



LIBOR PAVERA

Editor-in-Chief's Foreword

Dear Readers,

We present the second issue of GIRN with joy and gratitude. Although our journal was founded primarily as a forum for doctoral students, we are delighted that established professors, associate professors and independent researchers have also found their way to it – as authors, faithful readers, conscientious reviewers and supporters. We thank them all. It is precisely this intergenerational encounter that gives the journal its meaning.

The five studies in this issue reflect the breadth of our scope.

Robin Dub (Miami), in How Negative Is Too Negative? Modeling the Trust Dynamics of Deinfluencing, develops a sociological and formal account of influencer credibility. He shows that negative recommendations can signal independence, but only up to a point: the resulting credibility function is single-peaked – an independence benefit with diminishing returns offset by the accelerating cost of habitual negativity. A three-type Bayesian model – promotional, independent, contrarian – provides a probabilistic foundation.

Muhammad Usman of Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, in Spatial Structure of Commerce in Pakistan, maps trading premises across 135 districts on the basis of the 2023/24 Economic Census. He sets this stock beside the SECP company register as a measure of formal entry and satellite night-time lights as a measure of activity growth. The result is a four-type typology – commercial cores, mixed industrial-commercial districts, populous but shop-thin districts, and a sparse periphery – and a reading of formalisation as a thin overlay on a vast micro-enterprise base.

My study, Totalitarianism in the Long Time. Literature as a Seismograph, proposes a dynamic model of totalitarianism as a life-cycle – incubation, seizure of power, terror, normalization, erosion and memory – and a method for reading literature as a seismograph, including nine principles for its blind spots. The model is tested on the Czech sequence Kafka – Čapek – Petiška, with Hungarian and Polish points of triangulation.

The study on comparative statistics of Czech and Polish legal acts of Ewa Michalska (Bielsko-Biała) offers a valuable methodological contribution to the comparative measurement of legislative production in two Central European legal cultures.

And Štěpán Turčín (Prague), in The Course of the Šik Reform and Its Possible Final Form, Part II, continues the discussion opened in the first volume on the reform endeavour of the 1960s in Czechoslovakia. Focusing on Ota Šik, he examines the intended institutional shape of the reform after January 1968, enterprise autonomy, and the gradual rollback after the invasion.

We wish you a stimulating read.

On behalf of the editors