

Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to let you know that issue 20.5 of *The Journal of Human Rights* has been published and is now available at our Taylor & Francis site.

This issue features papers from a timely three-article symposium on "Political Apologies," curated by Mark Gibney. With the advent of the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States, along with renewed debates about colonialism and the treatment of indigenous populations in Canada and elsewhere, the demand to revisit the past and to acknowledge the "wrongs" committed has only continued to grow. One way of achieving this is through a state apology. Although this process might seem relatively straightforward, there are a host of competing values including whether reparations should also be paid, but also the question of whether the apology provides closure to these events in the past -- or whether, instead, this is merely the opening movement toward achieving a more just world.

In addition to the symposium, JHR 20.5 includes work by scholars across multiple disciplines. We spotlight two in particular. Anthropologist Samuel Martinez (author of "[To Know in the Subjunctive](#)") finds that leading anti-trafficking organizations' websites turn today's slave into a visual and textual specter, basing antislavery commitment not on evidence but belief. Previous issues of JHR have addressed human trafficking and related topics, including: [The New Slave Narrative: Advocacy and Human Rights in Stories of Contemporary Slavery](#) (Volume 12, Issue 2) and [From Rescue to Representation: A Human Rights Approach to the Contemporary Antislavery Movement](#) (Volume 14, Issue 4).

Political scientist Nazli Pinar Kaymaz (author of "[Broadening British Idealist Approach to Human Rights: J. S. Mackenzie's List of Political, Economic and Social Rights](#)") explores the historiography of human rights. Similarly, humanities approaches have been central to some of the outstanding work previously published in JHR, including by historians Emma Gilligan on [Redefining Humanitarian Intervention: The Historical Challenge of R2p](#) (Volume 12, Issue 1) and Frédéric Krumbain on [P.C. Chang – The Chinese Father of Human Rights](#) (Volume 14, Issue 3), along with scholars of literature such as Eleni Coundouriotis on [The War Novel and Human Rights](#) (Volume 18, Issue 4).

There is much more to explore in JHR 20.5 – and we hope you enjoy the range of topics, regions, and methods central to the issue.

Best wishes,

Rachel Chambers (Social Media Co-Editor)