

July 2024

Dear JHR readers:

We are pleased to share information on the July 2024 release of *The Journal of Human Rights* 23(3), including a recap of major themes covered along with links to articles from previous issues of JHR that have touched on these topics as well.

**We start with a theme of longstanding interest in JHR, transitional justice.** *Lesley-Ann Daniels and Virginia Zalundardo's new article* explores truth commissions in polarized societies. This work echoes earlier articles that have engaged with questions about reckoning with the past and transitional justice, including:

Schaafsma, J., Zoodsma, M., & Sagherian-Dickey, T. (2021). Closing chapters of the past? Rhetorical strategies in political apologies for human rights violations across the world. *Journal of Human Rights*, 20(5), 582–597. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14754835.2021.1977919>

Bentley, T. (2021). A line under the past: Performative temporal segregation in transitional justice. *Journal of Human Rights*, 20(5), 598–613. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14754835.2021.1979388>

**By contrast, less well explored in the general human rights literature have been issues of rural peoples' rights.** JHR takes these up with *Leah Utyasheva, Andrea Rother, Leslie London, and Michael Eddleston's open access article* analyzing the tendency to “blame farmers” in low- and middle-income countries for “misuse” of inherently harmful pesticide. This work echoes Utyasheva’s earlier work published in JHR, along with that of other scholars we’ve published who focus on human rights in rural spaces:

Utyasheva, L., & Eddleston, M. (2021). Prevention of pesticide suicides and the right to life: The intersection of human rights and public health priorities. *Journal of Human Rights*, 20(1), 52–71. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14754835.2020.1850241>

Vandenbogaerde, A. (2016). Localizing the Human Rights Council: A case study of the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants. *Journal of Human Rights*, 16(2), 220–241. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14754835.2015.1123088>

Hoddy, E. T. (2020). Peasants’ rights and agrarian violence in transitional settings: From transitional justice to transformative agrarian justice. *Journal of Human Rights*, 20(1), 91–109. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14754835.2020.1850242>

**The rights of LGBTQ+ people have been mainstreamed in the wider literature through work published in JHR over the past decade.** *This issue features work by Cyril Ghosh, on the US Citizenship and Immigration Services’ current guidelines for LGBTQ+ asylum adjudication, arguing that they are both under-inclusive and improperly restrictive.*

**The contemporary global trend toward democratic backsliding is also a critical focus for JHR.** *Jeffrey King, Bimal Adhikari and Amanda Murdie’s article* features new empirical findings and builds upon work published on this theme in JHR, including:

Landman, T., Kernohan, D., & Gohdes, A. (2012). Relativizing Human Rights. *Journal of Human Rights*, 11(4), 460–485. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14754835.2012.730917>

Clark, R. (2014). A Tale of Two Trends: Democracy and Human Rights, 1981–2010. *Journal of Human Rights*, 13(4), 395–413. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14754835.2014.886946>

***New approaches to qualitative, historiographic and theoretically informed analyses*** are central to *Ken MacLean's* article on "Digital Human Rights Storytelling and its Palimpsests: (De-) Constructed Images of Ethnic Cleansing in Myanmar" and to *Kjersti Skarstad's* article on critical human rights research.

***Finally, robust "Dialogues" are a periodic form of work published in JHR.*** This issue, we feature responses to Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick's recent **open access** article, "Disruption and emergence: How to think about human rights futures," published in *JHR* 23(1) in 2023 – see <https://doi.org/10.1080/14754835.2023.2269231>. These come in the form of a "Dialogue" featuring responses to *Choi-Fitzpatrick* by *Josh Gellers* and *James Dawes*, see details below. Notably, both of the Dialogue articles will be made available with "free access" for three months from the date of publication:

#### ***Dialogue on Future Rights***

An inconvenient reflection on human rights: Comments on Choi-Fitzpatrick's article, "Disruption and Emergence"

Joshua C. Gellers

DOI: 10.1080/14754835.2024.2364871

The future of human rights

James Dawes

DOI: 10.1080/14754835.2024.2364889

The Journal has published similar "Dialogues" previously, such as the Dipika Jain and Debanuj DasGupta exchange in 2021 on LGBTQ/gender issues:

Jain, D., & DasGupta, D. (2021). Law, gender identity, and the uses of human rights: The paradox of recognition in South Asia. *Journal of Human Rights*, 20(1), 110–126. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14754835.2020.1845129>

With content spanning issues, methods, regions, and formats, there should be something for every reader in this issue of *JHR*; we hope that you enjoy it and we welcome your comments.

Sincerely,

Rachel Chambers

Social Media Co-editor