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SECURITY CHALLENGES: ANALYZING VIOLENCE FROM A MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PERSPECTIVE

This paper examines violence as a form of deviant behavior through a multidisciplinary lens, reflecting social, economic, and cultural tensions in contemporary societies. The text provides an introduction to the thematic issue on violence and, through a review of the content and research findings of the articles published in this section, examines violence in various forms, including physical, emotional, psychological, and structural, as well as the growing presence of cyber violence in the digital age. The authors emphasize the role of media in normalizing violence, particularly among youth, and argue for the need for holistic, interdisciplinary responses involving education, social programs, legal frameworks, and collective efforts to prevent and reduce violence. The study highlights the importance of empathy, solidarity, and resilience within communities, and calls for the rethinking of security from a humanistic perspective. The work concludes that sustainable violence prevention requires the involvement of multiple disciplines and actors, including educational institutions, local communities, and the media.

Keywords: violence; deviant behavior; social cohesion; security; multidisciplinary approach

1. UNDERSTANDING VIOLENCE: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO ADDRESSING SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL TENSIONS IN MODERN SOCIETIES

Violence, as a form of deviant behavior, is becoming an increasingly prominent issue in contemporary societies, reflecting deeper social, economic, and cultural tensions. Deviant behavior represents a departure from societal norms and values, and violence is one of the most extreme manifestations of such deviation. Its proliferation can be linked to various factors, including social inequality, economic hardship, the erosion of social cohesion, the rise of individualism, and the weakening of traditional mechanisms of social control, such as family, school, and community. Modern forms of violence encompass everything from physical and verbal abuse to emotional and psychological mistreatment, as well as structural violence manifesting through social injustices and marginalization. In addition to classical forms of violence, such as crime or domestic violence, increasing attention is being paid to cyber violence, a new dimension of deviant behavior in the digital world. The spread of violence as deviant behavior may be related to the erosion of social values and norms, as well as changing perceptions of the boundaries of moral behavior. What complicates this issue further is the growing presence of violence in media and popular culture. The exposure to violence through television, movies, video games, and social media can lead to the normalization of violent behavior, particularly among the youth, who may find role models and behavioral patterns in these media. Such normalization often reduces societal sensitivity to violence, making it more difficult to recognize violence as deviant behavior.

In the context of increasing violence, it is essential to reflect on how societies can respond to this challenge. Violence prevention requires a collective effort, including the strengthening of educational and social programs, as well as interventions that promote non-violent communication, solidarity, and respect for diversity. Only through a comprehensive approach that encompasses social, economic, cultural, and political aspects can violence, as an increasingly prevalent form of deviant behavior in contemporary society, be effectively reduced.

The theme “Social and Humanistic Aspects of Life in Communities (Un)Safe from Violence” requires an in-depth analysis of the relationship between individuals, communities, and violence within a broader social context. This topic addresses complex questions, including *how communities shape and maintain security and how violence impacts social structures, identity, and everyday life*. A social and humanistic per-

spective involves the analysis of cultural, ethical, psychological, and social factors that define safety or insecurity within a community. The theme explores the role of social norms, power dynamics, solidarity, and marginalization, as well as how individuals and groups experience, respond to, and organize themselves in the context of violence or its absence. The issue of security is not only physical but also psychological, moral, and social, affecting the sense of belonging, identity, and community. Through this analysis, the mechanisms of resistance to violence can be better understood, as well as pathways to building more just and safer communities.

In societies confronting various forms of violence, whether physical, psychological, or structural, communities become critical points where complex processes of social interactions, identity, and resistance converge. Social aspects involve exploring how social norms, values, and institutions adapt or break down in conditions of insecurity, and how these changes affect the daily lives of individuals and groups. The question of who has access to safety, and who does not, often depends on social, economic, and political factors, including gender, class, ethnicity, and community status. The humanistic aspects deepen this analysis by focusing on human values, dignity, empathy, and ethics. Through a humanistic lens, we examine how violence affects the emotional, psychological, and moral health of both communities and individuals. This perspective reminds us that security is not only a physical need but also a spiritual and moral one. Mechanisms of solidarity and resilience that arise in response to violence are also considered, as well as the creative ways communities rebuild social cohesion and a sense of belonging. What makes this theme particularly relevant is its applicability to different types of communities – ranging from local urban or rural communities to larger national and global ones. As societies face challenges like crime, political violence, war, or domestic violence, it is crucial to understand how communities become or remain safe, and how social and humanistic values can contribute to lasting solutions that promote peace, justice, and inclusion. Through this lens, the theme invites us to rethink and redefine the concepts of security, community, and humanity in the modern world.

Motivated by the afore mentioned, the journal of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Tuzla, *Social Sciences and Humanities Studies*, within the thematic section “Social and Humanistic Aspects of Life in Communities (Un)Safe from Violence,” with contributions from authors across various scientific fields, has addressed different aspects of violence and security. Various disciplines provide unique perspectives that contribute to understanding how societies function in the context of violence and how responses to insecurity and violence develop on different levels, from

individuals to international relations. Although the contributions covered a wide range of topics and works – 23 in total – for clarity, all texts have been grouped into four sub-thematic areas: 1. Prevention and Social Work; 2. Sociology and Education; 3. Geopolitics, Political Science, and Security; and 4. Media, Language, and Literature. Each of these disciplines, in its own way, enriches our understanding of how communities function in the context of violence and security. Through a multidisciplinary approach, we gain a broader picture of the causes of violence, its consequences, and potential pathways to building more just and secure societies.

2. PREVENTION AND SOCIAL WORK

Social work plays a key role in the prevention of violence, the protection of vulnerable groups, and the support of violence victims. Social workers operate on the front lines, dealing with the realities of domestic violence, child abuse, and structural violence stemming from inequality. Their role is not only therapeutic but also educational and preventive, as they work within communities to promote changes in social norms and behaviors that can reduce levels of violence. This sub-thematic area discusses aspects such as peer violence and juvenile delinquency, innovative strategies for preventing juvenile violence, schoolchildren with developmental disabilities and inclusive education for a non-violent society, project and systemic activities in combating violence against women and domestic violence, as well as violence against people with disabilities.

Creating a safe school environment is a primary task for any society, a point emphasized in the co-authored work of Katarina Serdar, Matea Belošević, and Martina Ferić. The authors conducted a study analyzing student reactions to peer violence, aiming to identify differences in reactions based on educational age, level, gender, and the perception of risk and protective factors within the school environment. Understanding the factors in the school setting that promote or prevent peer violence is crucial for planning effective prevention strategies. These strategies must address both children and youth, as well as the adults who shape the environment in which children and youth interact. The authors highlight prevention strategies, including programs that teach social-emotional skills to children and youth, school policies, and creating a positive school climate as a preventive strategy. It is important that all implemented interventions are effective and evidence-based. The authors conclude that known risk and protective factors in the school environment contribute to students' reactions to peer violence, which can guide the development of preventive strategies for schools.

Adolescent violence represents a significant social issue with the potential to have long-lasting effects on the physical and mental health of young people. This issue is addressed with particular attention by a group of authors – Jelena Brkić Šmigoc, Sead Turčalo, Muamer Hirkić, Mirza Buljubašić, Veldin Kadić, and Mirza Smajić. Such violence can encompass physical, emotional, and verbal abuse and is often driven by factors such as peer pressure, family dysfunction, and socioeconomic conditions. Adolescents learn conflict resolution through behavioral models from their environment, and a lack of support and positive role models can increase the risk of violent behavior. Preventing youth violence requires a comprehensive approach, including education, strengthening social networks, and promoting emotional resilience. The work of this group of authors focuses on identifying the key factors contributing to political radicalization and violence among adolescents. The authors emphasize the complex nature of political radicalization and violence, stressing the importance of understanding personal, contextual, and societal factors. Their research suggests that targeted approaches, such as addressing family dysfunction, improving socioeconomic conditions, and strengthening social support, can significantly reduce the risk of radicalization. Key strategies include fostering positive self-esteem, reducing peer violence, and promoting cognitive flexibility, thus encouraging healthier political engagement among youth. This work provides valuable guidance for the development of youth-focused strategies.

Highlighting the importance of youth violence prevention, the following work by Selvira Draganović focuses on empowering young people. Adolescents exhibiting violent behavior often face various emotional difficulties and are prone to other harmful behaviors. Social media further exacerbates the situation, increasing feelings of isolation and stress. Psychological insights help identify both risk and protective factors, while new prevention approaches are proposed that emphasize the development of youths' strengths. Promising strategies include strengthening emotional skills and peer support, reducing the risk of violence and victimization. The author rightly concludes that youth violence requires a multidimensional approach that considers the complexity of individual and societal factors. A focus on strength-based interventions is recommended, as well as adapting research to address specific types of violence. Furthermore, the importance of involving parents, teachers, and peers in preventive strategies is emphasized, as such involvement can lead to long-term reductions in violence and improvements in social relationships among adolescents.

The work of authors Antonija Huljev, Irella Bogut, and Monika Mužar-Kos focuses on the importance of inclusive education for students with developmental dis-

abilities, emphasizing the need for tailored support that recognizes their diverse abilities. Inclusion is viewed as a societal value that contributes to the understanding and acceptance of diversity, thereby fostering the development of a non-violent society. The increase in violence directed toward students with disabilities highlights the importance of inclusive education as a means to reduce such incidents. The paper draws on contemporary research that confirms inclusion fosters humanity and raises awareness of diversity acceptance among peers. The authors conclude that inclusion should not only be a legal framework but also a moral and empirical value that encourages society to embrace diversity. Developing awareness of the importance of inclusion among children is crucial for the successful implementation of inclusive education in schools. A society that recognizes inclusion as a desirable value can expect a reduction in violence against children with disabilities, thereby contributing to the overall development and safety of the community. The paper suggests that inclusion, as a process, enriches the experiences and knowledge of all students and is essential for cultivating empathy and humanity within society.

The work of co-authors Andrea Rakanović Radonjić, Vesna Šućur-Janjtović, and Draško Gajić addresses the issue of violence against women and domestic violence through the lens of critical social work, focusing on systemic solutions and project-based activities in the Republic of Srpska. Particular emphasis is placed on the importance of the legal framework, with key instruments being the Istanbul Convention and the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence of the Republic of Srpska. These documents lay the foundation for the criminalization of violence and the protection of victims. In recent years, several projects have been implemented to improve the enforcement of the law and the implementation of violence protection policies. The theoretical framework of critical social work, including structural and postmodern approaches, has been used to analyze social responses to this form of violence. After an extensive analysis, the authors conclude that while the legal framework plays a crucial role in addressing violence against women and domestic violence in the Republic of Srpska, it is not sufficient on its own. Critical social work emphasizes the need for the development of a broader social mechanism that includes projects, policies, and programs to support legal solutions. The authors also conclude that it is essential to involve victims/survivors in research and the creation of solutions, thereby shifting the focus of social work from the “client” to the needs of the “individual.” This shift can contribute to a more effective fight against violence against women and domestic violence in any society, including the Republic of Srpska.

A particularly vulnerable group, individuals with disabilities, are also frequently

subjected to violence, a point emphasized in the work of Renata Martinec. People with disabilities are often “easy targets” for violence due to a lack of social skills, knowledge of acceptable behaviors, and a sense of dependency on others. Their physical or psychological vulnerabilities may provoke a sense of superiority in perpetrators, leading to physical, emotional, or verbal abuse. Statistics show that individuals with disabilities, especially women, experience violence more frequently than others, which further exacerbates their existing health and psychological challenges, diminishes their quality of life, and restricts their ability to exercise their human rights. Society must work to prevent violence against people with disabilities, recognizing their strength and offering them respect, not abuse. The author stresses that individuals with disabilities deserve to be treated with dignity, rather than becoming victims of violence due to their vulnerabilities. Society has a responsibility to protect them from violence and create conditions in which their integrity, choices, and dignity are acknowledged and respected. Promoting research and initiatives aimed at protecting these vulnerable groups is crucial for building a more inclusive and just society, one that enables people with disabilities to achieve self-fulfillment, emotional connection, and an improved quality of life.

Summarizing the conclusions of the works within this sub-thematic area, it becomes evident that they all highlight the complexity of violence and its consequences, underscoring the importance of creating safe environments for all members of society, especially vulnerable groups such as children, youth, women, people with disabilities, and those facing domestic violence. Education, social policies, preventive programs, and legal frameworks play a key role, but they are not sufficient on their own. Continuous investment is required in broader social mechanisms, such as support programs, empowering victims, and fostering empathy, emotional skills, and social justice. Inclusivity, respect for diversity, and the protection of human rights are fundamental principles that should shape every segment of society. The role of critical social work, the education system, parents, peers, and social structures is crucial in preventing violence and promoting healthy social relationships. Collectively, these works confirm that only through the synergy of legal frameworks, social interventions, and individual efforts can a safer and more just society be built for all its members.

3. SOCIOLOGY AND EDUCATION

The school system plays a crucial role in shaping the values, norms, and identities of young people, and is therefore significant in the prevention of violence. Through a sociological analysis of schooling, we examine how educational institutions influence the transmission of social values and contribute to either the reproduction or suppression of violent behavior patterns. The role of schools extends beyond simply providing knowledge; they are pivotal in fostering social cohesion, empathy, and tolerance. In societies affected by violence, the educational system can serve as a tool for preventing further conflicts, while in stable societies, education strengthens the social resilience of communities. This sub-thematic area includes six papers, addressing various forms of violence and their underlying motives. The topics covered include race- and gender-based violence and its effects, symbolic violence, sites of memory and the framework for reconciliation through transitional justice in Vukovar, football and violence in Croatia with an analysis of historical, social, and political contexts, the relationship between school climate and violent behavior among students, pro-social and antisocial behavior as predictors of school safety in the Republic of Serbia, and strategies and approaches for improving university project-based learning in the prevention of gender-based violence.

Focusing on violence and its underlying motives, Mirjana Kondor-Langer conducted extensive research to gain insights into the characteristics of areas where violent incidents occurred, the types of violence involved, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, and the gender of the perpetrators. This research is part of the scientific project “Croatian Violence Monitor,” which concentrates on patterns of frequency, causes, and the prosecution of violent delinquency, with a particular emphasis on the protection of vulnerable victim groups. The results indicate that domestic violence is the most prevalent form of violence, with revenge and jealousy being the dominant motives for such incidents. The author emphasizes the importance of responsibly conducting victim assessments in accordance with existing regulations and focusing on the imposition of protective measures in misdemeanor proceedings. In criminal proceedings, it is also crucial to apply security measures to eliminate circumstances that enable or encourage further criminal acts. This work highlights the importance of systemic support for victims of violence through adequate protective measures and the prevention of future incidents.

Sandra Cvikić critically analyzes the process of reconciliation and transitional justice in post-war Vukovar, with a focus on symbolic violence and sites of memory.

The paper highlights the inability of socially constructed policies to effectively manage symbolic violence and memory sites, emphasizing how this issue affects relational dynamics within the community. Through an examination of the symbols of resistance and resilience that Vukovar represents, the paper explores how political manipulations and internal community dynamics shape the experiences of survivors and their ways of coping with the consequences of war. Despite initial attempts to assess the impact of reconciliation and transitional justice, the case of Vukovar opens up a broad field for further research. The subtle effects of symbolic violence, embedded in the laws and norms of transitional justice, have violent consequences for local survivor communities. Cvikić initiates a discussion and calls for a deeper examination of the ethical and institutional frameworks of transitional justice, pointing out the need for a critical reassessment of assumptions regarding their effects and implications. Ultimately, the paper suggests that issues of reconciliation, identity, and memory in the post-war Vukovar context are complex and require more careful analysis to understand the dynamics of power and their impact on traumatized communities.

Darija Kuharić's paper addresses the issue of football violence in Croatia, connecting it with a rich historical background and societal dynamics. The research is based on two key hypotheses: first, that football violence has deep historical roots extending far into the past, rather than being solely a contemporary phenomenon; and second, that media sensationalism significantly shapes public perception of violence, often ignoring its historical foundation and exaggerating the frequency and severity of incidents. Through this analysis, the paper seeks to provide insight into the causes of football-related violence and serve as a foundation for potential strategies to reduce violence within this context. Moreover, these findings offer a deeper understanding of the connections between history, social structures, and media influence in the context of football violence, which could inspire initiatives aimed at creating a safer and more inclusive football culture.

The next two papers focus on violence and safety in schools. Nermin Mujaosmanović's study explores the relationship between school climate quality and students' violent behavior, as well as the differences in these variables based on academic achievement, gender, and grade level. The research was conducted on a sample of 823 high school students, using questionnaires to assess violent behavior and school climate quality. The results reveal a statistically significant negative correlation between violent behavior and school climate quality. However, differences in the perception of school climate based on academic achievement and gender were not significant, though differences in violent behavior were observed depending on the grade

level. Given the complexity of the causes of violent behavior, a systemic approach is necessary, involving the evaluation and adaptation of prevention programs to meet the needs of students and specific environments. High-quality evaluations can contribute to a more effective reduction of risk factors and the creation of a positive school climate. The author emphasizes the importance of school climate quality in preventing violent behavior and the need for further research into the factors that influence the occurrence of peer violence.

The co-authored work by Violeta Tadić and Boris Kordić examines prosocial and antisocial behavior among students in relation to school safety. The sample consists of 719 students from nine high schools in Serbia. Self-assessment questionnaires were used to measure prosocial and antisocial behavior, as well as school safety through factors such as violent behavior, unsafe school environments, victimization, and rule violations. Prosocial students demonstrated lower levels of violent behavior, unsafe school environments, and victimization. In contrast, antisocial students exhibited a higher prevalence of violent behavior, victimization, and unsafe school environments. Schools with a higher proportion of prosocial behavior were characterized by the absence of violence, lower levels of victimization, and generally greater safety. In conclusion, the authors emphasize the importance of promoting prosocial behavior in schools to create a safer and more supportive school climate. The absence of violent behavior and victimization is crucial for fostering positive behavior patterns that can enhance the school's resilience to negative behaviors, such as antisocial actions. These findings provide a foundation for developing strategies focused on strengthening prosocial behavior among students and school staff.

The final paper in this sub-thematic area, authored by Branka Kovačević, focuses on gender-based violence, which is defined as violence rooted in socially constructed roles and norms between men and women. The aim of the research was to assess students' evaluations of strategies and approaches for improving project-based learning in the prevention of gender-based violence, as well as to examine differences in evaluations among students from various academic disciplines. Based on a sample of 303 students from the University of East Sarajevo, the results revealed significant differences in evaluations between students from social and artistic sciences compared to those from natural and technical sciences. The study emphasized the importance of an interdisciplinary approach, organizing workshops, and collaborating with the local community. The paper underscores the need to expand innovative learning models to prevent gender-based violence. Active student involvement, the use of information and communication technology, and the innovation of teaching methods are key to

enhancing the educational process. A holistic approach, involving various stakeholders and strategies, is essential for the successful implementation of best practices. Additionally, the organization of conferences, seminars, and workshops, as well as networking with partners and community engagement, is crucial for promoting gender equality and preventing violence.

In conclusion, all the papers within this sub-thematic area highlight the complexity of violence, particularly domestic violence, which often emerges as the most common form. The research indicates that emotional motives, such as revenge and jealousy, are key causes of violence, underscoring the need for a deeper understanding of these phenomena to develop effective prevention programs. Furthermore, historical, social, and cultural contexts play a significant role in shaping the dynamics of violence, while the quality of environments, such as school climate and prosocial behavior, plays a crucial role in preventing violent behaviors. All the papers suggest the necessity of a holistic and interdisciplinary approach, involving collaboration between educational institutions, local communities, and other societal actors. Additionally, the moral responsibility in analyzing and critiquing the culture of violence is emphasized, along with the need to change the social and cultural structures that perpetuate it. Ultimately, the research highlights that combating violence is a complex process requiring collective efforts aimed at prevention, supporting victims, and critically reassessing existing norms and values.

4. GEOPOLITICS, POLITICAL SCIENCE, AND SECURITY

On a global level, geopolitics and political science address the issue of security through the lens of international relations, military conflicts, and political decisions that shape the fates of communities and states. Geopolitics examines how different states and political actors use power, territorial influence, and resources to create insecurity or destabilize security. Political science, on the other hand, analyzes political systems, laws, and policies that contribute to the formation of either secure or insecure societies. These disciplines illuminate the broader context in which violence occurs, whether it involves civil conflicts, terrorism, or political violence, and show how global dynamics can influence local security. This sub-thematic area includes four papers that reflect on (in)security and (non)violence in a broad context. The topics addressed are: the complex dynamics of post-conflict peacebuilding in fragmented societies, the impact of popular geopolitics on the representation of (non)violence in post-Yugoslav cinema, violence in the Western Balkans with a case study and com-

parative analysis, and the lack of trust between ethnic groups in post-ethnic conflict societies (with case studies of Zimbabwe and Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The paper by Selma Delalić and Hana Suljević analyzes the mechanisms of peace-building in post-conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a specific focus on the role of international organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and NATO. Using an inductive and qualitative approach, the paper synthesizes various sources to examine the effectiveness of the strategies these organizations employed in the country's reconstruction, while identifying the challenges they faced during their missions. The paper also provides a historical overview of the wartime period (1992-1995), enabling a deeper understanding of the post-conflict context. The aim was to offer a comprehensive narrative about the international community's contribution to the stabilization and reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina, while highlighting that key reform processes and the country's integration into the European community remain unfinished. Despite efforts to rebuild infrastructure and strengthen state institutions, progress in political stability and democratic reforms has been limited. The authors emphasize that international organizations played a crucial role in post-conflict reconstruction, but their achievements were constrained by internal political obstacles. Further progress and stability in the country require continued international engagement and political reforms to ensure long-term peace and European integration.

Films play a crucial role in shaping post-war narratives in the former Yugoslavia, reflecting the complexity of national identities, historical traumas, and reconciliation processes. Cinema not only influences public opinion on past conflicts but can also promote either a culture of violence or non-violence. Documentary films provide a platform for confronting trauma, while feature films often contribute to national myths. Through the lens of popular geopolitics, films hold significant power in shaping public narratives, highlighting the importance of art in reconciliation and collective memory processes. This is precisely the focus of authors Selma Čosić and Fatima Mahmutović. By addressing discourses in the popular geopolitics of post-Yugoslav cinema, the authors emphasize how feature films and documentaries from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, which deal with the war in BiH (1992-1995), are used to depict post-war narratives and their contribution to a culture of (non)violence. The paper also explores key concepts such as popular geopolitics, memory culture, trauma, and the geopolitics of emotions, as well as how films shape collective memory and perceptions of past events. As a tool of popular geopolitics, film significantly

impacts public consciousness, shaping national narratives and identities while simultaneously challenging official perspectives.

The third and final paper in this sub-thematic area, authored by Berina Beširović and Kudzai Cathrine Bingisai, explores the processes of trust-building and power-sharing in the post-conflict societies of Zimbabwe and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The paper examines the challenges of building political institutions and a shared identity in both countries following their respective conflicts. It focuses on the ethnic tensions and mistrust that have stemmed from historical conflicts, including Gukurahundi in Zimbabwe and the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The study analyzes the impact of peace agreements on political structures and trust among ethnic groups. Despite the existence of formal peace agreements, ethnic tensions continue to burden the political systems in both cases, the authors conclude. In Zimbabwe, ethnic tensions stem from struggles for political power, while in Bosnia and Herzegovina, religious and linguistic differences further complicate power-sharing arrangements, making it difficult to stabilize these societies.

Although thematically and substantively diverse, all of the works point to the fact that the processes of peacebuilding, political stability, and trust-building in post-conflict societies are complex and protracted. Despite the role of international organizations and formal peace agreements, internal political obstacles, ethnic tensions, and historical traumas continue to hinder sustainable stabilization. Cultural factors, including the legacy of conflict and collective narratives, significantly influence perceptions of violence and identity, while political reforms and reconciliation processes remain incomplete. Long-term peace requires ongoing support and the adaptation of institutional strategies to overcome historical divisions and ensure sustainable development.

5. MEDIA, LANGUAGE, AND LITERATURE

Media and language play a key role in shaping the perception of violence and security in society. The media often convey images and stories of violence, influencing public opinion and creating narratives of security or insecurity. The way violence is discussed and written about, and the language used in these narratives, affects how individuals and communities understand and respond to violence. Literature, as a creative expression of societal experiences, also offers a space for deeper reflection on violence, security, and human resilience. Through literary works, authors often explore the ethical and moral questions surrounding violence, highlighting individual

and collective struggles for survival and peace in conflict-affected environments. The eight topics covered in this sub-thematic area include media and the psychodynamics of media violence, linguistic patterns of racism in German football, the construction of meaning and the shaping of society, emotional arguments in political rhetoric, and linguistic violence – from benign to fatal consequences. Additionally, the representation of urban violence in JG Ballard's novels and systemic racial and gender-based violence in the plays of African-American playwright Pearl Cleage are also examined.

Lidija Eret's paper explores the connection between digitalization and peer aggression among children and adolescents, emphasizing the negative impact of digital media on cognitive development and mental health. Neuroscientific research suggests that excessive exposure to digital media reduces self-control, increases stress, and leads to aggressive and self-destructive behavior. The paper also examines the phenomena of desensitization to violence and digital dementia, underscoring the need for a critical approach to the use of digital media. In conclusion, the author highlights that excessive exposure to digital media results in increased aggressiveness in boys and self-destructive tendencies in girls. She recommends reducing the time spent in digital environments, promoting physical activity, and strengthening personal social interactions to mitigate these negative effects. The use of digital media should be purposeful, with a focus on healthy alternative activities.

In their work on the psychodynamics of media violence, authors Irena Praskač-Salčin and Jelena Brkić Šmigoc explore the correlation between media, violence, and media users, focusing on the perception of violent scenes across different media formats. The study examines the motivations, engagement, and needs of users in seeking and consuming violent content. Qualitative research conducted through focus groups indicates that participants prefer realistic depictions of violence but are not attracted to explicit content. Cognitive dissonance is resolved through personal justifications related to behavior and the appeal of violent media messages. The research emphasizes that media cannot be solely blamed for negative effects; rather, users are actively involved in the process of seeking and sharing content, including violent material. The study also encourages discussions on users' communication needs and media policy, stressing the importance of continuously revising normative and ethical frameworks.

Amela Ćurković's paper addresses the media discourse on racism in German football, focusing on linguistic patterns that link racist behavior to the immigrant backgrounds of players. Through an analysis of cases involving Jérôme Boateng, Mesut

Özil, and Gerald Asamoah, the paper highlights how media coverage often emphasizes their immigrant origins, questions their loyalty, and portrays dual identities based on their success or failure on the field. These patterns not only reflect but also reinforce societal attitudes toward race and immigration, impacting the players' sense of belonging and mental well-being. The research findings emphasize the need for a shift in media practices towards a more inclusive approach that recognizes and celebrates diverse identities, thereby contributing to a better understanding and acceptance of immigrants within society.

The next paper in this sub-theme on violence, authored by Martina Blečić, investigates conversational implicatures, emphasizing their significance in social discourse. The author analyzes how these implicatures are used to maintain the social status quo and perpetuate stereotypes through indirect communication, which often avoids responsibility for the conveyed messages. The paper raises the issue of the ease with which implicatures can be canceled, noting that this frequently leads to illogicality and further misunderstandings. The analysis of the carnival image serves as an illustration for re-examining how conversational implicatures are employed in everyday communication. The paper calls for further research to clarify the relationship between pragmatic communication tools and how they shape and uphold social norms and stereotypes. The author suggests that pragmatic approaches can serve as powerful means for analyzing real linguistic and social situations, opening possibilities for the development of new concepts and the transformation of existing norms in society.

Gabrijela Kišiček's paper draws attention to the analysis of emotional arguments used for manipulation, particularly in political rhetoric. The focus is on *pathos*-driven arguments, such as appeals to fear, anger, resentment, and threats, which can fuel hate speech, verbal abuse, and even physical violence. Politicians often employ these arguments to manipulate the public and maintain power. The research highlights the importance of recognizing these manipulative strategies, educating the public, and fostering critical thinking to prevent violence and societal polarization. The paper underscores that education in rhetoric and raising awareness of these manipulative techniques can help reduce hate speech and violence in society, contributing to the creation of a more tolerant and safer environment.

In their paper, Edina Spahić and Jadranka Kolenović-Đapo investigate linguistic violence as a form of communication that negatively impacts the social and emotional development of young people, particularly in educational settings. The paper explores general definitions of linguistic violence, its consequences, and mechanisms for preventing undesirable outcomes. Through a specific case of verbal and symbolic vio-

lence, the study emphasizes the importance of timely recognition of abusive behavior to prevent tragic outcomes. The authors also highlight the influence of peer culture and media, which often promote violent communication, shaping the behavior of young people. The paper concludes with a call for active recognition and prevention of violence through education and intervention within the education system. Violent communication is a serious societal issue, with consequences ranging from emotional trauma to tragic outcomes. Educational institutions and parents play a key role in the timely detection and suppression of violence. To reduce violence, it is essential to raise awareness about language as a means of communication that should not be used for discrimination. Education on violence, its recognition, and fostering tolerance are critical for creating a safer environment for children and youth, the authors conclude.

The paper by Ifeta Čirić-Fazlija explores systemic racial and gender-based violence in two plays by African-American playwright Pearl Cleage from the 1990s, taking into account the history of Black America post-Reconstruction. Analyzing patterns of violence, the study highlights the oppressive effects of systemic violence rooted in structural, symbolic, and intersubjective racial brutality within a culture of collective violence against non-white Americans. By setting the action of her plays in the transition between the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, Cleage addresses the fundamental causes and circumstances of Black settlement and civil rights movements, while also critiquing dominant historiographical narratives about the conquest of the American West. In conclusion, the author emphasizes that a society that systematically supports a culture of violence is destined for psychological damage to all its members. Cleage warns of the consequences of gender- and race-based violence, stressing that individual and societal reactions to this violence are crucial for understanding its nature. The paper calls for moral responsibility from contemporary authors to examine and critique this culture of violence, while also acknowledging the long-term effects of historical injustice and violence on marginalized communities. Pearl Cleage's works encourage a reevaluation and analysis of the systems that perpetuate such violence, and underscore the need for change in social and cultural structures to prevent further violence and foster community healing.

The final paper by Milena Škobo and Jovana Đukić analyzes the social aspects of life in violent communities through J.G. Ballard's novels: *The Atrocity Exhibition* (1970), *High Rise* (1975), and *Cocaine Nights* (1996). The focus is on the typologies of violence in urban environments, including psychological and social violence, as well as the fetishization of car crashes. The paper hypothesizes that Ballard's depiction of violence reflects contemporary societal anxieties related to media sensation-

alism and technological advancement. The analysis reveals how the dehumanization and alienation of individuals contribute to violence within urban landscapes, highlighting their search for meaning and resilience in a chaotic world. The paper emphasizes the need for critical reflection on the causes of violence, as well as the importance of empathy, understanding, and collective action in addressing this issue. Ballard urges us to recognize and confront the darker impulses within ourselves and society in order to preserve civilization and ensure a better future for all.

All the papers within this final sub-theme collectively depict the complex interactions between media, social norms, violence, and identity. The research emphasizes how various forms of violence – whether physical, emotional, or linguistic – are deeply rooted in contemporary social and cultural contexts. Digitalization and media representation not only shape perceptions and behaviors but also influence the development of identity and interpersonal relationships, especially among young people. Therefore, it is crucial to cultivate critical awareness of these issues and promote proactive prevention measures based on education, empathy, and understanding. Key steps toward creating safer and more inclusive communities include transforming media practices, strengthening social interactions, and recognizing emotional arguments as manipulative tools. These insights encourage further research and discussions on how we can collectively work to reduce violence and promote healthy patterns of communication in modern society.

In conclusion, based on all the presented papers, it is evident that they collectively underscore the complexity of violence and its consequences across various social contexts, highlighting the need to create safe and inclusive environments for all members of society, especially vulnerable groups. Education, social policies, prevention programs, and legal frameworks play a key role in preventing violence, but their implementation alone is not sufficient. Continuous investment in broader social mechanisms is essential – mechanisms that empower victims, foster empathy, and develop emotional skills. The importance of a holistic and interdisciplinary approach is also emphasized, involving cooperation among various actors, including educational institutions, local communities, and the media. In the context of domestic and broader forms of violence, emotional motives, cultural factors, and social norms shape the dynamics and outcomes of violence. To achieve long-term peace and stability in post-conflict societies, institutional strategies need to be adapted to ensure sustainable de-

velopment and overcome historical divisions. By critically analyzing media practices and recognizing emotional arguments as manipulative tools, we can contribute to building safer communities and promoting healthier communication patterns. Only through the synergy of legal frameworks, social interventions, and individual efforts can we create a more just and secure society for everyone.

IZAZOVI SIGURNOSTI: ANALIZA NAŠILJA U MULTIDISCIPLINARNOJ ISTRAŽIVAČKOJ PERSPEKTIVI

Sažetak:

Ovaj članak ispituje nasilje kao oblik devijantnog ponašanja kroz multidisciplinarni pristup, odražavajući društvene, ekonomske i kulturne tenzije u savremenim društvima. Tekst predstavlja uvodnik temata o nasilju i, kroz pregled sadržaja i istraživačkih rezultata članaka publiciranih u tematskom bloku, istražuje nasilje u različitim oblicima, uključujući fizičko, emocionalno, psihološko i strukturalno, kao i rastuću prisutnost cyber nasilja u digitalnom dobu. Autori naglašavaju ulogu medija u normalizaciji nasilja, posebno među mladima, te zagovaraju potrebu za holističkim, interdisciplinarnim odgovorima koji uključuju obrazovanje, socijalne programe, pravne okvire i kolektivne napore u sprječavanju i smanjenju nasilja. Studija ističe važnost empatije, solidarnosti i otpornosti unutar zajednica, te poziva na preispitivanje sigurnosti iz humanističke perspektive. Rad zaključuje da održiva prevencija nasilja zahtijeva uključivanje više disciplina i aktera, uključujući obrazovne institucije, lokalne zajednice i medije.

Ključne riječi: nasilje; devijantno ponašanje; društvena kohezija; sigurnost; multidisciplinarni pristup

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