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Editorial

Dear readers!

In this May edition of IPICS, we bring to the forefront three thought-provoking contributions that probe the deeply entangled layers of geopolitics, socio-economic adversity, cultural identity, and interfaith dynamics—offering vital insights into some of the most volatile and significant regions shaping contemporary global discourse.

The opening article, “Contemporary Socio-economic Challenges at the Tri-Borderland Region of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan: Implications for Islam-West Relations”, presents a critical examination of one of the most underexplored yet geopolitically pivotal border regions. The study unravels the intersecting crises of illicit economies, forced migration, marginalisation of ethnic communities, and environmental insecurity. By linking these issues to broader narratives of Islam-West engagement, the paper urges policymakers and scholars alike to rethink how localised instability can reframe transnational relations and shape the emerging contours of global security and cooperation.

Our second feature, “Military Tactics and Humanitarian Consequences in Nagorno-Karabakh and Kashmir Conflicts”, draws a compelling parallel between two long-standing territorial disputes that continue to define regional hostilities in the South Caucasus and South Asia. With precision and balance, the paper analyses the evolution of militarised strategies and their disproportionate impact on civilian populations. The piece underscores how unresolved sovereignty claims -- when coupled with the erosion of humanitarian norms -- contribute to cycles of violence and regional mistrust, impeding meaningful conflict resolution in both theatres.

Lastly, the edition explores cultural and gendered dimensions in “Faith and Feminine Boundaries: Russian Women’s Perspectives on Workplace Relationships Across Christian Orthodox and Sunni Islamic Values”. In this nuanced socio-anthropological study, the author investigates how Russian women navigating multi-faith professional environments reconcile divergent moral expectations. Through their voices, the article challenges simplified binaries of East and West, secular and sacred, and illuminates the lived experiences that shape women's autonomy, dignity, and agency in hybrid cultural contexts.

Together, these three papers exemplify the interdisciplinary ambition of IPICS: to bridge the micro and macro, the local and the global, and the theoretical and empirical. As editors, we are proud to curate contributions that not only dissect the complexity of Pakistan, Iran, and the Caucasus regions but also contribute to broader conversations on pluralism, justice, and peacebuilding in an increasingly polarised world.

We invite our readers -- scholars, diplomats, students, and regional experts -- to engage deeply with these analyses and to join us in fostering a critical, empathetic, and well-informed dialogue across borders and disciplines.

Best regards,

Dr. Shumaila Arzoo

RMR Representative in IPICS
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