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Editor's Introduction

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Editor's Introduction

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New Directions for GSP

Issue 8.3, entitled “Humanitarian Technologies and Genocide Prevention,” is the first issue of *Genocide Studies and Prevention* (GSP) published completely under the direction of the new editorial board. The transition from a printed, fee-based subscription journal to an open access online journal began a couple of years ago with some fundamental strategic considerations undertaken by the IAGS-Board headed by Alexander Hinton and Daniel Feierstein. The aim was to broaden the reach of the journal far beyond the original audience so that new authors could become interested in being published in GSP.

Open Access

A lot can be said in favor of open access and its electronic design: On the one hand, there are the political developments in the academic world, especially in Europe, Australia, Latin America and the US, that occurred in the last decade. In these countries, open access has increasingly established itself as a standard publishing tool, often promoted by government funds. On the other hand, the access to the usually expensive journals (whether online or traditional print publications) is very limited, particularly in the global south. Yet especially these regions are continuously gathering scientific attention and producing outstanding research. From the point of view of the IAGS and the Editorial Board, it is therefore of central importance for the successful development of the journal to obtain authorship and readership from the global south.

The Transitional Editorial Board

The IAGS Board, and the Transitional Editorial Board appointed in 2012, pressed this development ahead. At first, the already existing and extremely complex ties between the journal and the former partners, which often involved considerable financial obligations, had to be broken. An exceptional host for the new open access, online-version, the University of South Florida, was found. Scholar Commons, a service of the USF Tampa Library, is the digital showcase where GSP is located. Technically, the journal is run through the system “bepress” devised by the University of California Berkeley. The new partners not only provide their technical equipment, but they have also provided an impressive number of personnel to assist the transformation process. USF, Scholar Commons, and bepress have proven to be exceptional partners. It must be explicitly stated that their complete support is free of charge. As a consequence, IAGS is able to invest its means into supporting global scholarship without having to raise overall membership fees, which can prohibit many scholars, students, practitioners, and activists based outside of North American and Europe from participating in the IAGS.

New Rules & Procedures

We, the Editorial Board appointed in 2014 and as yet in charge, have revised or introduced a number of standards and procedures. The aim is to develop transparent and reliable procedures for all parties involved—authors, reviewers, editors, readers. Amongst other features, new submission guidelines, guidelines for reviewers, procedures regulating how submitted contributions should be handled, and a language policy for multi-lingual publishing were devised. Furthermore, current commonly accepted standards of quality are systematically implemented. These include a double blind peer review of all articles that follows a preliminary assessment by the Editorial Board.

Content and Strategic Development

The upcoming issues will be special issues for programmatic reasons. In the future, methods, technologies and theoretical approaches, as well as hitherto little researched events, will become primary foci. In addition, each issue will include book and film reviews. These thematic issues will be complemented by articles chosen from the contingent of constantly submitted articles discussing various themes and approaches. The journal is multi-disciplinary and therefore welcomes articles from a wide variety of fields, written with the aim of bringing different and alternative disciplinary analysis to an audience outside of that specific field.

Transitional Board (Issues 8.1 & 8.2)

Kjell Anderson, University of Amsterdam, and the Netherlands Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies

Amy Fagin, Beyond Genocide, 20th Century Illuminations

Melanie O'Brien, Griffith University

Rafiki Ubaldó, Media and Communication, IAGS

Editorial Board (From Issue 8.3 on)

Gabriel Gatti, University of the Basque Country

Christian Gudehus, Ruhr Universität Bochum

Douglas Irvin-Erickson, George Mason University

Melanie O'Brien, Anti-Slavery Australia, University of Technology Sydney [2014]; University of Queensland [2015+]

Tetsushi Ogata, Book Review Editor, University of California, Berkeley

James Waller, Keene State College (On leave)

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