

Welcome from the editor in chief

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Welcome to the *International Journal of Security, Preparedness, and Resilience Education* (IJSPRE). Formerly known as the *Journal of Homeland Security Education*, IJSPRE has been renamed to reflect the dynamic and rapidly evolving nature of homeland security (HLS). Born of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, homeland security has matured to address the all-hazards and meta-disciplinary nature of the field.

Recent mega-events including Hurricane Florence (2018); the Harvest Moon Festival mass shooting in Las Vegas (2017); the worldwide Wannacry cyber-attack (2017) and Russian interference with the 2016 election cycle as well as climate-change hazards are emblematic of today's threat environment. This everchanging threat landscape provides not just a trenchant call for National preparedness and resilience, but the need for an "eyes-wide-open" exchange of ideas and theories focused on neutralizing these threats.

DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen's recent press release "Rethinking Homeland Security in an Age of Disruption" identified five core HLS threats

1. A borderless society
2. Global terrorism and transnational crime
3. The "re-rise" of the nation state threat
4. Cyber threats (which are tied to the "re-rise" of the nation state threat)
5. Emerging threats that are outpacing our defenses

To counter these threats, Nielsen announced a "Resilience Agenda" that will guide DHS' actions. The challenge before the community of homeland security academics and higher education is to move beyond theory alone, and to help prepare HLS practitioners for the "Age of Disruption."

From its inception, academia played a vital role in developing the HLS field. Facilitated by the Center for Homeland Defense and Security, at least 330 U.S. colleges now offer over 1,000 H.S.-related programs which help prepare HLS policy makers and practitioners. Sixteen of these colleges and their affiliates serve as DHS Centers of Excellence. The Centers develop multidisciplinary approaches to homeland security's "wicked problems" including art security, border and immigration security, coastal resilience, criminal investigations, critical infrastructure security, terrorism, visual and data analytics, zoonotic diseases, and other issues. Peer-reviewed journals including *Homeland Security Affairs*, the *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*, the *Journal of Human Security and Resilience* and JHSE as well as at least 100 homeland security related textbooks deliver critical knowledge to policy makers and practitioners. Academia's aggregate efforts help evolve HLS as a field of study.

IJSPRE will provide the latest and greatest in HLS and its many related fields 'educational practices and resources to a still-evolving and growing field in the U.S. and internationally. Notably, similar homeland security concerns and programs, albeit with nominal and other distinctions, are manifesting abroad. IJSPRE welcomes HLS-related submissions from our international partners.

Look to future articles concerning theory development, accreditation, applied and basic research, assessments, conference proceedings, smart practices, textbook reviews, and the practitioner's corner. IJSPRE is your journal, and its goal is to move the HLS profession ahead by enabling faculty from diverse disciplines to improve their content, methods and outcomes. We look forward to your contributions.

IJSPRE would not be possible without the efforts of dedicated individuals who have been instrumental in its creation. First among them is our retiring editor in chief, Dr. Michelle Majewski from Marian University who helped establish JHSE and stewarded the journal from its inception. Dr. James Ramsay from the University of New Hampshire and Steve Recca from the Center for Homeland Defense and Security were also instrumental in the transition of IJSPRE from JHSE, and a special thanks to all current and passed members of the Advisory Board and the Editorial Review Board as well as to all authors who submitted their work to JHSE.

Thank you for the privilege to serve as your editor in chief.

Dr. John Comiskey

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