Editor's Note

Greetings and welcome to this second issue of *SPSR* for 2021. This issue contains an article cluster as well as a standalone article in addition to the journal's regular offering of book reviews.

This issue's standalone article is "How the War Began: Conceptualizing Conflict Escalation in Ukraine's Donbas" by Jakob Hauter of the University College of London's School of Slavonic and East European Studies. Hauter proposes a new theoretical framework based on conflict escalation theory and the concept of critical junctures to facilitate a more transparent analysis of the war in Ukraine's Donbas region, which is currently an undeclared conflict between the forces of the Ukrainian government and separatists backed by Russia. Hauter argues that attempts to explain the war should be evaluated and compared in terms of their ability to explain these critical junctures and concludes that similar escalation sequence models could improve research on armed conflict beyond the case of the Donbas.

The aforementioned article cluster, "Really Existing Soviet Subjects," consists of three articles and an introduction. The cluster was edited by Maike Lehmann of the University of Bremen (Germany) and Alexandra Oberländer of the Max Planck Institute for Human Development (Germany). The first article in the cluster, entitled "*Glasnost*' in the Mailroom: The Soviet Subject in Gorbachev's Perestroika, 1985–1988," was written by Courtney Doucette of SUNY-Oswego (United States). The second article, "Young Minds, Young Bodies: The Emotional and the Physical in the Late Soviet Discourse on Aging" was co-written by Alissa Klots of the University of Pittsburgh (United States) and Maria Romashova of the University of Perm (Russian Federation). Dr. Oberländer is the author of the third and final article in the cluster, "Working Faces, Facing Work: Portraying Workers at Work and the Search for the Soviet Individual, 1960–1980."

I invite you to enjoy this latest issue of *SPSR*.

Christopher J. Ward

Editor-in-Chief