



Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal

Editors' Introduction

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Keywords. genocide, indigenous genocide

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Recommended Citation

O'Brien, Melanie; DiGeorgio-Lutz, JoAnn; Zylberman, Lior; Gudehus, Christian; Irvin-Erickson, Douglas; DeFalco, Randle; and Earl, Hilary (2016) "Editors' Introduction," *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal*: Vol. 10: Iss. 1: 1. DOI:

http://dx.doi.org/10.5038/1911-9933.10.1.1422

Available at: https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/gsp/vol10/iss1/3

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Editors' Introduction



Melanie O'Brien, JoAnn DiGeorgio-Lutz, Lior Zylberman, Christian Gudehus, Douglas Irvin-Erickson, Randle DeFalco, and Hilary Earl

This issue of *Genocide Studies and Prevention* (GSP) is the very embodiment of the interdisciplinary nature of the journal. We have five articles, spanning the fields of history, politics, ethnic studies, law, anthropology and international relations. Geographically, the articles analyse genocides on four continents: Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. This clearly demonstrates the diversity of the fields of genocide scholarship, both in terms of discipline and the geographical ambit of mass atrocities. Genocide and related forms of mass violence are truly global crime phenomena that impact upon millions of people worldwide. It is no wonder, then, that genocide scholarship also crosses borders- disciplinary, geographical and subject-matter borders. A heinous crime creating millions of victims and survivors also motivates activists and scholars to work on awareness, memorialisation, justice, and overall, prevention. Part of this work is found in every issue of GSP, where we give voice to the scholars who cross boundaries in order to help understand and thus prevent genocide and other mass atrocities.

Three of the articles in this issue are a follow-up to <u>GSP Issue 9.2</u> **Time, Movement, and Space: Genocide Studies and Indigenous Peoples**. Guest editors David MacDonald and Tricia Logan have continued their work with GSP to bring you three more articles dealing with indigenous genocide issues. Their editorial discusses the three articles by Andrew Basso, Margery Grace Hunt Watkinson and Chris Powell, and provides an update on recognition of indigenous genocides around the globe, with a particular focus on the significant steps taken in Canada since the election of the Trudeau government.

The final two articles of this issue cover two distinct topics in the field of genocide studies. In the context of a formal justice mechanism, Annie Pohlman considers the role of oral history in remembrance and justice for victims of sexual violence during the 1965 violence in Indonesia. Carola Lingaas' article, based on her presentation at the 2015 International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) conference in Yerevan, considers the difficulty that international courts have had in defining race, the challenges of the definition of race for the prosecution of genocide, and how Benedict Anderson's *Imagined Communities* theory can be applied in international courts and tribunals when considering race as a listed target group for genocide.

This issue also includes three book reviews and one review essay. There are two works that represent some facet of the Armenian Genocide. In one, Andrekos Varnava provides a thorough analysis of Fatma Müge Göçek's, Denial of Violence: Ottoman Past, Turkish Present and Collective Violence against the Armenians, 1789-2009. In the other, Taner Akçam's lengthier review essay gives extensive consideration to Joost Jongerden and Jelle Verheij's edited volume, Social Relations in Ottoman Diyarbekir, 1870-1915. Christopher P. Davey reviews the outcome of the conference proceedings on the legacies of colonialism in North America which are represented in the edited collection by Andrew Woolford, Jeff Benvenuto, and Alexander Laban Hinton on Colonial Genocide in Indigenous North America. Lastly, Tony Barta gives a poignant review of Nigel Eltringham and Pam Maclean's Remembering Genocide.

In recent decades, with some difficulty, some scholars have started to research the Franco years in Spain (1936-1975). Products of this research include the documentaries *Franco's Forgotten Children* (2002) and *Give Me Back My Child!* (2011), reviewed in this issue by Ruth Amir. These titles present the stories of the children removed from their parents by Franco's regime in order to impose a new identity on them. These actions are portrayed as a clear case of genocide that warrants the attention of genocide scholars.

GSP accepts submissions on a rolling basis, but also currently has three thematic calls for papers, details of which are <u>available on the website</u>. We look forward to receiving more of your border-crossing submissions.

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