



## Editorial

For those who think that knowledge management and cognition are far beyond their daily lives and interests, it may be useful to refer to examples where these issues matter and may even be a question of life and death. The alarming events in Syria in Spring 2012 call for international action. Among several factors which may determine the decision on what the World will do, it matters how the events in Syria are defined and referred to. Is it *unrest*, *(plain) violence*, *sectarian violence*, *a (prolonged) civilian conflict*, *civil war*, *all-out/outright civil war*, or *a non-international armed conflict*? When does a widespread, organized and relentless sectarian conflict qualify as *civil war*? Kofi Annan, the joint United Nations-Arab League envoy to Syria, and a number of observers should provide evidence about the actual events but have had difficulties in getting physical access to specific areas in Syria. Their findings could be used for determining whether it is *sectarian violence* or *civil war* which is a crucial distinction: Defining the events as *civil war* would have repercussions under the international laws of war, e.g. combatants taken prisoners would have to be treated as prisoners of war who cannot be interrogated, nor tortured. However, although the International Committee of the Red Cross could possibly characterize the events as *civil war*, they may refrain from doing so, because of the risk of jeopardizing the humanitarian access negotiated with the Syrian government. The Syrian conflict is indeed a very sad case, where cognition, distinctive definitions, and consistent concept modeling have a crucial role to play.

The LSP Journal has reached 300 subscribers representing a large number of countries all over the World. The journal's status as a recognized multilingual platform for the publication LSP-related research results is thus becoming more and more manifest, although the number of readers is still relatively modest: 842 unique visitors Jan-May 2012 according to Google Analytics, but this is also a low season given that we publish in June and December.

The call for papers published in our last edition has been fruitful, but we still encourage authors and readers to disseminate the call and at the same time to invite interested colleagues to subscribe to the journal. We would like to underline again that subscription is free and without any constraints.

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