

25 May 2023

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Journal of Illicit Economies and Development (JIED), LSE Press

**Special Issue: The war in Ukraine and its impact on transnational organized crime in the region**

**Deadline for Submission of LOIs and abstracts: 20 June 2023**

This special issue aims to explore how the war in Ukraine which started with the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014 and entered a new phase with Russia's full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022 has altered the criminal landscape in the region. The war caused disruption and provoked a displacement crisis of a scale not seen in Europe since World War II. It put the population of over 43 million under stress and inflicted a shock on the country's licit and illicit economies. While the war initially caused significant disruption to the highly sophisticated and entrenched organized crime landscape in both Ukraine and Russia, shifted the established smuggling routes, and forced many criminal actors to emigrate, it soon enough presented new opportunities for criminal enrichment.

With the population on the move, millions of Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) became vulnerable to sexual and labour exploitation at the hands of human traffickers. Despite the awareness of the international community on the risks associated with mass displacement and the swift action on behalf of the EU to grant protection and legal status to Ukrainian refugees, much remains to be understood about the extent to which human smuggling and trafficking networks were able to take advantage of the mass exodus of the Ukrainians from the war-torn country. And in Ukraine, the divided capacity and distracted attention of law enforcement allowed malicious actors to operate more freely and quickly adapt to the new environment. The production of synthetic drugs was not halted but simply moved to the west of the country. The wartime economy prompted the emergence of new markets around humanitarian aid and the smuggling of conscripts. Drugs and weapons began flowing toward the front line in the east.

While the end of the war will stop much of human suffering, death, and destruction, it may bring with itself further risks. As the war continues, so does the accumulation of weapons on Ukrainian territory, risking the emergence of a black market of arms and ammunition outside direct state control once the war is over. Some illicit economies, such as the smuggling of humanitarian aid, may become redundant once military operations cease, but the end of the war will not put an end to the host of illicit economies, which will have developed and matured during the conflict. This call for papers therefore aims to enhance the understanding of the criminal adaptation in the context of the war in Ukraine – and the potential implications for the post-war criminal ecosystem in Ukraine and the broader region.

In order to offer a broad empirical, qualitative approach, we welcome contributions from various disciplines, including (but not exclusively) sociology, economics, anthropology, history and international relations, as well as policy analyses from activists, NGO leaders, or practitioners. We particularly encourage submissions by female scholars and contributions from Ukrainian authors. We may be able to provide language and translation support for original contributions not in English. Please contact the co-editors (below) to discuss possibilities.

JIED calls for three types of contributions in English (please see above on other possible languages):



### RESEARCH ARTICLES

based on unpublished original research that makes a substantial contribution to knowledge and understanding to this special issue. Length: 8,000 words (abstract 250 words).



## POLICY COMMENTARIES

which cover commentary on novel policy interventions, or review pre-existing interventions. Length: 3,000 words (abstract 250 words).



## METHODS ARTICLES

outline and test new techniques and discuss potential applications and significance of the technique (or articles that critique or modify extant methodologies and approaches. Length: 3,000 words (abstract 200 words).

If you are interested to respond to this call for papers, please submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) including the following information:

- Article type: \_\_Research Article / \_\_Policy Commentary \_\_ / Methodology Article
- Tentative title of article
- Name, affiliation, and place of residence of authors(s)
- Abstract (max. 250 words)

Deadline for submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) including abstracts (250 words maximum) is on **20 June 2023**. Submission received after this deadline will not be considered. Decisions will be communicated by **17 July 2023**, for article manuscripts due on **16 October 2023**. Invited papers will be subject to the usual JIED peer review processes (based on a double-blind peer review). Authors commit to produce a final manuscript in JIED house style by **end of February 2024**. Planned date of publication is May 2024.

LOIs should be sent to invited editors and the editorial coordinator:

- *Dr Jay Albanese, Professor and Criminologist, Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University, [jsalbane@vcu.edu](mailto:jsalbane@vcu.edu);*
- *Dr Tetiana Melnychuk, Professor, National University "Odessa Law Academy," [t.melnichuk@gmail.com](mailto:t.melnichuk@gmail.com);*
- *Mr Alex Goodwin, Editor, GI-TOC, [alex.goodwin@globalinitiative.net](mailto:alex.goodwin@globalinitiative.net);*
- *Ms Maria Khoruk, Analyst, GI-TOC, [maria.khoruk@globalinitiative.net](mailto:maria.khoruk@globalinitiative.net)*

