EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues,

We are delighted to present the first issue of *Studia Territorialia* for 2026.

This year, our journal celebrates its 25th anniversary. For this issue, we have compiled three original articles that each provide a distinctive approach to the contemporary history and political transformations of Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe, three of the core macro-regions defining our scope.

The volume opens with a contribution to the field of migration and diaspora studies. This article adds to the growing body of literature on the post-communist transition. The new opportunities provided by the fall of communism in Czechia attracted a wave of small-scale entrepreneurs from Turkey, who opted to move there for business. Ahmet Uysal's article traces the fate of this first wave of migrants from Turkey and examines their role in forming the Turkish diaspora in the Czech Republic. Based on semi-structured interviews with members of the local Turkish community, it analyzes how their experiences with resettlement and doing business in Czechia in the 1990s mirrored the country's broader socio-economic trends.

The second article contributes to the historiography of the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin. Following the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact with Nazi Germany in 1939, the Soviet Union initiated a string of aggressions, invading Poland and a number of other sovereign European nations. The USSR's new alliance with Hitler at the outbreak of World War II necessitated a shift in domestic messaging and in the operation of the entire propaganda apparatus. The cultural front assumed a prominent role, most notably in cinematography. Michał Bobrowski investigates the main ideological tenets and narrative strategies that accompanied the war campaigns between 1939 and 1941. Drawing on a close scrutiny of two selected historical biopics from that era, he shows how, by reinvigorating

old historical myths, Soviet cinema weaponized the past to mobilize the domestic public behind the war effort and legitimize the country's external policies vis-à-vis its western neighbors.

Finally, the third article explores the problem of taming violence in war and post-war societies. Shifting the focus to Greece, it examines how Greece's participation in World War I and the subsequent Greek-Turkish War impacted soldiers' mental health. Relying on patient records from the archive of the Dromokaiteion Psychiatric Hospital near Athens, Alexandros Makris investigates how war-related mental disorders and violent behavior were treated and institutionally managed in this Balkan country during the conflicts and in the aftermath of a decade of war. In doing so, he introduces the Greek medical discourse on war neuroses in the context of contemporary international debates on "shell shock," the dominant diagnosis of that time.

For more such articles, please be sure to check our upcoming special issue, "Taming War and Postwar Violence," which will be published shortly.

On behalf of the Editors,

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