

## EDITORIAL

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Dear Readers,

Thank you for checking out the latest issue of *Studia Territorialia*.

This issue, 2/2025, is a carryover from our past issue entitled “Borders in Motion.” It features three original articles that discuss some highly relevant yet rather under-researched topics in the study of contemporary transnational history and developments in Central and Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus.

The opening contribution is a study of nationalism and schooling in the Czech-German borderlands during the times of late Austria-Hungary and interwar Czechoslovakia. Based on his scrutiny of the local archives, Mikuláš Zvánovec shows how Czech and German nationalist associations in the Bohemian Lands utilized the growing school infrastructure to assert their identity and territorial control, first of all in the ethnically contested and linguistically mixed areas of that region. He traces the changing societal role of the schoolhouse from a site of instruction to a symbol-laden vehicle for promoting nationalism. He argues that schools were instrumental in the ensuing geopolitical expansion of nationalist ideologies.

Olga Dorokhina, for her part, analyzes Russia’s conduct *vis-à-vis* independent Georgia following the 2008 Russian-Georgian War. She meticulously elaborates on Russia’s routine, day-to-day border policies and practices in the former South Ossetian Autonomous District, a process that has become infamous as the “borderization” of the occupied territories. She situates Russia’s conduct within its broader military-strategic designs aimed at crippling its most vulnerable neighbors. She conceptualizes borderization as part of a gray zone in Russia’s war-making toolbox.

Finally, Patricie Ścibior examines the strategic narratives employed by Ukraine’s wartime government to keep Russian-occupied Crimea on the

international agenda. In doing so, she analyzes three public diplomacy communication campaigns run by the Kyiv-affiliated Ukrainian Institute from 2020 to 2024.

Besides this, in the review section of the journal you will find a critical appreciation of a recent documentary film by Lívía Šavelková and Milan Durňák, *In the Homeland of Lacrosse*. In her extensive review, Monika Brenišínová offers an informed introduction and insight into the world of contemporary visual anthropology and ethnographic filmmaking.

Wishing you an enriching read,

Lucie Filipová and Jan Šír  
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