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EDITORIAL PREFACE

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It is with great honor, enthusiasm, and a profound sense of responsibility that I write this editorial as the newly appointed Editor-in-Chief of *SEEU Review*. Since January 2026, I have had the privilege of assuming this role, succeeding Prof. Dr. Besa Arifi, whose dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment have significantly contributed to the development, quality, and reputation of the journal over the years.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, our contributors, reviewers, and readers, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. Besa Arifi for her outstanding leadership and valuable service. Through her efforts, *SEEU Review* has strengthened its academic profile, enhanced its editorial standards, and expanded its scholarly reach. The successful stewardship of the journal during her tenure has created a solid foundation upon which future growth can be built. Her contribution will remain an important part of the journal's history and continued success.

Academic journals play a crucial role in fostering intellectual exchange, encouraging critical inquiry, and promoting evidence-based dialogue. In an era characterized by rapid technological change, complex societal transformations, and increasing global interconnectedness, scholarly platforms are needed more than ever to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and innovative thinking. *SEEU Review* remains committed to serving precisely this purpose.

The current issue reflects the multidisciplinary character that has become one of the journal's defining strengths. The contributions presented here address a broad spectrum of topics spanning language studies, literature, education, psychology, economics, sustainability, political science, public policy, artificial intelligence, and social development. Together, they demonstrate the richness of contemporary academic inquiry and the importance of interdisciplinary perspectives in addressing the challenges of our time.

Blerta Denjalli, in the paper *Listening Comprehension Strategies in Acquiring German as a Foreign Language: Analysis of the Textbook "Schritte International Neu A2"*, explores the importance of listening comprehension as a fundamental component of both first-language acquisition and foreign-language learning. Through an analysis of the widely used textbook

Schritte International Neu A2, the study highlights how listening strategies can support language acquisition and demonstrates the role of pedagogical materials in developing communicative competence in German as a foreign language.

Erëza Rushiti and Arta Toçi, in *Cross-Linguistic Constructions and Patterns of Noun Phrases in English and Albanian Languages*, provide a comparative examination of noun phrase structures in English and Albanian. Their analysis reveals both similarities and differences in syntactic organization, particularly regarding definiteness and modification patterns. The study offers valuable insights for linguists, language educators, and translators working in multilingual contexts.

Sezen Ismail, in the article *Contagious Friendship in Edgar Allan Poe's The Fall of the House of Usher*, presents a psychologically informed reading of Poe's classic work. Drawing on contemporary theories of emotional transmission and stress contagion, the author investigates the gradual psychological transformation of the narrator and the erosion of emotional boundaries between the central characters, contributing a novel perspective to literary scholarship.

Meral Shehabi-Veseli, through the study *The Influence of Oriental Literature on Albanian Romantic Poetry: From Hypotexts to Stylistic Transformations*, investigates the rich intertextual dialogue between Oriental literary traditions and Albanian Romanticism. Focusing on the works of Jeronim De Rada and Naim Frashëri, the paper demonstrates how Eastern literary influences were creatively adapted and transformed to serve national, educational, and aesthetic purposes within Albanian literature.

Salihe Gajtani-Osmankaq and Arafat Shabani, in *Teaching Students with High Abilities from a Motivational Perspective*, address the challenges associated with identifying and supporting gifted and talented students within the educational system of Kosovo. Their findings emphasize the importance of teacher preparedness, professional development, and effective school-family partnerships in ensuring that exceptional student potential is recognized and nurtured appropriately.

Valdete Adili Selimi, in *Applying Gestalt Therapy in Work with Adolescents*, examines the application of Gestalt therapeutic principles in supporting adolescents during a critical stage of personal development. Drawing from practical experience in a secondary school environment, the study highlights the value of dialogue, presence, and experiential techniques in helping young people navigate developmental challenges while fostering resilience and personal growth.

Economic development and innovation emerge as central themes in the contribution by Sareh Rotabi and Hyrije Abazi-Alili, entitled *The Impact of Technological Innovation on Economic Growth Across Countries*. Using panel data from eighty-eight countries, the authors analyze how technological innovation influences economic growth across economies at different levels of development. Their findings reaffirm the critical role of innovation, research and development, and human capital in promoting sustainable economic progress while emphasizing the need for context-specific policy interventions.

The intersection between emotional intelligence and learning is explored by Shpresa Hasani, Lumturie Bajrami, and Merita Ismaili in *Emotional Self-Assessment and Classroom Participation in EFL Classrooms: A Correlational Study*. The authors investigate the relationship between students' emotional self-awareness and their classroom participation, demonstrating that emotional self-assessment may positively influence engagement in multilingual English language learning environments.

Sustainability and organizational development are addressed by Zharko Trajkov in *Institutional Support for Sustainable Practices in Organizations in North Macedonia*. Based on empirical evidence from organizations operating in North Macedonia, the study highlights the critical role of both financial and non-financial institutional support mechanisms in promoting sustainability-oriented practices. The findings contribute to ongoing discussions regarding sustainable entrepreneurship and policy development.

Political development and post-conflict institution-building form the focus of Enver Voca's article, *The Importance of the Inclusion of the Former Kosovo Liberation Army Freedom Fighters in Building Institutions Grounded in Democratic Values in Kosovo After the 1999 War*. The paper examines the contribution of former Kosovo Liberation Army combatants to the establishment of democratic political and security institutions, emphasizing their role in strengthening legitimacy, democratic oversight, and social inclusion in post-war Kosovo.

The rapidly evolving influence of artificial intelligence on public discourse is analyzed by Zamir Dika and Demush Bajrami in *Transforming Public Opinion in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: A Comparative Analysis in North Macedonia (2015–2026)*. Through empirical research, the authors investigate how AI-driven technologies, deepfakes, and automated disinformation are reshaping public trust and information consumption. Their findings underline the growing need for digital literacy, regulatory frameworks, and greater algorithmic transparency.

Finally, Fatime Hasani Reka, in *From Norm Adoption to Policy Impact: Explaining the Multi-Layered Implementation Gap in Gender Equality in STEM in North Macedonia*, examines the discrepancy between formal policy commitments and actual outcomes in promoting gender equality within STEM fields. By combining policy analysis, statistical evidence, and stakeholder perspectives, the study provides important insights into the institutional and cultural barriers that continue to affect women's participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Taken together, the contributions in this issue exemplify the diversity, relevance, and scholarly rigor that *SEEU Review* seeks to promote. They address pressing local, regional, and global challenges while offering theoretical insights and practical recommendations that can inform future research, policymaking, and professional practice.

As we embark on this new chapter, our vision for *SEEU Review* is both ambitious and clear. We remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of academic quality, ethical publishing practices, and rigorous peer review. At the same time, we seek to broaden the journal's international visibility, attract a more diverse community of authors and reviewers, and strengthen interdisciplinary dialogue across academic fields.

SEEU Review continues to serve as an open and inclusive platform for researchers, academics, practitioners, and policymakers from around the world. We strongly encourage submissions that address contemporary challenges, explore emerging phenomena, and bridge the gap between theory and practice. The complexity of today's world requires diverse perspectives, innovative methodologies, and meaningful engagement across disciplines, and our journal aims to facilitate exactly such conversations.

Looking ahead, one of our strategic priorities is the further internationalization and indexing of the journal. We are actively working toward strengthening our position within the global scholarly publishing landscape and aspire to become an integral part of major international indexing and abstracting databases, including Scopus and Clarivate. Achieving these milestones would significantly enhance the visibility, accessibility, and impact of the research published in *SEEU Review*, benefiting both our authors and the broader academic community. Increased international exposure would not only elevate the journal's profile but also create greater opportunities for scholarly collaboration and knowledge exchange across borders.

The pursuit of academic excellence is a collective endeavor. The success of any scholarly journal depends on the contributions of authors, the dedication of reviewers, the guidance of editorial board members, and the engagement of readers. I therefore extend my sincere appreciation to all those who contribute to the ongoing development of *SEEU Review*. Your trust, commitment, and intellectual contributions continue to shape the journal's identity and future.

As Editor-in-Chief, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and confident that together we can further strengthen *SEEU Review* as a respected platform for scholarly excellence, innovation, and societal impact.

I invite researchers, academics, practitioners, and policymakers to join us in this journey by contributing their work, engaging with the ideas presented in our pages, and helping us advance the frontiers of knowledge.

Prof. Dr. Veland Ramadani
Editor-in-Chief, *SEEU Review*
South East European University
June 2026