

## Editorial Group: War, Environment, and Health

<https://pollution-diseases.org>

### Rationale and Scope

The journal *Pollution & Diseases* establishes the editorial group **War, Environment, and Health** in response to a growing and insufficiently addressed scientific challenge: the systematic study of armed conflict as a driver of environmental transformation and public health outcomes.

Armed conflicts have traditionally been examined primarily through political, military, or humanitarian frameworks. Environmental degradation and health consequences have often been treated as secondary or indirect effects. This editorial group proceeds from a different analytical position: **contemporary warfare actively reshapes environmental systems and public health conditions**, and these processes warrant focused, methodologically rigorous scientific investigation.

Recent conflicts—most notably the ongoing war in Ukraine—demonstrate that warfare operates not only through direct violence, but also through sustained disruption of ecological, infrastructural, and sanitary systems. Landscapes are altered, soils and waters contaminated, energy and water infrastructures damaged, agricultural systems disrupted, and exposure pathways for toxic substances and pathogens expanded. The resulting health effects may persist long after the cessation of active hostilities.

### Conceptual Orientation

The editorial group does not promote a single theoretical framework or methodological doctrine. On the contrary, it recognizes that the complexity of war-related environmental and health processes requires **plurality of scientific approaches**, including but not limited to:

- environmental and soil sciences,
- hydrology and water resource studies,
- toxicology and exposure science,
- epidemiology and public health,
- ecology and ecosystem science,
- risk assessment and resilience studies,
- post-disaster and post-conflict recovery research.

At the same time, the group shares a core analytical premise: **war should be examined as an active environmental force**, rather than solely as a contextual backdrop for environmental change. Military operations engage resources, energy, and pollutants on a large scale. Damage to infrastructure, whether accidental or intentional, results in a series of ecological and health consequences that are quantifiable, enduring, and subject to scientific analysis.

This perspective does not exclude alternative interpretations or debates. Instead, it provides a structured space in which differing scientific positions can be articulated, evaluated, and compared under shared standards of evidence, transparency, and methodological rigor.

### Thematic Focus

The editorial group welcomes submissions addressing, among other topics:

- environmental contamination associated with military operations;

- degradation of soils, waters, and ecosystems in conflict zones;
- impacts of infrastructure damage on environmental and public health systems;
- water scarcity, flooding, and sanitation failures in wartime contexts;
- exposure pathways linking environmental damage to disease outcomes;
- post-war environmental assessment, remediation, and recovery;
- long-term health consequences of war-altered environments.

The group explicitly encourages interdisciplinary work and comparative analyses across different conflict settings.

### **The Role of the Ukraine Case**

The war in Ukraine occupies a central position within the scope of this editorial group. This is not because it is unique in principle, but because it represents a large-scale contemporary conflict unfolding within a highly industrialized, agriculturally intensive, and infrastructurally complex environment.

Ukraine provides an empirically rich context for examining interactions between warfare, environmental systems, and population health. Findings derived from this context are expected to inform broader scientific understanding of conflict-related environmental and health risks in other regions and future scenarios.

### **Editorial Responsibilities**

As a distinct component of the journal's editorial structure, the **War, Environment, and Health** group is responsible for:

- guiding the peer-review process for conflict-related submissions;
- ensuring methodological rigor and analytical clarity;
- advising on thematic issues and calls for papers;
- fostering international scholarly exchange on war-related environmental and health research.

The group operates within the journal's established ethical and editorial standards and does not serve advocacy or policy agendas. Its purpose is to facilitate high-quality scientific analysis, including critical debate where appropriate.

### **Responsibility in Scientific Projects**

The formation of this editorial group signifies a wider acknowledgment that current research frameworks may not adequately address the magnitude, intent, and ongoing effects of environmental and health issues linked to contemporary warfare. Addressing these limitations does not require the abandonment of established scientific methods; instead, it necessitates an extension and re-evaluation of these methods in light of new empirical realities.

Pollution & Diseases provides a specialized editorial platform focused on promoting systematic, evidence-based research related to the environmental and health implications of armed conflict, while being open to diverse scientific viewpoints and methodologies.

### **Conclusion**

War significantly transforms environments and health systems in deep and enduring manners. Comprehending these processes is crucial not only for post-conflict recovery but also for prevention, risk assessment, and the safeguarding of long-term public health.

The editorial group **War, Environment, and Health** is established to contribute to this understanding through careful, pluralistic, and methodologically sound scientific inquiry.

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**Dmitry Nikolaenko**

PhD, Doctor Habilitatus.

Prague, Czech Republic.

Editor-in-Chief of the journal "Pollution and Diseases" <https://pollution-diseases.org>

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0001-4173-6669>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=rsQ1ldwAAAAJ>

RG: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dmitry-Nikolaenko/research>

E-mail: [euukraine@icloud.com](mailto:euukraine@icloud.com)