

EDITORIAL

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GEOPOLITICS OF ANXIETY: IDEOLOGY, IDENTITY, AND (UN)BORDERING IN CONTEMPORARY EUROPE AND ASIA

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This special issue presents eight articles that examine the intersections of anxiety, ideology, identity, and processes of (un)bordering across Europe, Asia, and beyond. While the contributions differ in disciplinary orientation and empirical focus, they are united by a shared concern with how contemporary geopolitical transformations reshape political communities, governance structures, and understandings of belonging in an increasingly uncertain world.

The order of the articles follows a deliberate editorial logic. The issue begins with conceptual and ideological questions concerning Europe and political identity, before turning to the reconfiguration of borders through migration and emerging forms of digital governance. It then expands to questions of international cooperation, diplomacy, and geopolitical connectivity, before concluding with a broader reflection on the enduring legacies of imperial power and governance beyond Europe and Asia. This progression is intended to provide coherence across a diverse set of themes while highlighting the multiple dimensions of contemporary geopolitical anxiety.

Moonjung Park's "Tabucchi's Inquietudine as the (Un)Bordering of Europe" opens the issue by exploring literary and cultural representations of Europe through the lens of uncertainty, identity, and bordering processes. Jeong-ae Choi's "Ideological Shift in the German Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) and Its Implications" then examines how contemporary political anxieties are reflected in ideological transformations within one of Europe's most influential populist parties.

The issue subsequently turns to questions of mobility and governance. Joonpyo Lee's "Reconfiguring Borders through High-Skilled Migration: Korea and Europe in Comparative Perspective" investigates how migration challenges conventional understandings of borders and belonging. Bongchul Kim's "From Europe's Rights-Based AI Regulation to Korea's Innovation-Oriented Framework: Diverging Philosophies in Global Digital and AI Governance" analyzes competing approaches to digital governance and the normative foundations of emerging technological orders.

The following contributions broaden the discussion to regional and international cooperation. Ho Kim and Minsub Shim's "Reconfiguring Arctic Governance: Law, Identity, and Europe-Korea Cooperation" explores evolving governance structures in the Arctic



and their implications for transregional collaboration. Tonny Dian Effendi and Hoyoon Jung's "South Korea's Public Diplomacy toward Portugal: The Current State and Future Implications" examines the role of public diplomacy in fostering mutual understanding and international engagement. Yoomi Kim's "The Impact of Geopolitical Distance on Foreign Direct Investment: Evidence from EU-ASEAN Relations" considers how geopolitical perceptions influence patterns of economic interaction and cross-border investment.

The final article, Kyeri Kim's "Overlapping Imperialisms: Colonial and Neocolonial Logics of Urban Governance in Kilamba, Angola," concludes the special issue by extending the discussion beyond Europe and Asia and highlighting the enduring influence of colonial and neocolonial structures on contemporary governance. In doing so, it offers a critical reflection on power, space, and inequality in a global context.

Taken together, the articles demonstrate the diversity of perspectives through which contemporary geopolitical transformations can be understood. Bringing together contributions from scholars working across a range of disciplines, the collection highlights the value of examining ideology, identity, and bordering processes as interconnected dimensions of global politics in the twenty-first century..