment remains unclear and it seems that the human rights perspective is not working as it is supposed to work in cyberspace. It is argued that algorithmic discrimination is difficult to locate and address, but rather than blaming the public sector for gaps in algorithmic accountability, we should focus on self-regulation by the private sector that produces discriminatory algorithms far more often than states and affects more collectives.

Organization: The research may strengthen the protection of individuals rights if properly implemented. It may also be supportive for NGOs working in the area of human rights in the cyberspace.

Society: The research stresses the challenges to litigating algorithmic discrimination resulting from acts of public authorities and private entities. The latter are not the direct duty bearers in

international human rights law which makes the procedure concerning discrimination challenging from the jurisdictional perspective.

Originality: Various stakeholders seek to address the social effects of digitalization through sectoral regulation, treaties, soft law and ethics, whereas the enforcement of international human rights law inhibits the social impacts of innovations. In this context, algorithmic discrimination has been approached from human rights-centered perspectives. While a lot of research has been devoted to algorithmic discrimination, it is still not known how the anti-discrimination procedural framework can be translated to ADM developed and deployed by states and private entities.

Limitations / further research: The research covers only a piece of the general project The prohibition of discrimination in algorithmic decision-making funded by the Polish Science Centre. Further research requires focusing on universal and regional systems of the protection of human rights and the procedural obstacles thereof.

Keywords: algorithmic discrimination, business and human rights, municipal jurisdiction, human rights implementation.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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COMBATTING TERRORIST SPEECH IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Research Question (RQ): How does the European Union's approach to combating terrorist speech align with the protection of fundamental rights, particularly the right to freedom of expression? **Purpose:** Combatting terrorism covers not only prosecution and penalisation of authors of terrorist acts, but in the first place it includes prevention of terrorist crimes. One of the means of prevention of terrorism is combatting terrorist speech. The EU decided to carry on this task in two ways. One is the penalisation of terrorist speech (which is a so called precursor crime), the other is addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online. The provisions thereon are a limitation to the freedom of speech, especially if the content is erroneously treated as terrorist content. That is why it needs to be deliberated what terrorist content actually is and what safeguards should exist to protect the freedom of expression.

Method: The analysis uses theoretical, dogmatic and descriptive approach. The research deplored the EU law, national laws of the EU Member States and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

Results: Terrorist content falls outside the protection of freedom of expression. Terrorist expression can have different forms (speeches, radio and tv programs, but also pictures on clothes), it can be a glorification of terrorism, as well as humiliation of victims of terrorism. At the same time, expressions made for purposes of political discourse, education, science, art fall outside the category of terrorist expression.

Organization: The research permits to understand what is a terrorist content and how organisations and managers should use their freedom of expression to avoid terrorist content. Special regard is given to the Internet service providers, taken into consideration their obligations stemming from the removal orders as regulated in the EU regulation no. 2021/784.

Society: The research permits the society to understand threats stemming from terrorist content and the needs of its combatting. At the same time it permits to understand how to conduct public discourse in a way avoiding spreading terrorist content.

Originality: This research is a deepened analysis of terrorist expression, with emphasis place on terrorist content as regulated by the EU regulation no. 2021/784. These are new obligations of the EU member states which by now have not been subjected to wider analysis.

Limitations / further research: The basic limitation is that not all EU member states implemented the regulation no. 2021/784. The next problem is that implementing measures are in national languages of different member states, yet the author speaks only Polish, English, Spanish, German and French.

Keywords: freedom of expression, terrorist speech, terrorist content, glorification of terrorism, incitement to terrorism, apology of terrorism.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Magdalena Matusiak-Frącczak (Advocate, Assistant professor at the Department of European Constitutional Law (Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Łódź, Poland), Visiting Lecturer at the Chandigarh University (India), author of many publications in the area of the EU law and international law, main areas of research: combatting terrorism, human rights, legal professional privilege, State immunity).

Challenges of the Modern World

CLIMATE CHANGE, COPING STRATEGIES AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN ARGENTINA (2010-2020)

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Research Question (RQ): How has displacement due to climate change or disasters been recognized in international, regional and national regulations? Considering the chosen case study (Lujan River Basin, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina), how has citizen participation been in the design of adaptation mechanisms? What have been the instances of interaction with the State? Purpose: The aim of this research is to give an overview of human displacement due to climate change and disasters in the last 20 years, and mainly from the study of a local case, how has been the recognition of this issue at the state level and the participation of the citizenship in the design of adaptation mechanisms.

Method: The methodology used for this work is qualitative, with the compilation of previous works on the subject, journalistic articles and interviews.

Results: Recognition of internal displacement due to climate change is still not recognized in local regulations and information on this population is scarce and not very systematized. Likewise, the spaces for citizen participation in the design of adaptation mechanisms have not yet been consolidated.

Organization / society: Although it is not part of the objective of this research, it is hoped that the research will be a small contribution to improve the articulation of the different levels of the State and to consider the advantages of citizen participation in the design of public policies.

Originality: The value of this research is to inquire about how citizens have been involved in the development of adaptation mechanisms for their territory and how the State has or has not opened their participation, taking as a case study a local experience in Argentina.

Limitations / further research: Due to limitations to reach different stakeholders (involved in this topic) at the time of field work, the results are provisional and further research is needed.

Keywords: climate change, adaptation, citizen participation, human rights, Argentina.

The research proposal is part of the advances generated by the Political Science Research Group of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA): "Forced displaced persons due to the effects of climate change in Argentina: public policies for their protection (2000-2020)".

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ana Levintan (Has a Bachelor' Degree in Political Science from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA). As part of her professional activity, since December 2021 she is a legislative advisor in the Honorable Senate of Argentina. She is also a project assistance intern at the Human Security Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (SEHLAC) and junior researcher at the Political Science Research Group of the University of Buenos Aires).

SHARING ECONOMY AND SENIOR VOLUNTEERING - MACRO AND MICRO DIMENSIONS OF THE PHENOMENON

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Research Question (RQ): Seniors around the world engage in various forms of social activity. They work charitably, help those in need - each other, share knowledge and time, are active in activities, participate in projects, study at universities of the third century, build new social bonds and also look for occasional forms of economic activity, i.e. using unused resources. What is the model of social action in the context of the Sharing Economy and the volunteering activities of Polish seniors?

Purpose: The author asked about the model of social action in the field of Sharing Economy and volunteering of Polish seniors based on a case study of the behaviour of seniors from Wałbrzych.

Method: Literature analysis, review of available research, study in October-XI. 2023 included 76 seniors, participants of the University of the Third Age from the Wałbrzych district.

Results: Based on the analysis of literature, domestic and foreign experience and empirical research, the author attempted to define the model of activity of Polish seniors in the micro and macro dimensions, narrowing her research to the sharing economy and volunteering - motives, experiences, conditions, tendencies and predictions of development directions.

Organization: Based on the results of previous research, organizations can undertake social initiatives in cooperation with seniors and social organizations of seniors, but also prepare market offers knowing more precisely the model of their behaviour.

Society: Research on the social behaviour of seniors is important from the point of view of understanding the aging processes, mental and physical health, as well as the quality of life in old age, but also the possibility of using the social potential that lies in older generations for generations to come.

Originality: The author compared two concepts: volunteering and sharing economy - she compared them, showed differences and similarities - in the context of the needs and situation of seniors in Poland. While many reports and studies have been devoted to the situation of seniors in Poland, there is a clear lack of research in the area of sharing economy among seniors. From a micro perspective, the author defined the local model of social activity of seniors in Wałbrzych based on the analysis of social initiatives undertaken by seniors and the results of surveys conducted by respondents.

Limitations / further research: Basic research problems include: difficulties in obtaining consent to participate in research, heterogeneity of the elderly population. Continued research includes the integration of knowledge from management, economics, sociology and psychology in the development of more effective support strategies for seniors as a constantly growing social group.

Keywords: senior, sharing economy, mobility of seniors, technologies for seniors, volunteering, charity, social work, social involvement, charity work, social cause, knowledge.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ph.D. Eng. Joanna Nowicka (Doctor of economics in the field of management, academic teacher, author of publications in the field of management, logistics, entrepreneurship, entrepreneur."

FOOD MARKETING REGULATIONS AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY ACROSS AMERICA

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Research Question (RQ): What is the impact of food marketing and advertising on childhood obesity?

Purpose: The purpose of this research is to analyze the existing regulatory measures and legislation on food marketing aimed at children, understand its effects and look for ways to reduce childhood obesity.

Method: This research was conducted through analysis and comparison of the current legislation and regulatory measures on food marketing enforced in Brazil, Chile and the United States. As well as, consulting multiple scientific articles on the research subject.

Results: Regulations, such as the ones implemented in Chile, have shown to be effective when it comes to limiting the exposure of children to persuasive and manipulative food marketing. Consequently, causing a significant decrease in children's consumption of such food products, which, in turn, can lead to the decrease in childhood obesity.

Organization: This research can help governments and organizations find effective measures to create, improve as well as enforce legislation and regulations on child-oriented food marketing.

Society: People are susceptible to the influence and manipulation of persuasive marketing strategies. Thus, children, being the more easily influenced part of the population, are even more vulnerable to such tactics. This research paper helps further showcase this fact as well as the dangers posed by these marketing strategies, subsequently proposing options to counteract the impact of said damaging tactics.

Originality: Unlike most others of its kind, this research brings a comparative approach when analyzing the effectiveness of regulations in Latin American countries and the United States when it comes to the marketing of ultra-processed food products directed at children.

Limitations / further research: Limitations faced were the lack of primary research sources and lack of in-depth research sources in this specific topic. Further research could expand the subject countries to include other Latin American countries, as well as European and Middle Eastern countries.

Keywords: child-oriented marketing, nutrition, law, regulations, food advertisement, childhood

obesity, food labeling, comparative law.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Brigida Cury Gomes Carneiro is a Brazilian student pursuing a Bachelor of Laws at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG), with an interest in International and Comparative Law. She has worked as an intern at the Flagrante Delicti Office in the Tribunal de Justiça de Minas Gerais (Minas Gerais Justice Court), and currently works as an intern at the Defensoria Pública de Minas Gerais (Minas Gerais Public Defender Office). She has attended the UFMG study group on Human Rights in International Law (GEDI-DH) and is currently a volunteer researcher at Programa Universitário de Apoio às Relações de Trabalho e à Administração da Justiça (University Program to Support Labour Relations and the Administration of Justice). She attended one semester as an exchange student at the University of Trento, in 2023.

Isabelly Camparim Brandão Ferraz is a certified level three Personal Trainer and is now working as a Designer in the Food and Beverage Industry in Dubai, UAE. She graduated from UFMG in 2022, with a Major in Graphic Arts, before furthering her education by achieving certifications in both level 2 and 3 Personal Training. With an interest in Marketing and Nutrition, she has attended a course in UFMG on the Marketing of Nutrition, which focused on the rules and regulations behind the distribution and exposure of food advertisement. She previously worked as a Personal Trainer at a multinational gym in Dubai, however she is currently immersed in the food and beverage industry.

Does return on tertiary education moderate the effect of households' cost of higher education on the level of income inequality? A cross-country analysis

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Research Question (RQ): In recent decades, an increase in the level of income inequality has been observed in most developed countries, which has contributed to a significant interest in this topic among economists and attempts to explain this phenomenon. Education is considered to be the great equalizer and several studies have shown that access to education can be related to the level of income inequality (Checchi, 1999; Abdullah et al., 2013; Rodriguez-Pose and Tselios, 2009; Sylwester, 2002). How does access to education influence the level of income inequality in developed countries, as evidenced by economic studies from the past few decades?

Purpose: The objective of the study was to examine whether the cost of tertiary education for households and the return to tertiary education have an impact on the level of income inequality. The main assumption was that the high cost of tertiary education increases the level of income inequality because it makes it more difficult for poor people to access higher education, and thus hinders the improvement of their material status. However, this is primarily the case when the return to tertiary education is relevant, so that on average people with higher education achieve higher earnings.

Method: The current study included 31 OECD member countries. The Gini coefficient was used as a measure of income inequality (WID, 2023). To assess the cost of tertiary education data, percent of education costs that are covered by households was used (OECD, 2023). Data on return to tertiary education was drawn from Montenegro and Patrinos (2021).

Results: Moderation analysis was conducted using Jamovi's medmod module. The outcome variable for analysis was Gini coefficient. The predictor variable for the analysis was percentage of education costs covered by households, and the moderator was return to tertiary education. The interaction between predictor and moderator was statistically non-significant (β = .000197, SE = .000144, 95% CI [-.0000858, .00048], Z = 1.36, p = .172). However, both percentage of tertiary education costs covered by households and returns to tertiary education independently significantly predicted Gini coefficient (β = .00187, SE = .000626, 95% CI [.000638, .00309], Z = 2.98, p = .003 and β = .01235, SE = .00278, 95% CI [.00691, .0178], Z = 4.45, p < .001).

Organization: It turns out that both costs and returns to higher education significantly affect the level of income inequality. These results should prompt university authorities to consider different ways of financing higher education in order to make access to it as equal as possible.

Society: Inequality can contribute to rising tensions between groups and damage social order, especially when citizens feel they have unequal opportunities. If inequality is linked to the high costs and returns of education, it is possible that equalizing access to it would be able to reduce inequality and limit its negative effects.

Originality: Although there are numerous studies on the relationship between inequality and the cost of higher education, or inequality and the return on higher education, it seems that the mutual influences of all these variables has not been thoroughly studied in the past.

Limitations / further research: The results obtained do not indicate that the impact of the cost of education on inequality depends on the level of return to tertiary education. However, this result may be due to a small sample of countries or the fact that for the lack of data a percentage of education costs covered by households was used as costs instead of specific values, so further research in this area should be conducted in the future.

Keywords: income inequality, return to tertiary education, cost of higher education, moderation, cross-country analysis.

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Agata Kwiatkowska received a bachelor's degree in economics from Poznań University of Economics and Business, Poland. Currently she is a computer science and econometrics student. She participates in the academic community by engaging in scientific research and being a member of several students' societies. Her main interests are economic inequality, heterodox economics and data analysis.

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SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Juljana Laze

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Research Question (RQ): This paper focuses on a) What are the main challenges and barriers universities face when attempting to fulfil their social responsibility, and what innovative approaches or best practices can be identified to overcome these obstacles and enhance their social impact?; b) How do universities measure and report on their social responsibility initiatives, and what are the key indicators and metrics used to assess the effectiveness and impact of these programs? c) What are the key dimensions and components of social responsibility for universities, and how do they vary across different cultural and institutional contexts?.

Purpose: The research purpose and goal of studying the social responsibility of universities are to better understand, assess, and improve the impact of these institutions on society, the environment, and their local communities. This research also aims to inspire positive change, promote accountability, and contribute to the broader goals of sustainability and ethical leadership in education.

Method: The method used is mainly the analytical approach, with conceptual analysis and examination of arguments. The research material focuses on various articles, reports, and relevant literature on the issue under consideration. The research material also includes the administration of 30 semi-structured interviews with lecturers who agreed to share their attitudes and perceptions on the issues conducted.

Results: The findings indicate that Institutions, on their part, must change their approach towards society, the philosophy of being only in the function of student preparation and scientific research, but take responsibility towards society.

Organization: To maximize the impact of university research on managers, organizations, and practices, there is often a need for effective knowledge transfer mechanisms, such as research dissemination, industry-academia partnerships, and knowledge exchange programs. Universities, businesses, and policymakers often collaborate to facilitate the practical application of research findings and ensure that research is accessible and relevant to those who can benefit from it.

Society: The concept of social responsibility of universities, often referred to as the civic or public mission of universities, can have a significant research impact on society, social responsibility, and the environment. This concept emphasizes that universities should actively engage with and contribute to their communities and the wider world.

Originality: The social responsibility of universities extends beyond education and research. It encompasses a commitment to contribute to the well-being of society and the environment. By

embracing this concept, universities can enhance the impact of their research on these critical areas, fostering positive change and sustainability. For Albanian higher education, it is a challenge, because it is necessary to intervene in the legal framework in force, by drafting acts of criteria for their identification to understand and measurable indicators.

Limitations / further research: It is necessary to undertake a more in-depth study, with a more comprehensive approach, where data, considerations, as well as different actors involved in the role of universities to face the challenges stemming from social problems and sustainability are highlighted.

Keywords: social responsibility, higher education institutions, education policy, sustainable education, strategies value, responsibility initiatives.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ASSISTING DISPLACED PERSONS FROM UKRAINE IN MEETING THEIR HOUSING NEEDS IN POLAND INTRODUCED BY THE ACT OF MARCH 12, 2022 ON ASSISTANCE TO CITIZENS OF UKRAINE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARMED CONFLICT IN THE TERRITORY OF THAT STATE

Paweł Widerski

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Research Question (RQ): On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation attacked the territory of Ukraine. As a result of the attack of the troops of the Russian Federation, displaced persons from Ukraine, seeking shelter from the war, began to head towards the territory of the Republic of Poland. The mass influx of displaced Ukrainians was met with a spontaneous reaction from the Polish society, who provided them with great assistance in terms of housing needs. They found shelter not only in collective accommodation centers, but above all in private apartments made available by Poles themselves. The outbreak of the war met with a rapid reaction of the Polish state as well. Polish assistance to displaced Ukrainians was followed by legislative work aimed at creating a legal framework therefor, which resulted in the adoption on March 12, 2022 of the Act on assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of that state. It entered into force on the same day. It is a unique act, the so-called special act, which introduced a number of exceptional solutions for Ukrainian citizens, in addition to the general rules applicable in Poland with respect to foreigners. The provisions of the special act include specific legal solutions with respect to displaced persons from Ukraine in the field of housing law. The question should be asked whether the special act is effective in meeting the housing needs of displaced Ukrainians who settled in Poland due to the armed conflict in their country? Purpose: The research problem covers the legal regulation contained in the Act of March 12, 2022 on assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of that state, which relates to the rules of accommodation of Ukrainian citizens in Poland. The purpose is to answer the research question whether the special act is effective in meeting the housing needs of displaced Ukrainians who settled in Poland due to the armed conflict in their country? Method: The research was based upon the logical-linguistic and legal-comparative method. Results: The legislative initiative in the form of the enactment of a special act providing for a number of special solutions for Ukrainian citizens fleeing to Poland in connection with the war in their state, as a response to the migration crisis caused thereby, deserves a positive assessment. The specific solutions introduced by this special act regarding the satisfaction of housing needs of Ukrainian citizens are accurate. The most emphatic evidence of their effectiveness in this field in practice is the lack of refugee camps for Ukrainians in Poland, although Poland has taken in a record number of Ukrainian citizens fleeing the war. While in the first period after the outbreak of the war there was a spontaneous reaction of the Polish society that took in displaced persons into their homes, in the long term, without accurate legal solutions it would not have been possible to cope with the housing problem for such a large population as well as Poland did, i.e. without creating camps for such people. Poland's success in the area in question results from the skilful combination of two pillars of assistance, i.e. the public and private sectors. It seems that if meeting the housing needs of Ukrainians was based solely and exclusively on the assistance organized by public administration bodies, then due to the huge influx of foreigners in a very short time immediately after the outbreak of the war, the creation of refugee camps would be a matter of time. The Polish legislator noticed the potential of the Polish society and skilfully used the private sector in its housing policy towards Ukrainians.

Organization: The special aid act adopted in Poland complements the general principles of protection arising from the migration law and the refugee law, in particular the legal regulation of temporary protection of foreigners in Polish law, which constitutes the implementation of Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof. The special act may be a model regulation for other legal systems in solving the problem of the mass influx of war displaced persons.

Society: The findings of the research make the society aware of the scale of assistance provided to displaced Ukrainians in Poland in meeting their housing needs.

Originality: The obtained results present a new perspective on the attitude of Polish citizens and the housing policy of the Polish state towards displaced persons from Ukraine.

Limitations / further research: The present research covers a fragment of life in Poland after the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, regulated at the legal level by the special aid act concerning the issue of residence of the displaced persons subject thereto. In the future, research should also be carried out on other aspects of the lives of the displaced persons, in respect of whom certain special facilities are provided for in this special act.

Keywords: assistance to Ukrainian citizens, displaced persons, displaced Ukrainians, human rights, human right to housing.

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REMOTE WORK FOR THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF A COUNTRY OF ORIGIN UNDER THE EU TEMPORARY PROTECTION DIRECTIVE

Piotr Sadowski

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Research Question (RQ): Refugee status is denied to persons who cooperate with the authorities of a country of origin. However, it is unclear whether this rule also applies to displaced persons, or whether Directive 2011/95/EU regulating subsidiary protection should be applied in their cases.

Purpose: This research focuses on the legal situation of displaced persons who benefit from Directive 2001/55/EC regulating the EU temporary protection mechanism. This law can be activated in case of mass arrivals of persons in need of international protection. The research examines whether displaced persons can work remotely for the authorities of their country of origin. Consequently, it is analysed whether a remuneration from these activities can be taken into account to limit the social protection granted in the EU Member State.

Method: Dogmatic-legal analysis was used. Critical analysis of the law (1951 UN Refugee Convention, EU law and Polish law) was completed.

Results: The answer to the research questions depends on the nature of the activities performed by a displaced person, but not on the type of contract that this beneficiary concludes with the authorities. The asylum caseworker should be able to verify if these activities do not violate refugee law.

Organization/Society: The answer to the research question would help to determine: 1/ whether providing remote work for the authorities of a country of origin can be an obstacle to benefiting from temporary protection, and 2/ whether a remuneration from these contacts can be taken into account to limit the social protection granted by the EU Member States. Therefore, it can have an impact on the practice of public administration bodies regarding their approach to providing international protection, as well as on the living conditions of displaced persons. As a result, the research findings may be translated into more effective control of budgetary expenditures of the receiving country and may have an impact on the economy of the country of origin.

Originality: 28 % of displaced persons in Poland work remotely in Ukraine. This innovative factor has not been noted in the context of other military conflicts, but the popularization of remote work makes this issue worthy of analysis. Although access to employment for asylum seekers and recognized refugees has been analysed in the literature, there are significant differences between these norms and Directive 2001/55/EC. This issue has not yet been researched.

Limitations / further research: A comparative analysis of Polish legislation with the legislation of other EU Member States could help to determine whether there are prospects for amending (clarifying) EU legislation. Remote work performed outside the country where the contract is concluded is not regulated by EU law.

Keywords: mass arrivals of displaced persons, temporary protection, refugees, remote work, labour market.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Piotr Sadowski works at the Department of Human Rights at NCU in Toruń. He was an expert and a manager in international projects (implemented in cooperation with the European Commission, the IOM and the ICMPD) and an expert to Polish government. Piotr's specializes in international human rights (the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union), immigration, and asylum. Piotr has obtained his education in law in Toruń, (MA in 2007, PhD in 2015) and in the UK (a Bachelor of Arts in General Studies in Dundee in 2007). He has also took additional trainings, including at the European School of Administration in Brussels (2010). He received 2nd award in "Young Scholars" General Article Award 2018/209 of "European Journal of Legal Studies. He has been a mentor in Toruń Economic and Legal Summer Program.

THE EU'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESS TOWARDS THE REFUGEE CRISISLIMATE CHANGE, COPING STRATEGIES AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN ARGENTINA (2010-2020)

Elena-Simona Vranceanu

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Research Question (RQ): What is the European Union's policy perspective on the refugee crisis? The European Union (EU) faced various kinds of challenges during the time determined by people's movement from one place to another. The migration phenomenon brings with it various forms of expression, and refugees are by far the most vulnerable group in the debate. The reforms initiated in the wake of the refugee crisis in Syria (2015–2016) and the current situation of Ukrainian refugees (2022) are important moments of political agenda reforms within the EU. The ongoing pressure that irregular migration exerts on states also often leads officials at national level to adopt a more sceptical discourse on refugees, in contrast to EU representatives. There is a constant tension between these two opposing views on immigrants in general and refugees in particular.

Purpose: In this paper, we propose a critical perspective on the EU's response to the refugee crisis. **Method:** With reference to the recent evolution, we come to a critical perspective by studying a large spectrum of decisions, legislations, opinions and regulations that the European Union has integrated into its decision-making process mechanism.

Results: We found that there is a lack of unity" at the supranational level on the refugee issue due to serious criticism and opposite actions at the member state level. In this context, we analysed some dimensions that reflect the cultural and ethical background of refugees and their potential to create integration problems. The main findings are focused on two perspectives: an institutional view, representing a technocratic European discourse, and a political view, associated with a serious reinforcement of nationalism in EU member states.

Organization: Based on the main findings, we can conclude that the European Union should focus more on specific migration risks.

Society: A proper management of migration risk and a more effective EU policy in this area could offer multiple benefits: economic, social and political, otherwise it could lead to insecurity, conflict and even multiple crises.

Originality: The most important fact that could change the perspective on decisions related to the migration process is the importance of an ethical discourse that could underpin policy decisions, norms and regulations. This could be a more effective joint effort of international, national and local actors and individuals based on comprehensive cooperation that could raise awareness of the migration phenomenon and responsibility for vulnerable people, in this case refugees.

Challenges of the Modern World

Limitations / further research: The limitations of the research result from the methodological framework, which is mainly based on the description and critical interpretation of the main areas of the EU decision-making process on the refugee crisis. A future work could analyse in a quantitative and qualitative perspective a comparison between the EU regulations and the USA, which also has a long experience in migration issues.

Keywords: EU, decision-making process, refugees, crisis.

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THE ACHIEVEMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE, CASE OF UKRAINE

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Research Question (RQ): It was made an attempt to answer the following research questions: Firstly, what premises and events made it possible to start democratization in 1991? Secondly, what characterized the phenomenon of democratization of the political system at the end of the 20th century and on the beginning of the 21st century? Thirdly, can the current political system be considered democratic, despite the ongoing war and the imposition of martial law?

Purpose: The subject of this article is the analysis of the contemporary political regime in Ukraine. The purpose of this article is to identify the essence and characteristics of the phenomenon of political transformation in Ukraine over the past three decades.

Method: The most useful research methods that author used in writing this article were the case study, the decision-making and systemic methods.

Results: Liberalization initiated by M. Gorbachev ended in failure for undemocratic Soviet Union and "started" the third wave of democratization of the largest state in the Europe, Ukraine in 1985. In 1991 in the result of the dissolution of USSR (which stated in Belovezha Accords) Ukraine became independent and started own difficult way to democracy and liberal market. During next 30 years much was done to establish a viable democratic regime, despite serious economic problems and the threat of disintegration of the country (annexation of Crimea by Russia and hybrid conflict in Donbas region). Throughout this period, Ukrainian elites have had serious problems with preserving and maintaining democracy as the core of the political regime, as a result of that it were two revolutions in 2004 and 2014. These events should be considered as the examples of the importance of democratic values for the Ukrainian people. Current Ukrainian political regime in opinion of different research independent organizations is considered as hybrid or transitional regime. This fact indicates serious problems with democratization, which can be explained by economic factors, historical, socio- political troubles and conditions of ongoing war.

Organization: Research results can be practically used in educational and other institutions in Ukrainian state.

Society: It can be useful from practical view of point for consolidation of democratic principles in Ukrainian society.

Originality: This research shows the current state of affairs in Ukraine on the way of democratization.

Limitations / further research: Today it seems problematic to assess the course of democratic transformation in the near future. However, the scenario of the continuation of democratic reforms in the event of a Ukrainian victory seems realistic.

Keywords: Ukraine, democratization, democracy. political regime, war.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Artem Susolia (Ethnic Ukrainian who was born in Myrhorod, Ukraine.

In 2017, he arrived in Poland and began studying at the University of Silesia in Katowice. In 2022, he graduated magister at Jagiellonian University in Krakow in the discipline of political science and administration. Currently he is a doctoral student at the Doctoral School of Pedagogical University in Cracow. Academic interests: international relations, history of international relations, transformation processes and democratization in the world.).