

AUGUST 2023

# ASA SECTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Summer Snapshot Newsletter



What's inside this issue:

*-Note from Outgoing Chair (p. 2)*

*-ASA Meeting Sessions (p. 3)*

*-Section Award Winners (p. 4)*

*-Announcements and Welcoming Your New Council Members (p. 5)*

*-Call for Fall Newsletter Submissions (p. 6)*

## See you in Philadelphia!

*118th ASA Annual Meeting  
August 17-21, 2023*

We look forward to greeting many of you in person at ASA 2023!  
Please join us in attending...

- The section on Sociology of Human Rights Business Meeting, Friday August 18 from 4-5:30pm
- A joint reception on Friday, August 18 from 6:30-8pm
- Multiple sessions on Human Rights featuring section members

More details enclosed.



## Note from Your Outgoing Chair



*Zakiya Luna*

Our section began the year with yummy food and conversation (at ASA meeting in Los Angeles), continued it with technological exploration (ASA’s experiment with the Connect platform that is ending) and we get to finish/begin by welcoming new Council and award winners.

During part of my time as Sociology of Human Rights section chair, I have been on sabbatical, part of which I spent in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain. Without even trying I have had many encounters with human rights discourse. The first couple days of my first visit I stayed in a Room Mate hotel. Upon checking in I noticed the bedside table had a phone—and a booklet copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Spanish and English. The hotel website said the UDHR had “been the main source of inspiration for all of us to protect together the rights and freedoms of all people everyday. [And made] a commitment signed between Room Mate Hotels with the United Nations to have copies in each room.” In all my years of travel in the US, hotel bedside tables have included a “welcome” via Bible, bottled water, even fresh cookies. But never the UDHR, a document that, while imperfect, offers inspiration to activists globally and many governments engage even grudgingly. As I and others in this section have written about, human rights in the US is perceived by many as both unnecessary and threatening thus making advocacy difficult.

During my first visit I met an expat who had worked in many countries covering political issues including wars, and as happens, they asked about my research. I gave my one-liner about women of color activists working on reproductive issues engaging United Nations to bring human rights to the US. He looked at me skeptically and offered “Good luck...” That the US situation seemed less hopeful than many he had seen was quite telling.

Barcelona is a city very clearly dealing with many modern problems (rising cost of housing, anti-immigrant racism, unknown status of national elections) and some persistent ones (autonomy struggles). The towering Montjuïc Castle visible from throughout the city is a reminder that the past is ever present. The interpretive center explained the role the space had over centuries (which people will reference in conversation if you are there for more than a few days). This includes Franco’s use of it for military purposes and imprisonment and executions of autonomy activists. As you walk out the center, posted on the right is an image of the castle embedded in the fully-reclaimed park area that today is walked every day by locals and tourists. In large print Catalan are selected the articles of the UDHR. Below it sits the is translations in Spanish, English and French.



While we may not all agree on the approaches, the people in the Sociology of Human Rights section are doing important research and teaching around human rights that have relevance to activists and governments globally. One of the fun parts of being section chair is interacting with the many people who volunteer to help serve the section and people who send a random email to bring their ideas to move the section forward. I hope to be able to chat with you about how human rights have appeared in your everyday at our Philadelphia reception.

# ASA 2023 EVENTS

## SECTION ON SOCIOLOGY OF HUMAN RIGHTS BUSINESS MEETING

Friday, August 18, 4:00-5:30pm, Marriott Philadelphia Downtown  
Floor: Level 4, Franklin Hall 5

## RECEPTION

Joint reception between FOUR sections? Yes, last year we had a great time with Peace, War, and Social Conflict. This year we are joining forces with two additional sections: Collective Behavior and Social Movements, and Political Sociology. This will be a blowout!

Join us on Friday, August 18, 6:30-8pm, Marriott Philadelphia Downtown  
Floor: Level 5, Grand Ballroom Salon G

Like last year, there will be opportunities to meet people & some brief remarks from section leaders

## CONFERENCE SESSIONS

There are multiple sessions on Human Rights (featuring section members!) that may be of interest to you. *(Please check ASA program for most up-to-date information.)*

### FRIDAY AUGUST 18

The Politics of Human Rights - 2-3:30pm  
Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, Level 4, Franklin Hall 5

### SATURDAY AUGUST 19

The Fight for Civil and Human Rights in the 21st Century, 12-1:30pm  
Pennsylvania Convention Center, 100 Level, 103C

Global Feminism: Violence, Agency, and Solidarity, 2-3:30pm  
Pennsylvania Convention Center, 100 Level, 113C

### SUNDAY AUGUST 20

Peace and Conflict, 10-11:30am  
Pennsylvania Convention Center, 100 Level, 108B



# 2023 AWARD WINNERS



*Thank you to our award committees and congratulations to all award winners & nominees!*

The 2023 Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Book Award committee was chaired by Susan Pearce, alongside committee members Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick and Lea David. The Best Scholarly Article Award committee was chaired by Minwoo Jung, alongside committee members Claire Whitlinger and Danielle Lucksted. The Graduate Student Paper Award committee was chaired by Zakiya Luna, alongside committee members Maro Youssef and Reema Sen. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to serve in this important capacity!

**Congratulations to all of our honorees for their excellent work! You can personally applaud the recipients when they receive award plaques at our ASA section Business meeting Fri, August 18, 5:00 to 5:30pm, Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, Floor: Level 4, Franklin Hall 5 .**

## Graduate Student Paper Award

**Samuel Dinger**

“Coordinating Care and Coercion: Styles of Sovereignty and the Politics of Humanitarian Aid in Lebanon.” *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development*. 13 (2): 218–39.

## Best Scholarly Article Award

**Nisa Göksel and Jaimie Morse**

“‘Legal Exhaustion’ and the Crisis of Human Rights: Tracing Legal Mobilization against Sexual Violence and Torture of Kurdish Women in State Custody in Turkey since the 1990s.” *Journal of Human Rights* 21 (2): 174–90.

## Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Book Award

**Lynette Ong**

*Outsourcing Repression: Everyday State Power in Contemporary China*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

# GENERAL BUSINESS & LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL



## WELCOME NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

Incoming officers

Chair-Elect (1-year term begins in 2023)

- Marie E. Berry, University of Denver,

Council (3-year term begins in 2023)

- Minwoo Jung, Loyola University Chicago
- Dana Moss, University of Notre Dame

Student Representative (2-year term begins in 2023)

- Jillian LaBranche, University of Minnesota

STAY TUNED IN THE FALL FOR MORE THOROUGH INTRODUCTIONS TO THESE AND OTHER SECTION MEMBERS!

## ASA CONNECT TO BE REPLACED BY... LISTSERV!

In case you had not heard, ASA is ending its experiment with the platform and moving sections \*back\* to listserv format. Please make sure you have downloaded any documents you want from the online platform before the end of August .

The new (old) listservs will begin in September. Only \*current\* section members will be transitioned to the new (old) list serv.

# CALL FOR FALL 2023

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS



The theme for our fall newsletter will be Human Rights and Atrocity: Manmade and Natural. This focus came about specifically in response to the 2023 earthquake in Syria and Turkey and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, but submissions are by no means limited to these topics. We welcome contributions directly or indirectly related to the theme from a contemporary or historical perspective. Your submissions can also be accompanied by photos and encompass one or more of the below and beyond. *Wondering what to submit? See below for some ideas.*

### News and Views:

1. A short essay/reflection on an issue pertaining to international or local issues of current interest (approx 500-1000 words)
2. A summary or links to contemporary human rights debates (approx 500 words)

SUBMISSIONS BY  
September 30

### Features:

1. Do you have research (published or unpublished) related to atrocity or are you leading other exciting research, using innovative methodologies on global or national or community issues or engaged in activism on an issue pertaining to human rights? Tell us about your work / Submit a short summary of your topic, approach, and findings (approx 750 words)
2. Student spotlight: Are you a doctoral student with ongoing research that you would like to share? Tell us about your work! (approx 500-1000 words)
3. Publications and awards: Share your recently published books and articles or human rights related awards/grants received
4. Careers
  - a. New jobs/promotion announcements
  - b. Are you a doctoral student on the market? Send us a ~250 word summary of your interests and background
5. Conferences and networking: Share information on upcoming Human Rights summits/conferences and networking opportunities you'd like to share with the group

Please send submissions and questions to both of our newsletter editors: Danielle Lucksted at [danielle.lucksted@stonybrook.edu](mailto:danielle.lucksted@stonybrook.edu) and Reema Sen at [Reema.Sen@case.edu](mailto:Reema.Sen@case.edu)