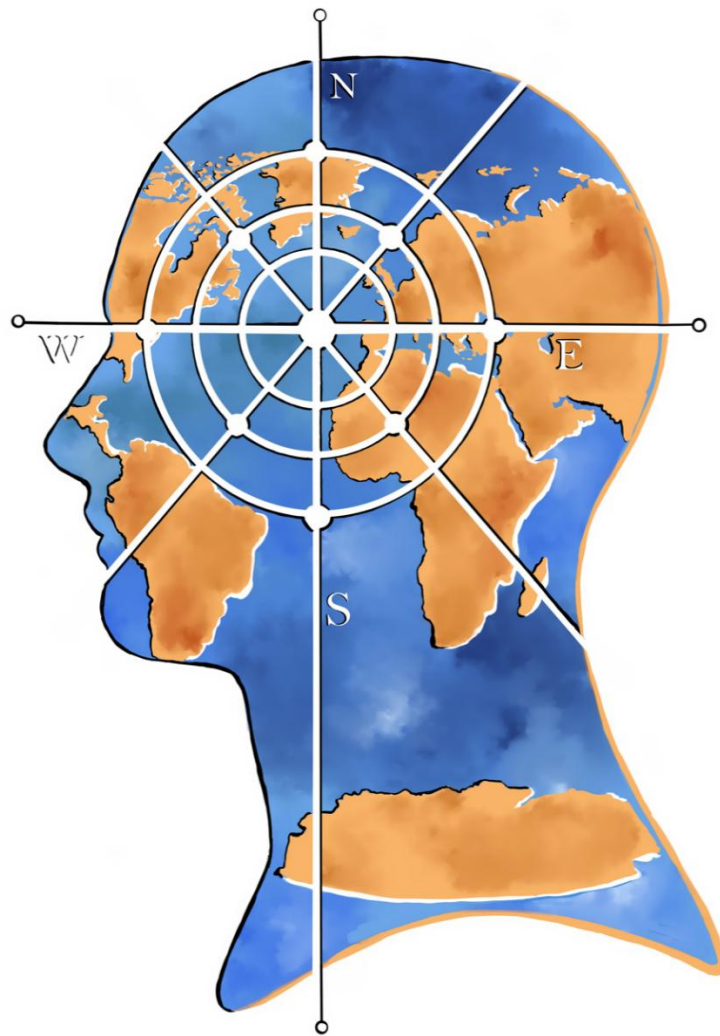


JOURNAL *of* EUROPEAN *and* AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE STUDIES

AN INTERNATIONAL PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL



Research Institute for European and American Studies – RIEAS
School of Law and Government, Dublin City University
International Centre for Policing & Security, University of South Wales

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Mission and Scope

The *Journal of European and American Intelligence Studies* (JEAIS, formerly the *Journal of Mediterranean and Balkan Intelligence – JMBI*) is published by the Research Institute for European and American Studies (RIEAS) under the editorial direction of the Department of Security and Intelligence Studies at Coastal Carolina University. It is an international academic-led scholarly publication that focuses on the field of intelligence and related areas of study and practice, such as terrorism and counterterrorism, domestic and international security, geopolitics, and international relations. The journal's rationale is driven by the global nature of security challenges, where we are called more than ever to communicate and work collaboratively to solve our common problems. Thus, the *JEAIS* aspires to promote an international dialogue between diverse perspectives and experiences, based on original research on the broader European and American practice and study of intelligence. The *JEAIS* is an all-inclusive academic platform that allows accomplished and emerging scholars and practitioners from both the public and private sectors to share their knowledge, ideas and approach to intelligence studies. By crafting each journal issue through a rigorous and highly selective screening process of potential contributors, and an exhaustive review process, the *JEAIS* adheres to its mission, which is three-fold: (a) to provide an equal opportunity for academics and practitioners of intelligence to discuss and challenge established and emerging ideas; (b) to address existent knowledge gaps by advancing new knowledge; and (c) to shape the evolution of intelligence scholarship beyond traditional communities of research.

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Editor's Note

Joseph Fitsanakis

Professor, Department of Intelligence and Security Studies, Coastal Carolina University

We are pleased to welcome readers to Volume 8, Issue 2, of the *Journal of European and American Intelligence Studies (JEAIS)*. This issue brings together a diverse and methodologically rich set of contributions that collectively interrogate some of the most enduring and contested problems in intelligence studies: analytic rigor and judgment under uncertainty, the communication of probability and confidence, the structural conditions shaping contemporary information environments, and the strategic implications of information operations for democratic governance. Across empirical, conceptual, and critical traditions, the articles in this volume reflect the field's continued maturation and its willingness to engage both the internal mechanics of intelligence work and the broader ecosystems in which intelligence operates.

The issue opens with Gideon Manger and Sanne van der Weide's empirical examination of the relationship between analytical rigor and predictive accuracy in intelligence assessments. Drawing on an original dataset of assessments produced during analyst qualification training within the Netherlands Armed Forces, the authors directly address a question that has long preoccupied both scholars and practitioners: whether adherence to established tradecraft standards measurably improves forecasting outcomes. Their findings offer important nuance. While rigor is positively associated with successful predictions, its relationship with the precision of probabilistic judgments proves weaker than expected. Particularly noteworthy is their analysis of "50–50" assessments, which emerge as both methodologically less rigorous and substantively less useful for intelligence consumers. The article makes a valuable contribution by empirically grounding debates about analytic standards, probability expression, and evaluative frameworks—while also raising important questions about the cross-cultural transferability of analytic rating scales.

Jeremy Levin's article continues the focus on probability and judgment but approaches the problem from a conceptual and methodological standpoint. Levin challenges the uncritical application of quantified probability to qualitative analytic judgments, particularly in contexts characterized by limited data and narrow historical baselines. He proposes a distinction between communicated probability and analytic certainty, arguing that the latter more accurately captures the logic underpinning many intelligence judgments. By introducing argument mapping as a tool for calibrating analytic certainty,

Levin offers a framework designed to enhance transparency, replicability, and collaborative reasoning. This contribution speaks directly to ongoing debates about how intelligence organizations should reason, communicate uncertainty, and maintain rigor when statistical approaches are insufficient or misleading.

Shifting from analytic cognition to structural power, Elena Botts' "Opaque Architectures" offers a critical examination of the convergence between media consolidation, cultural funding, and intelligence cooptation in contemporary information environments. Drawing on cases from the Euro-American and Russian contexts, Botts argues that state-affiliated financing mechanisms increasingly function as instruments of epistemic enclosure rather than mere support for cultural production. The article advances the concept of an "epistemic cartel" to describe a durable infrastructure of perception management in which transparency is redefined through state-sanctioned visibility. This theoretically dense and provocative contribution extends intelligence studies into dialogue with media theory, political economy, and critical security studies, underscoring the field's relevance to broader questions of democratic accountability and knowledge production.

Alan Cunningham's article returns the focus to contemporary strategic competition by examining Russian information operations and their impact on American foreign policy discourse. Emphasizing the role of domestic intermediaries in amplifying disinformation, Cunningham situates political security as a multidimensional challenge encompassing both human and national security concerns. The article highlights the permeability of democratic systems to sustained influence campaigns and argues for a more systematic integration of political security into policy planning. In doing so, it contributes to a growing body of literature that treats information operations not as episodic disruptions, but as enduring features of modern conflict.

The issue concludes with Adam Hanzel's review of Simon Ball's *Death to Order: A History of Modern Assassination*. Hanzel situates Ball's work as a rare and comprehensive treatment of assassination as a transnational political practice, emphasizing its analytical value for scholars and practitioners across multiple disciplines. The review complements the issue's broader themes by reminding readers of the historical continuities that underpin contemporary security practices.

Taken together, the contributions in Volume 8, Issue 2, reflect the intellectual breadth of intelligence studies today. They demonstrate the field's capacity to integrate empirical evaluation, conceptual innovation, and critical analysis, while remaining attentive to the practical and ethical stakes of intelligence work. We hope readers find this issue both challenging and illuminating, and that it stimulates further research and debate across the many domains in which intelligence intersects with policy, society, and power.

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CALL FOR PAPERS

The *Journal of European and American Intelligence Studies* (JEAIS) is seeking papers focusing on the field of intelligence and related areas of study and practice, such as terrorism and counter-terrorism, domestic and international security, geopolitics, and international relations. The papers should contain or examine original research on the broader European and American practice and study of intelligence, but also highlight intelligence themes from other regions of the world, to include Africa and Asia, as well as Oceania. Submissions will undergo rigorous and highly selective screening, as well as an exhaustive review process. Particular attention will be paid by the editors to papers that discuss and challenge established or emerging ideas, address existent knowledge gaps by advancing new knowledge on intelligence-related topics, and examine intelligence scholarship beyond traditional communities of research.

Relevant Topics Include:

international intelligence cooperation ▪ intelligence operations ▪ intelligence analysis ▪ inter-agency cooperation ▪ practitioner-policymaker relations ▪ military intelligence ▪ politicization of intelligence ▪ counterintelligence ▪ intelligence and sub-state violence ▪ intelligence, race, and gender ▪ intelligence and privacy ▪ intelligence and democracy ▪ intelligence ethics

Abstracts of up to 250 words may be submitted to:

secretary@rieas.gr and christian.kaunert@southwales.ac.uk

Deadline for Abstract Submissions: Monday February 16, 2026

Deadline for Paper Submissions: Monday May 4, 2026

Instructions for Authors

- Submitted manuscripts must be maximum 8,000 words, excluding a 250-word abstract (required) and any footnotes, as well as references. Manuscripts that exceed the word limit will be automatically rejected and returned to their authors.
- Manuscripts will be accepted for submission and evaluation with the understanding that their content is unpublished, original work by their authors, and have not been submitted for publication elsewhere.
- All accepted manuscripts and artwork become the property of the publisher, which is the Research Institute for European and American Studies (RIEAS).
- The entirety of manuscripts, including title page, abstracts, tables, legends, and references, should be typewritten and submitted in a Word-type file. No portable document format (PDF) documents will be accepted.
- Submissions should be 1.5-spaced and use Times New Roman size 12 as their standard font.
- All margins should be at least one inch in length, and all pages should be numbered consecutively throughout the manuscript.
- Titles must be as brief and clear as possible. On the title page, please include full names of authors, their academic and/or other professional affiliations, their contact information (including email accounts) and their complete mailing address for correspondence.
- All references should be numbered consecutively and listed as footnotes at the end of every page. In the text, references should be cited by a superior character of the corresponding number.
- For further information on writing style, consult *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th edition.

