

Call for Papers No. 1

Crises

The third issue of “The Critique of Law” in 2026 will be concerned in particular with the broad theme of crises.

The very concept of crisis is highly capacious, affecting virtually every sphere of life. When speaking of types of crises, we may have in mind, for instance, crises of worldview, faith, religion, identity, knowledge, education, science, authority, security, food, housing, climate, humanitarian issues, war, energy, law, constitution, society, demography, economy, finance, banking, the stock exchange, currency, politics, governance and diplomacy – but also moral, emotional, interpersonal, refugee, health-related or even midlife crises. These can also be technological and IT crises, those involving digital exclusion, or – at the opposite pole – the development of artificial intelligence, which will most likely occur with increasing frequency. All of them may lead to change, whether positive or negative.

The examples listed above show that the issue of crises is inseparably linked with life in the modern world. Every day we witness phenomena that may become the seed of crisis, a potential turning point in changes shaping how individuals, groups, and entire societies function. Phenomena such as the COVID-19 pandemic, wars – in particular those taking place in Ukraine and in the Gaza Strip – crashes on financial markets, or finally the growing use of artificial intelligence pose challenges for politicians, economists, and lawyers alike.

Crises may lead to systemic, social, legal, political, technological or economic changes. On the one hand, progress makes the world appear ever smaller; on the other, we are witnessing increasing polarisation and growing social inequalities. The omnipresence of crises leads to questions and creates space for reflecting on the multifaceted nature of crises and on possible solutions that could enable us to derive positive outcomes from these otherwise negative phenomena. Crises cannot be avoided. When it comes to the field of legal studies, it may be reasonable to ask, for instance, whether lawmakers and those applying the law can act in such a way that these negative phenomena become a driving force rather than an obstacle.

The theme of crises is not confined to a single academic discipline. It is inherently interdisciplinary. Therefore, this call for contributions to the special issue is aimed not only at researchers publishing in the field of legal studies but also at all scholars whose interests lie in other social sciences – including economics and finance, security studies, political science and public administration, management and quality studies, sociology, as well as canon law. We encourage the submission of original articles in English. Submissions to this issue are accepted until the end of March 2026. Please submit your papers to “The Critique of Law. Independent Legal Studies” via the ScholarOne Manuscripts system. All submitted manuscripts will undergo anonymous peer review. Articles must be prepared in accordance with the journal’s editorial guidelines, available at:

www.krytykaprawa.pl (section “Information for authors”).

Ewa M. Kwiatkowska,
PhD, Kozminski University