

Call for Papers

MAKING A KILLING – THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF GENOCIDE IN GAZA

*A special issue of **Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal***

Events over the last decade have ushered in a “New Age of Genocide,” returning the concept to center stage politically, and commanding increased attention from policy and academia (Shaw 2026). Genocidal violence, from Syria to Sudan and Myanmar to China, has laid bare the crucial role corporate actors play in enabling, encouraging, and sustaining genocide (Ambos 2020; Hasan and Paulose 2024; Hamilton and Caon 2021; Hammond 2021; Klamberg 2021). Yet, the political economy of genocide remains understudied, with studies of individual cases dispersed across disciplines (Hirsch 2016).

The editors of this special issue consider genocide to be both a process and a structural phenomenon, rather than simply an event. As such, analyzing the political economy that sustains genocidal actors is key to understanding genocides’ unfolding and its broader sociological and economic effects, as well as potentially identifying leverage of sufficient import to end it.

Nowhere has the trend of corporate actor involvement been more visible or better documented than during the ongoing genocide in Gaza (Albanese 2025; de Leeuw and Lamb 2024; Pax et al. 2025; Robinson 2025 among others). Since October 2023, the Israeli state has perpetrated genocide in the Gaza Strip with the support of Western leaders, and the active participation of national and international private and public corporations, including manufacturing, extractive and platform companies, and financial institutions, as well as some in academia. With many of these being registered in countries that are signatories to the Genocide Convention.

The recent proliferation of genocidal violence underscores the need to better understand the political economy that enables and sustains it. This goes beyond studying the economic actors, and includes the structures in contemporary international political economy – i.e. the functioning of bond markets; the restructuring of (international) labor markets and its effects both in Israel as well as in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and the entanglement of venture capital, tech industry, academia, and the military industrial complex, among many others.

Some of this has been documented by human rights organizations, as well as the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Francesca Albanese in her extensive report, *From Economy of Oppression to Economy of Genocide* (2025). These reports highlight the agency of corporate actors as well as their active role in driving genocide.

Acknowledging corporate actors’ involvement raises several dilemmas, including questions about accountability and the ability of the legal mechanisms available to hold corporate actors to account, as well as the legal mechanisms’ capacity to integrate more structural and systemic understanding of genocide. Finally, a better understanding of the political economy of genocide could highlight interests and incentives powerful enough to help end it, identify potential “winners” and “losers,” and provide the information needed to manage their disruptive power (Barkowski 2025). Gaza is but one case, with its own specificities, but Gaza is also a bellwether, the highly visible victim of a worrying global trend.

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The editors seek contributions across disciplines, including - but not limited to – political economy, anthropology, sociology, politics, law, and the areas of genocide, atrocity, and memory studies. They particularly encourage emerging research, as well as comparative and inter-disciplinary approaches.

Taking the unfolding genocide in Gaza as its focus, this special issue aims to bring together a diverse group of scholars to reflect on the political economy of genocide: the intrinsic and extrinsic factors that sustain it, its structural features, the role national and international corporations play in enabling, sustaining, and perpetrating genocide, how a political economy of genocide intersects with political economies of occupation and apartheid, and the implications structural factors and corporate sector involvement have for the accountability mechanisms that are currently available.

Submission Guidelines:

This special issue will build on a broader **two-day workshop** that will bring together academics, policy makers, and organizations working on the topic. The workshop will be held in **Amsterdam**, the Netherlands, in **late October/early November 2026** (dates to be confirmed). Please note that financial support to allow in-person participation will be available.

- Please submit an **abstract** (including a title) of no more than 300 words as well as a short **bio** (ca. 100 words) by **March 1, 2026**. A decision will be made by mid-March 2026.
- Authors of selected proposals will be invited to submit their **full draft papers** (8,000-words, exclusive of footnotes and bibliography) for the workshop by **October 1, 2026**.
- Workshop: **Amsterdam, Late October/early November 2026**
- Submission of final papers after editor and workshop feedback: **December 15, 2026**.
- Submissions will be evaluated for originality, disciplinary diversity, and their engagement with innovative approaches. Please note that there is limited space for contributions and that inclusion in the special issue is competitive.
- Following submission of final papers, submissions will undergo peer review.
- Articles will be published online as a collection.
- All abstracts and papers must be submitted in **English** to **Solange Fontana** at s.fontana@niod.knaw.nl. Please include **Farid Boussaid** f.boussaid@uva.nl, and **Erella Grassiani** e.grassiani@uva.nl in cc.

Thank you for your interest. Please share this call widely with colleagues and through your networks.

Farid Boussaid, Political Science, UvA,
Solange Fontana, Genocide Studies, NIOD,
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