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## Editor's Note

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***Editor's Note***

Spring, 2019

The year 2019 began with pleasant news for the journal. An email was sent to us on January 30, 2019, by Ms. Ellen Amatangelo. She serves as the Scholarly Communications Coordinator and is currently our main contact at the Harold B. Lee Library of the Brigham Young University, in Provo, Utah.

First, I want to note that it is thanks to the assiduous work of our long-time member and CCR editor, Connie Lamb, that the Harold B. Lee library now houses our journal – one out of 27 – in its institutional repository, ScholarsArchive.

As those of you who attended the annual meeting of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations, held twice on the BYU campus over the years, may recall, the library itself is huge; as of 2016, it contained over 4.7 million books, held more than 10.6 million total materials, and served in excess of 10,000 patrons each day.

This impressive and extensive library was awarded the title of Number One College Library in 2004 by the Princeton Review, and it came in as number three on the list of top university libraries in 2007 and 2012. Moreover, the American Library Association awarded it the Library Instruction Round Table 2017 Innovation in Instruction Award.

What a contribution Prof. Lamb has made to the *Comparative Civilizations Review* through this wonderful association.

Second, as a result of our journal's being housed in ScholarsArchive at Brigham Young University, we are now published online, each edition, via bepress™ of Berkeley, California. That means in turn that we are part of bepress's arm called Digital Commons.

Bepress describes this as a “comprehensive showcase that lets institutions publish, manage, and increase recognition for everything produced on campus—and (it is) the only institutional repository and publishing platform that integrates with a full faculty research and impact suite.”

In fact, more than 1800 scholarly journals are now published via Digital Commons Publishing. A visit to:

<https://www.bepress.com/products/digital-commons/features/journal-publishing/>

will reveal the impressive list of scholarly publications from many of higher education's most distinguished campuses.

Furthermore, among the many benefits for our journal of being published by bepress is that the organization works with Google and Google Scholar “to make sure your work is fully indexed and turns up near the top of academic and general search results.”

So, third, what did the letter to the editors from Ms. Amatangelo report that is so dramatic?

Her letter was entitled “2018 Statistics for Comparative Civilizations Review.” It reported:

Here are the 2018 readership statistics for your journal:

- 61,148 downloads.
- 38 new works posted.
- Top download: “The Causes of Ethnic Conflicts” by Mariana Tepfenhart, 2,749 downloads.

To repeat – over 61,000 full-text downloads last year!

Ms. Amatangelo kindly also informed us that ScholarsArchive readership statistics for 2018 have been compiled in the following blog post:

<https://sites.lib.byu.edu/scholarsarchive/2019/01/24/2018-readership-statistics/>.

She added that she would welcome suggestions for scholarly communication topics that people would like to know more about and will include them in her research list for upcoming blog posts.

Statistics for all twenty-seven journals in the BYU repository can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1frWAHz54azk5nya1IYerWjSc5OQeZNIls/view?usp=sharing>. The PDF also contains a link for each journal.

In addition to the letter from Ms. Amatangelo, Digital Commons wrote at the same time to give us the results for the month of December. They reported that in December the Comparative Civilizations Review had 5412 full-text downloads.

The most popular papers were:

The Causes of Ethnic Conflicts (236 downloads)

<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/ccr/vol68/iss68/8>

What is the Difference Between Culture and Civilization? Two Hundred Fifty Years of Confusion (213 downloads)

<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/ccr/vol66/iss66/4>

Globalization vs. Americanization: Is the World Being Americanized by the Dominance of American Culture? (156 downloads)  
<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/ccr/vol47/iss47/7>

So, the most popular journal article for downloading over the last year, and in the last month, is entitled “The Causes of Ethnic Conflicts,” written by Prof. Mariana Tepfenhart of New Jersey and published in Number 68, the issue which appeared in Spring, 2013.

She begins her paper as follows:

Ethnic conflicts are not new phenomena. Such conflicts have existed all over the world for centuries, but in the last 20 years, after the fall of Communism, they are in the focus of public attention due to the civil war in Rwanda, the events in Eastern Europe, and the disintegration of the former Soviet Union.

The post-Cold War world showed signs of decline with respect to the power of states to maintain political stability. Since the two superpowers were no longer competing for sphere of influences in the world, Third World countries suffered primarily because they lost the support of their former patrons. What had once served as a stabilizing force was gone.

The resulting conflicts are violent, bringing suffering, death, destruction, and terrorism. They can escalate from local to regional areas. The casualties resulting from ethnic conflicts are often in hundreds of thousands as one ethnic group tries to eliminate another. The consequences can last generations.

This article discusses the most common causes that can trigger violent ethnic conflicts. The author uses as examples two countries: the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Although the literature on this topic is quite large and politicians and scholars come with different interpretations, generally there is not only one cause for the conflict, but a combination of factors. This paper emphasizes the role of belligerent leaders in triggering the wars.

The editors congratulate Prof. Tepfenhart on this outstanding achievement.

Close behind, in second place for December, was the article by Thorsten Botz-Bornstein, published in Spring, 2012 (Volume 66). He argues in that paper that the distinction between “culture” and “civilization” is not well embedded in the English language but has remained relatively meaningful in both other European and non-European languages.

He starts his paper by discussing the contributions of the British scholar Edward B. Tylor; Tylor abandoned the distinction between “culture” and “civilization” and for him, the term “civilization” covered both culture and civilization. He reviews the thoughts of many on this subject, including especially Charles Beard, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Norbert Elias, Samuel Huntington, Paul Ricoeur, Thomas Mann, Oswald Spengler, W.E.B. DuBois, and others.

Author Botz-Bornstein concludes that “culture as a locally lived experience is always mediated through civilization (otherwise it would be a dead culture stuffed away in a museum or a theme park). In parallel, civilization in itself is a purely abstract universal and becomes concrete only through cultural enactment.”

Third place went to *Globalization vs. Americanization: Is the World Being Americanized by the Dominance of American Culture?*, an article by Yoichi Shimemura of Japan. The article appeared in the Fall, 2002, edition, No. 47.

Her fascinating argument begins, in part, as follows:

... Instead of discussing all aspects of globalization, including its political and economic ramifications, I would like to focus attention on the area of globalization of culture. In other words, we are concerned here with how culture all over the world has been affected by the phenomenon of globalization and what sorts of transformation it has been undergoing.

By discussing globalization vs. Americanization, globalization vs. localization, homogenization vs. heterogenization, I'd like to argue that the world, instead of being homogenized into a single global culture by Americanization as some people argue, is becoming more diversified, more complex, and more multicultural.

Three important articles, all excellent reading.

Thus, for the editors, it is perhaps bordering on hubris, but it is now clear that the reach of the journal electronically may be measured by the metrics created by Digital Commons and ScholarsArchive. Another set of metrics is the number of “hits” recorded by Google. I have just typed in *Comparative Civilizations Review* and a total of 3,510,000 came up. Then, I went to Google Scholar and this showed 116,000 “hits”. These various figures may be challenged for a wide range of reasons as to accuracy, but the conclusion has to be evident: These support, in general but without much dispute, the decision of the Editorial Board to expand from only issuing the paper version of the journal, which was the sole medium for many years following the founding of the CCR in the winter of 1979, to the electronic form, as well.

In other news, the Board of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations has filled a vacancy with the election of Dr. John Berteaux to the Board. Prof. Berteaux has been active with the ISCSC for many years. He holds the PhD in Philosophy from the University of California San Diego, is widely published, and has been for many years on the faculty of the School of Humanities and Communication at California State University Monterey Bay.



Welcome to the Board, Dr. Berteaux.

Reminder of conferences of interest coming up:

- The annual conference of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations is scheduled to be held from July 25 to July 28, 2019, at *El Retiro San Inigo*, The Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos, California. This year's theme is: Comparison of Civilizations: Ancient and Modern and Theories of Civilizational Studies.

This year one goal is to encourage student participation. Interested students who wish to attend are requested to contact the Sub-committee for Young Scholar Assistance. Please write to either Dr. Michael Andregg (Conference Chair) at [mmandregg@stthomas.edu](mailto:mmandregg@stthomas.edu), or Dr. John Grayzel, at [jagrayzel@alumni.stanford.edu](mailto:jagrayzel@alumni.stanford.edu).

More information on this exciting venue and the upcoming meeting can be found at [www.iscsc.org](http://www.iscsc.org).

- Plans are nearing completion for a meeting to be jointly sponsored by the ISCSC, the Asian Politics and History Association and Clarewood University to be held in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, in September 2019. Other organizations are indicating their interest in participation, as well. Top officials of Mongolia and of the Mongolia Society in the United States are working to make this a very desirable session. Details are still being worked out as of press time and will soon be posted on [www.iscsc.org](http://www.iscsc.org).
- A conference entitled “From ‘Holocaust By Bullets’ To Auschwitz: Regional Dimensions Of The Final Solution” will be held from June 16 to June 19, 2019, at Uzhgorod National University, Transcarpathia, Ukraine. Keynote speakers and organizers include prominent experts on the Holocaust in this region, along the border of Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, Hungary, Romania – much of which lies within the old Austro-Hungarian crown lands of Galicia. For more information, please go to the following URL:  
[www.frombulletstoauschwitz.com](http://www.frombulletstoauschwitz.com)

Finally, the journal wishes to solicit expressions of interest from members of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations who desire to join our Editorial Board as Copy Editors, Peer Reviewers, or in other positions. Please contact either Peter Hecht, Managing Editor, at [peter.hecht@iscsc.org](mailto:peter.hecht@iscsc.org) or myself, at [joseph.drew@iscsc.org](mailto:joseph.drew@iscsc.org). Thank you.

Here’s wishing a happy 2019 to all readers.

Joseph Drew  
Editor-in-Chief