

Law in the Age of Hybrid Threats

Joint symposium of

Contemporary Central & East European Law journal

and Centre for Research on Law and Hybrid Threats at ILS PAS

According to the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (Hybrid CoE), hybrid threats ‘are harmful activities that are planned and carried out with malign intent (...) [with the aim to undermine] a target, such as a state or an institution, through a variety of means, often combined.’¹ In a joint publication with the European Commission, the Hybrid CoE identified thirteen domains in which hybrid threats target States: infrastructure, cyber, space, economy, military/defence, culture, social/societal, public administration, intelligence, diplomacy, political, information, and legal.² When it comes to the last one, actors deploying hybrid threats may choose from a variety of tools, such as ‘exploiting legal thresholds, gaps, complexity and uncertainty; circumventing its legal obligations; avoiding accountability; leveraging rule-compliance by the targeted state; exploiting the lack of legal inter-operability among targeted nations; using its own regulatory powers under domestic law; and utilizing the law and legal processes to create narratives and counter-narratives.’³ What is important is that these tools may, but do not necessarily have to, violate the law.

Against this background, the Editors of Contemporary Central & East European Law, together with the Centre for Research on Law and Hybrid Threats at the Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, invite submissions for the joint symposium on the topic “Law in the Age of Hybrid Threats.” The aim of the symposium is to gather contributions from scholars across different branches of law, both public and private, focusing on various cases of law being used, abused, or targeted by actors employing hybrid threats. We welcome submissions not only from Central and Eastern Europe but from all over the world, addressing both theoretical issues and case studies.

¹ Hybrid CoE, *Hybrid threats as a concept*, at <https://www.hybridcoe.fi/hybrid-threats-as-a-phenomenon/>.

² Georgios Giannopoulos, Hanna Smith, Marianthi Theocharidou (eds.), *The Landscape of Hybrid Threats: A Conceptual Model Public Version*, European Union and Hybrid CoE 2021, pp. 26-33.

³ *Ibidem*, p. 30.

Contributions may explore, among others, the following questions:

- Does law define hybrid threats or any aspects thereof? If so, how was such a definition developed, and is it useful for scholars and practitioners? What purpose does it serve?
- How is the law used to target vulnerabilities in democratic societies?
- Have states adopted legislation targeting specific examples of hybrid threats, such as disinformation?
- Have domestic or international courts, directly or indirectly, referred to hybrid threats?
- Are private or public law regulations more effective in dealing with hybrid threats? Is it possible to use traditional domestic regulations—such as those concerning defamation or the unlawful obtaining and dissemination of personal data—to prosecute hybrid threats? Can a lawsuit be filed for infringement of personal rights against an actor deploying hybrid threats?
- How hybrid threats affect the protection of human rights? Are human rights systems equipped with sufficient measures of reaction to hybrid threats?

Contributions may address all areas of domestic and international law, as well as intersections between different branches. Articles may focus on a single domestic jurisdiction or employ a comparative approach.

We welcome **submissions of 6,000-8,000 words (including footnotes)**. All submissions must conform to the **OSCOLA style**. Submissions that do not comply with these guidelines will not be processed.

The texts should be submitted [via the online platform](#) available on the journal's website by **15 June 2026**.

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In case of any inquiries, please contact dr Agata Kleczkowska – agata.kleczkowska@inp.pan.pl.