As stated by so many organizations during the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, there is nothing unprecedented about their demise. Countless African Americans or Black Americans have suffered similar senseless deaths since the formation of the U.S. To demonstrate the breadth and depth of such injustices, Columbia University’s Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) is developing a project that explores U.S. historical racial injustices and additionally examines explicit contemporary redress efforts to attend to such wrongs; The U.S. African American Redress Network. The goal of the project is to better understand how, who and in what ways communities are attending to historical racial transgressions. Media has given attention to some high-profile examples such as Georgetown University and their efforts to remedy for their enslavement past. But most local restitution efforts are not so prominent and often lack greater support and cross-sector awareness. Our desire is to also heighten awareness of redress efforts that are less evident.

Preliminary findings demonstrated that explicit local reparations were evident throughout the U.S. except for the far Northeast such as Montana or Washington. We recently completed an initial pilot, which focused on the South Atlantic region along the Atlantic Coast from Delaware to Florida. After 6 months of a rigorous vetting and assessment practices, we documented over 100 local efforts to address historical wrongdoings located within this U.S. region. Examples of redress practices included apologizing for slavery, truth and reconciliation commissions and forms of compensation. The categories of redress are framed within the U.N. international covenant on civil and political
rights (2004), which offered guidance on reparations. This covenant expounded that States are obligated to assure basic human rights and further maintained that when States fail to do so, there is a legal obligation to make reparations. As demonstrated by our data, reparations provided restitution, rehabilitation, measures of satisfaction such as public apologies, public memorials, guarantees of non-repetition and occasionally changes made to relevant laws and practices as well as bringing to justice the perpetrators of human rights violations (UN Doc CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.13, 2004, para 16).

Our findings demonstrated the sustained discrimination, oppression and violence often experience by African and Black Americans since the founding of the U.S. However, despite history there are numerous local efforts to confront this. These local initiatives offer hope as communities find distinct ways to respond to the legacy of racism.

Linda J. Mann, PhD
Founder, Justice and Equity Solutions
SCHOLARSHIP

Select book reviews, books for review and the latest contribution to our working paper series.

MORE ON SCHOLARSHIP

We are delighted to share the latest contribution to our working paper series, Angela Bermudez's essay, “The Normalization of Political Violence in History Textbooks: Ten Narrative Keys”. Angela Bermudez is a researcher at the Center for Applied Ethics in the University of Deusto (Bilbao, Spain).

Historical Dialogues, Justice, and Memory Network Working Paper Series
Interested in submitting a paper for possible publication on our Network? E-mail us at dialogues@columbia.edu!

Read Rebecca Johnson's review of Writing Human Rights: The Political Imaginaries of Writers of Color (Crystal Parikh). The challenge for writer/scholar activists is to place our work in service to the visibility of impossible subjects and unimagined communities in their struggles for autonomy, personhood and civic belonging.

Interested in reviewing a book? Below are a list of books currently available for review. Interested in proposing a book for review? E-mail us at dialogues@columbia.edu!

- Brants, Chrisje & Karstedt, Susanne. Transitional Justice and the Public Sphere (Bloomsbury, 2020).
Please note that COVID-19 is leading to frequent changes and/or cancellations of events. Check details carefully for updated information.

June 2020

**Protective Fellowship Scheme for Human Rights Defenders at Risk – Centre for Applied Human Rights**
Location: University of York, UK  
Deadline: June 17, 2020

**CfA: Bergen-Belsen International Summer School 2020**
Location: Online  
Dates: August 2-7, 2020  
Application Deadline: June 30, 2020

**CfP: Alps and Resistance: Conflicts, Violences and Political Reflections (1943-1945)**
Deadline: June 30, 2020

**CfP: Civitates grants for public interest journalism**
Location: Europe  
Application Deadline: June 30, 2020

**CfP: Jews in the Muslim World: Histories, Memories and Narratives**
Location: Penn State and Ben Gurion Universities  
Conference dates: February and June 2021  
Application Deadline: June 30, 2020

**CfA: Alfred Landecker Lecturer Program**
Location: Varies  
Deadline: June 30, 2020

**CfP: Executive Director - Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership**
Location: Kalamazoo College, MI  
Application Deadline: Rolling

July 2020
August 2020

CfP: History of Violence Against Women
Location: Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
Date: November 25, 2020
Application Deadline: July 1, 2020

August 2020

CfA: Lecturer, Human Rights Studies
Location: University of California, Davis
Deadline: August 3, 2020

CfP: Heroines of the Holocaust: Frameworks of Resistance
Location: Wagner College, Staten Island
Application Deadline: August 15, 2002
Conference Dates: June 2-3, 2021

Rolling or Unspecified

Memory Studies Portal Now Online
We are delighted to announce the launch of a new memory database! The Memory Studies Portal (MSP) is a bibliography and virtual repository for the growing community of memory scholars. It is a collaborative project of the Memory in the Disciplines initiative at Stony Brook University and the Institute for the Study of Human Rights’ Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability at Columbia University. The MSP responds to two trends, the ongoing consolidation of a field of memory studies and the ongoing debate as to whether memory studies is or should be “interdisciplinary” (involving contributions from scholars from various disciplines within a shared framework), “transdisciplinary” (involving a generative synthesis of disciplinary approaches), or merely “multidisciplinary” (characterized by several parallel, largely independent specialized conversations). This debate provides the opportunity to investigate the relations between disciplines. The MSP bridges disciplinary divides between (and among) the social sciences and the humanities Accordingly, our initiative will allow scholars from disciplines as diverse as sociology, literature, history, psychology, philosophy, political sciences, performance studies and art history to engage in a sustained conversation – and, ideally, to enrich one another’s understanding of memory. Since the MSP is a work in progress its growth also partly depends on your input. We thus encourage scholars/users of the MSP to alert us to bibliographic entries or any other suggestion as to how we can improve and expand the MSP. Please send an email with your thoughts, concerns, and missing/additional items you would like us to upload into the MSP.

Invitation to Participate in the Mapping Historical Dialogue Project
The Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) at Columbia University invites you, as an expert in your field, to participate in the development of the Mapping Historical Dialogue Project (MHDP). The goal of the MHDP is to establish an online interactive geographical map that addresses mechanisms of contested memory in post conflict countries. The mapping process will document projects addressing the memory of historical violence. Building on a crowdsourcing model, the project will rely on incremental contributions to connect a diverse network of individuals who often do not have access or knowledge of one another’s work. The project is open access, and its scholarship and resources and will be available to a wide community of users. More information about the map can be found here. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at mapping.historical.diaogue@gmail.com.
The academic podcast, ‘Coffee & Cocktails’ has a four-part COVID series focusing on the Roma community in northern Italy. - NEW

The Holocaust Studies program of Western Galilee College is initiating a series of online conversations with leading Holocaust Researchers. Register here for the first conversation about 'Some Basic Problems of Holocaust Research'. - NEW

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Facing History and Ourselves: Resources during COVID-19
Summary of the Conference, International Centre for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust Educational Projects, 2019
Anne Frank Video Diary
Story Center - Storytelling in the Time of COVID-19 Webinar (free)
WITNESS Video Lab COVID-19 Response Hub
24-hour Global Vigil Online to Conclude Genocide Awareness Month
European Center of Solidarity virtual exhibits
Experience the Tenement Museum from Home
Objects of Comfort: New Digital Collection Gallery!
The Census Reading Between the Lines
Virtual Tour of the POLIN Museum in Poland
Your Story, Our Story
UPCOMING EVENTS

Select activities relate to historical dialogue, historical and transitional justice, and public and social memory

ALL EVENTS

Please note that COVID-19 is leading to frequent changes and/or cancellations of events. Check details carefully for updated information.

June 2020

Human Rights Watch Digital Film Festival
Location: Streaming
Dates: June 11-20, 2020

Business and Human Rights Workshop
Location: Columbia University, NY
Dates: June 12, 19, 26, 2020

CfP: Literature and International Law Conference
Location: Nairobi, Kenya
Dates: June 15-16, 2020

War and Genocide, Reconstruction and Change: The Global Pontificate of Pius XII, 1939-1958
Location: École Française and the German Historical Institute in Rome, Italy
Dates: June 17-19, 2020

Memory Studies Association: Fourth Annual Conference
Location: University of Virginia, Charlottesville
Dates: June 18-21, 2020

Summer Human Rights Institute
Location: Fordham Law School, New York City
Course Dates: 15-26 June 2020

Europe's Past, Present, and Future: Utopias and Dystopias
Location: University of Iceland, Reykjavik
Conference Dates: June 22-24, 2020

Overcoming the Darkness? – Holocaust Survivors' Emotional and Social Journeys in the Early Postwar Period
Location: Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel
Conference Dates: 29-30 June, 2020
July 2020

New Directions in the Humanities: Transcultural Humanities in a Global World
Location: Ca’ Foscari University, Venice, Italy
Dates: July 1-3, 2020

Asian Studies Association of Australia: Future Asias
Location: University of Melbourne, Australia
Dates: 6-9 July 2020

Cultural Heritage and Jewish/non-Jewish Relations
Location: University of Southampton, UK
Dates: July 16-17, 2020

The Role of History in Peacebuilding and Development in East Asia
Registration: historyngo@gmail.com
Location: Vietnam National University of Social Sciences and Humanities
Dates: July 20-25, 2020

August 2020

Narrating Transitional Justice: History, Memory, Poetics and Politics
Location: McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada
Dates: August 6-7, 2020

CfP: Colonial/Racial Histories, National Narratives and Transnational Migration
Location: University of Helsinki, Finland
Conference Dates: August 12-14, 2020

6th World Conference of the International Federation for Public History
Location: Berlin, Germany
Dates: 18-22 August 2020

CfP: Memory and Migration
Location: Sandbjerg Manor, Denmark/Aarhus University
Dates: August 26-29, 2020

CfA: Everyday Life of Jews in the USSR during the Holocaust and its Early Aftermath
Location: Jerusalem, Israel
Dates: August 30-September 3, 2020

Tell us about events, opportunities and initiatives you are working on! E-mail dialogues@columbia.edu.