

Dear Colleagues,

With the ending of Volume 21 of *The Journal of Human Rights* and a busy publishing year ahead, we are delighted to share some highlights from JHR 21.4 and 21.5, both of which are now available at our Taylor & Francis site. In these issues you will find a strong international dimension along with issue-specific concentrations on transitional justice; methods and measurement; and a Symposium on “Governance Authority in Business and Human Rights.”

The international dimension is evident from articles spotlighting the response of the criminal law to two sets of rightsholders: sex workers and people with disabilities, in two African countries – Emma Paszat’s “Criminalization and rhetorical non-discrimination: Sex work and sexual diversity politics in Rwanda” and Maxwell Opoku et al “Criminal Justice in Ghana as Experienced by People with Disabilities: Analysis of the Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability and Quality of Services.”

Transitional justice is a recurrent theme for JHR, and these two issues contain several important contributions. Matt Murphy’s article “How does transitional justice matter? Expanding and refining quantitative research on the effects of transitional justice policies”; Espen Stokke & Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm’s article “Syrian diaspora mobilization for prospective transitional justice in the absence of transition”; and Janine Natalya’s article “Social ecologies of health and conflict-related sexual violence: Translating ‘healthworlds’ into transitional justice.”

In an effort to advance new strategies in human rights measurement, we’ve published “Transgender Rights are Human Rights: A Cross-National Comparison of Transgender Rights in 204 Countries,” by Susan Dicklitch-Nelson & Indira Rahmanhe, who introduce the F&M Global Barometer of Transgender Rights (GBTR). This marks the first multiyear attempt to assess cross-nationally the extent to which countries protect or persecute transgender individuals. Separately, in “The spatial dynamics of freedom of foreign movement and human trafficking,” Sam Bell and Richard Frank explore whether freedom of movement increases or decreases human trafficking flows, drawing on data from 182 countries from 2001 to 2017. In addition, a contribution to our longstanding “Methods Focus” section (<https://journal.humanrights.uconn.edu/>) by Heather M. Wurtz explores *The Pandemic Journaling Project* (<https://pandemic-journaling-project.chip.uconn.edu/>), a combined virtual journaling platform and research study that chronicles the experiences of ordinary people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, the symposium “Governance Authority in Business and Human Rights” (guest edited by Janne Mende and Anneloes Hoff) explores the authority of non-state actors in the global business and human rights (BHR) regime. The point of departure is that the involvement of different public and private actors in the BHR regime rests on their authority as governance actors. The aim is to disentangle the various dimensions of governance authority within the regime in order to advance our understanding of how different types of non-state actors participate in (and influence) the setting, interpretation, and contestation of norms and rules. We see in the Symposium articles discussion of corporate human rights benchmarks, the role of external experts and settlement agreements each as dimensions of governance authority.

We hope you enjoy both issues,

Rachel Chambers, Social Media Co-Editor