

Introduction to the 5th Global Issues Conference Special Edition

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The fifth edition of the Global Issues Conference in 2020, which took place in virtual space between 30 March and 3 April 2020, was positively surprising both due to the number of presenters and active members of the audience, and to the quality of the presentations. Both students and their supervisors participated in lively discussions, asking numerous questions through the conference chat, and the presentations on a broad range of truly global subjects came from virtually all continents.

The current journal issue brings a small selection of papers from the Global Issues Conference 5. The papers do reflect the globality of issues and the variety of partners, and come from Algeria, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, and United States. The authors discuss the issues of interest for practically everyone - environmental protection, proper nutrition and health care for adolescents, political propaganda, national stereotypes as well as virtual teaching.

Specifically, Anila Alam, Aliya Fazal and Karamat Ali from Pakistan carry out a scientific study of the impact of the glacial melting each year in the mountainous surroundings of the Ishkoman basin, which is generally the result of human activity. In their paper they emphasize the need to inform people and work against the depletion of local vegetation. Adeela Rehman from Pakistan discusses the importance of the awareness of proper diet among girls and boys, and based on a statistical study she draws attention to the fact that while girls are more aware of proper nutrition, they do not practice it, while boys engage in risky behaviours and ignore proper nutrition, too. Femi M. Olufunmilade from Nigeria discusses the content of “promotional” videos broadcast online by the terrorist group Boko Haram, who want thus to “promote” their name in public and lure young people to join their ranks. Aleksandra Brzana, Paulina Szot and Justyna Warchoń from Poland (notably, this is Szot and Warchoń’s second publication with the journal – see issue 8.1) analyse the stereotypes Poles have of three nearby countries, Russia, Hungary and Czech Republic, pointing out historical and current ideas they have as well as the reasons they have them, and conclude that negative stereotypes can be fought with promoting mobility and simply knowledge of other cultures. Nidhi Sharma and Sachiyo M. Shearman from the United States discuss the impressions that students from Saudi Arabia had of their stays in the US, based on the interviews with them – the authors hope to be able to use the results of their study to help other students face the imminent challenges better. Finally, Nouredine Mouhadjer, Mohammed Kheladi, and Amine Belaid from Algeria discuss their

experience in the Global Understanding classes, emphasizing their role in fostering reflection on intercultural differences as well as the importance of respect and tolerance for the view of others during those classes.

I would like to thank the authors for their participation and dedication to the conference and journal's goal, which is to provide a safe forum for students worldwide to exchange ideas and promote international cooperation and understanding. The papers reflect the global nature of the Global Partners in Education as an international organization, in the way the authors approach their topics and analyse their data as well as their excellent use of English as an international language of communication.

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