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Qualitative Methods in Human Rights Research

Brian K. Gran

Editor, *Societies Without Borders*

With this issue, Lacey Caporale concludes her service to *Societies Without Borders*. Lacey has carefully, thoughtfully, and professionally served as the journal's Managing Editor for years. Over this time, the journal has moved forward in its transition to an open access journal, published podcasts, and sought to make greater impacts on the fields of human rights and the social sciences.

It is an understatement to say that *Societies Without Borders* owes a great deal to Lacey. Lacey has diligently pushed the journal's interests forward. Lacey's efforts have taken place during times of significant change for the journal, Case Western Reserve University, the journal's home, and the fields of human rights and social sciences. The journal is indebted to Lacey for her professionalism and hard work during these critical times.

This special issue arises from Lacey's commitment to qualitative research. Lacey is a star doctoral student who is completing her dissertation research. For her dissertation, she is undertaking a qualitative study of gentrification of an urban neighborhood located in a U.S. city. Lacey has spent countless hours in this community, learning about perspectives and experiences of folks whose neighborhood is undergoing significant changes. These changes are a "mixed bag," including greater safety, and more amenities for some residents, while violent crime and housing insecurity persist. It is clear that Lacey's scholarship will make significant contributions to Sociology and human rights writ large. I look forward to observing Lacey's star continue to rise.

Lacey provided leadership to the journal when it pursued podcasts as part of its effort of disseminating scholarship on human rights and the social sciences. With Margaret Waltz, previous Managing Editor, Lacey and I interviewed Rachel Dissell about the discoveries of rape kits that law authorities had overlooked in Cleveland. This situation prompted other U.S. law authorities to re-open a wide variety of criminal cases. Lacey and I enjoyed the opportunity to interview Professor Doctor Gesine Schwan. Schwan is a political science professor and member of Germany's Social Democratic Party who has twice campaigned for the election of federal president. Lacey and I later had the chance to interview Dr. Peter Eigen. Eigen formed Transparency International, an international group devoted to monitoring and preventing government corruption.

On behalf of *Societies Without Borders*, I wish the best of luck to Lacey on her continuing successes, her scholarship, and family growth.