



# Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution

## NEWSLETTER

February 2025

### Letter from the President

Dear colleagues,

In this first newsletter of 2025, I would like to start by wishing you all a great year.

The most important event of this year will be the ISA Forum, which will take place in Rabat, Morocco. We have scheduled 14 RC01 sessions, 4 of which will be joint sessions with other RCs. This will certainly be an opportunity to showcase the vitality of our RC01.

We have also seen an increase in our membership since the last newsletter. As you know, this is the most important indicator in terms of ISA organization. Reflecting on our recent outreach efforts, we successfully executed two distinct promotional campaigns over the last couple of years—one aimed at individual scholars and professionals, and the other focused on military academic institutions and organizations. These initiatives, along with the participation requirements of ISA Forum 2025, have resulted in the addition of 14 new members to our community, enhancing our collective research capacity and dialogue. Overall, we have 76 members from 35 countries. We would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to all our new members. Your involvement is crucial to the vibrant discourse we foster within our community, and we look forward to an exciting Forum in 2025.

Best wishes and see you in Rabat!

Celso Castro

### News from the Editor

#### ISA Forum 2025

The planning process for the ISA Forum 2025 is progressing enthusiastically and with great attention to detail. It's important to keep in mind that the **Early Registration deadline is set for March 22, 2025**, so be sure to mark your calendars!

### Recent Publications

#### Journal articles:

1. Barış Ateş & Tamir Libel (2024). Committed to its Founding Principles: 50 Years of Armed Forces & Society Journal. *Armed Forces & Society*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/0095327X241296827>

Abstract

Armed Forces & Society (AF&S) marks its 50th anniversary in 2024. The objective of this study is to assess the journal's adherence to its founding principles encompassing interdisciplinarity, internationalism, and its role as a bridge between the military and academia. This study extends a 25- and 40-year analysis by Ender and Sookermany et al., who examined trends in authorship and affiliation in AF&S. This study covers 50 years, includes 1,415 research articles, and focuses on authors' expertise, gender, country, continent, and military background. Our findings show a consistently higher author-to-article ratio, an increasing proportion of female authors, a wider range of disciplines from more countries, and an increasing proportion of authors with professional military backgrounds. We conclude that the editorial stance has consistently followed founding principles, and its scope remains recognizable.

2. Fisayo Ajala and Lindy Heinecken (2025). The Military as a Non-Caring Institution: A Case Study of Nigerian Military Widows of the Boko Haram Conflict. *Armed Forces & Society*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/0095327X241308223>

#### Abstract

This study examines the Nigerian Army's provision of benefits to widows of soldiers killed in the Boko Haram conflict. While military institutions generally offer compensation to bereaved families, the effectiveness of such programs varies. This qualitative research, employing in-depth interviews and focus groups, argues that the Nigerian Army deals with the widows of its fallen soldiers in a bureaucratic and non-caring manner when they access their spousal benefits. This lack of administrative assistance is exacerbated by the widows' reliance on patronage networks to access their entitlements. These experiences foster a perception of the military as an uncaring institution. The study concludes by urging the Nigerian Army to streamline its bureaucratic processes and eliminate inefficiencies and unprofessional conduct to fulfill its obligations toward fallen soldiers' families. Failure to do so has severe consequences at various levels for military families, the military, and society.

3. Brad West and Healy, J. (2025) Drawing on Reserves: Assessing Civilian Employer/Manager Support for Employees' Part-time Military Service. Occasional Paper, Australian Army Research Centre.

<https://researchcentre.army.gov.au/library/occasional-papers/drawing-reserves>

#### Abstract

This Occasional Paper derives from a 2023 Australian Army Research Scheme funded project seeking to better understand the relationship between civilian employers and the part-time military careers of members of the Australian Army Reserve. Currently there are few empirical studies of Australian Defence Force (ADF) reservists. When the recruitment and retention of ADF reservists have been examined, the focus has been on their conditions of service, such as formal benefits and entitlements. With reservists increasingly being seen as a solution to current Defence workforce challenges, there is an urgent need for new evidence about how reserve service is affected by the state of civilian-military



relations. This paper specifically addresses this issue by analysing how civilian employers support (or not) their workers to undertake reserve service. This is an important topic. At a micro level, support determines whether individual reservists are able maintain a part-time career in the armed forces. From a macro perspective, it directly affects the viability of Defence policy directions to increase utilisation and expansion of reserve forces.

## Books and Book chapters:

1. Cemil Sağlam, *An Analysis of Charles C. Moskos' The American Enlisted Man*, Ketebe Publishing House, December 2024 (in Turkish).

### Description

This book represents the second volume in a comprehensive four-book endeavor designed to enhance and expand the field of military sociology in Türkiye. The project seeks to address significant gaps in the existing Turkish literature by conducting in-depth analyses of influential works in the field. Notable selections include Samuel Huntington's study, *The Soldier and the State*; Morris Janowitz's *The Professional Soldier*; Samuel Stouffer's *The American Soldier*; and Charles C. Moskos' *The American Enlisted Man*. These foundational texts have been thoughtfully analyzed by a team of Turkish military sociologists, aiming to foster a deeper understanding of military issues within the Turkish context.

<https://www.ketebe.com/charles-c-moskosun-amerikan-askeri-cemil-saglam>

2. Litor Lilach, Yagil Levy and Orr Karassin (eds.). 2024. *360-Degree Public Policy: Theoretical and Practical Aspects* (Ra'anana: Lamda Books, in Hebrew).

3. Yagil Levy (2024). Instrumental Rationality in the Service of Military Thinking, in *Momentum and Weakness: Social Readings of the Israeli Military Doctrine*, eds. Ofra Ben-Ishai, Yagil Levy and Rinat Moshe (Haifa: Pardes, in Hebrew).

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**We hope that you enjoyed reading this issue of RC 01's newsletter.**