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Editors' Introduction

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Editors' Introduction

As part of IAG's 2023 conference, held at The University of Barcelona, I was very kindly asked to be a panelist alongside Henry Theriault and Dirk Moses, to talk to young and aspiring academics about the publishing process, including tips about what to do and what not to do. What I found interesting when talking with my colleagues, as someone who has now steered *GSP* through four editions, is the similarity in responses across the three of us who all have similar journal experience (Henry has been an editor of *GSP* in the past and is current co-Editor of *Genocide Studies International*, and Dirk Moses is the long-running Senior Editor of the *Journal of Genocide Research*). We all noted, for example, the high percentage of rejections, which is something usual to academic journals. Yet, we cited specific reasons for this rejection that relate to the topic of genocide. There was consensus that papers from young academics need mentoring to help with argument and to realize the uniqueness of topic, rather than repeat well-worn arguments. An example I suggested were submissions that talked on "cultural genocide," or lack thereof, when talking on the crime of genocide. This is not to say that this specific aspect of genocide and all its complications is unworthy of much discussion; yet, at *GSP*, we receive many submissions that talk on this topic that are repetitious in approach and add little to ongoing and updated debates. Here, a mentor well-ensconced in the topic of genocide research would realize the limits of the argument and perhaps help contemporize the submission.

As part of this panel discussion, what I found heartening was the enthusiasm of those who attended the session, based on the questions they asked, and the comments we received. And this speaks to the benefits of our community of like-minded scholars who meet at our bi-yearly conference, as it offers a means of connection and encouragement. While I was not able to attend in person, being part of the panel reminded me of the enthusiasm and support I felt when attending previous conferences in Brisbane and Phnom Penh. Not being there in person, I felt absent from friendships that have grown over the years because of these meetings. For those young and up-and-coming academics who attended the conference and came to the panel session I was part of, I am hoping that similar connections lead to enthusiastic collaboration and reveal, once more, the importance of IAGS as a cohort of supportive scholars.

And this speaks to our current edition, 17.1, in which we publish three very interesting and topical articles, alongside two book reviews, and a short story and a selection of poetry, showcasing the publishing eclecticism the journal is gradually adopting. The three articles showcase diverse approaches to the study of genocide. Stacey Mitchell combines prospect theory and historical institutionalism to show that risk factors, and *how* they are perceived by actors, might determine a genocidal outbreak. Xiyuan (Marvin) Xia discusses the Chinese government and its media, and how both have been using the genocide of Canadian indigenous peoples and the recent discovery of mass graves attached to the residential schools in Canada, to lessen the impact of, or move focus away from its genocide of its Uyghur population. And David B. MacDonald's article raises topical questions about New Zealand's history of the forcible transfer of Tamariki and Māori peoples and how this equates to genocide.

This edition also houses a collection of poems by Sarwa Azeez who captures the voices of Kurdish women who have been victims of genocide and have been left alone due to the deaths of husbands, fathers, and sons, and while also suffering the long-term effects of sexual violence. As the introduction reveals, “these poems attempt to enhance our comprehension of how these atrocities have affected families, intimate relationships, and the unique vulnerabilities faced by women.” We are also very privileged to publish a short story by renown author Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry called “Songs of My Ancestors,” a memoiric piece that speaks to themes of familial history and displacement.

In this edition, I believe there is much to ponder academically and creatively.

Kirril Shields
Editor-in-Chief, GSP

The editorial team wishes to thank all the authors in this edition of GSP, and believe the content mirrors the ongoing quest of scholars and practitioners to study genocide and, in doing so, help to understand and thereby prevent the crime. In this edition, we welcome new voices to GSP, and we are pleased to publish some more established voices. We think readers will enjoy the eclecticism of the edition and hope this diversity inspires others to submit similarly thought-provoking articles and essays.

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