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Special Issue:
COVID19 and Redefining Human Security

Edited by Nergis Canefe

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Editors-in-Chief:

Prof. Alpaslan Özerdem – alpozerdem [@] cesran.org

Prof. Nergis Canefe – jcts.editors [@] cesran.org

Book Editor:

Prof. Nur Koprulu – jcts.editors [@] cesran.org

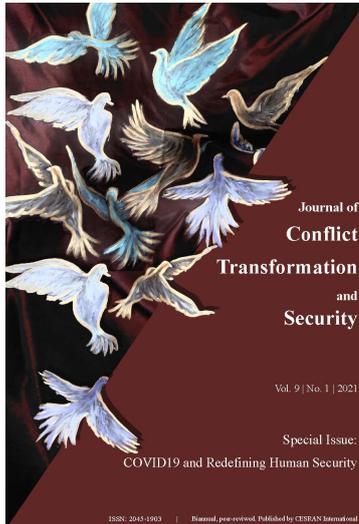
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INDEXING & ABSTRACTING



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The Journal of Conflict Transformation and Security (JCTS) provides a platform to analyse conflict transformation and security as processes for managing change in non-violent ways to produce equitable outcomes for all parties that are sustainable. A wide range of human security concerns can be tackled by both hard and soft measures, therefore the Journal's scope not only covers such security sector reform issues as restructuring security apparatus, reintegration of ex-combatants, clearance of explosive remnants of war and cross-border management, but also the protection of human rights, justice, rule of law and governance. JCTS explores the view that by addressing conflict transformation and security holistically it is possible to achieve a high level of stability and human security, requiring interventions at both policy and practitioner level. These would include conflict management, negotiated peace agreements, peacekeeping, physical reconstruction, economic recovery, psycho-social support, rebuilding of primary services such as education and health, and enabling social cohesion. Other macro-level governance issues from constitution writing to state accountability and human resource management also need to be considered as part of this process of change.

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CESRAN International is a think-tank specialising on international relations in general, and global peace, conflict and development related issues and challenges.

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Editor's Introduction to the Special Issue on COVID 19 and Redefining Human Security

Nergis Canefe - Co-editor

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a vast array of social, economic and legal implications, necessitating us to critically revisit the notion of human security. In addition to political and civil rights such as liberty and privacy being curtailed in relation to public health measures, social, economic and legal responses to the pandemic continue to have a far greater impact upon populations who are marginalized, who are on the move, as well as displaced communities and refugees, in radically unequal ways. The dimensions of specific populations' subjectification to unequal measures are related to their nationality, legal status, race, gender, disability, vulnerability and social class. In particular, interventions and resort to extreme measures cause further hardship in the plight of temporary and migrant workers, asylum seekers, internally displaced peoples under COVID-19 governance regimes.

In order to deepen the public understanding of the socio-political and economic dimensions of the current crisis related to the COVID 19 Pandemic in a global context, this special issue of JCTS addresses:

- Global differences in public access to healthcare;
- The situation in conflict zones, refugee camps, border areas, marginalized communities concerning the differential effects of the Pandemic;
- Exclusion of vulnerable communities, non-status peoples, minorities and precarious labour from the networks of protection put in place in relation to the Pandemic;
- Comparative analyses of social justice issues associated with COVID 19;
- Global forms of precarity that this Pandemic makes more visible;
- Regional and national effects of health care cuts or insufficient access to publicly funded medicine;
- Long-term implications of the Pandemic on our perception of human security.

The special issue includes three full articles, a commentary, and a lengthy interview. The proliferation of narratives on COVID 19 measures makes it much harder to make sense of the prevailing cacophony and to engage in critical reflections to such an unstable landscape of policy, politics and law, as pointed out by our authors. As an alternative to this chaotic and panic-ridden environment, the authors contributing to our special issue discuss how they see COVID affecting specific communities in relation to the larger society as well as developments in their area/region of research in relation to the global context. The contributions as a whole also identify potential transformative outcomes arising from the Pandemic, and share with us the ongoing work required to build those outcomes. As such, we invite our readers to think above and beyond the politics of exigency that continues to silence critical debate on uses and abuses of power in the name of redefining human security under pandemic conditions as part of the global response to COVID 19.

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ARTISTIC INTERVENTIONS

by Nergis Canefe

This series of paintings is a reflection on the continual loss of lives at borderlands, sea crossings and other landscapes rendered increasingly more invisible by the COVID-19 crisis. As pandemic measures increased leading to a strict ban on travel and border closures, the lives of those seeking asylum from persecution and systemic human rights abuses have become increasingly more precarious. And as governments deployed various apparatuses of security to govern the circulation of these presumably 'unruly' populations, the world's most vulnerable people have been reconstituted as security threats.

In this art-essay, I trace the results of such declaration of illegitimacy and criminalisation of asylum seeker bodies in the context of death and disappearance. Drawing on governmentality as a domain of security and inspired by Judith Butler's articulation of recognition, precariousness and grievability, I explore the subjectivities denied to the people lost in the midst of the pandemic panic and framed as non-entities.

By resorting to art in the form of etchings of human suffering, I hope to provide a transition between discursive and non-discursive practises that make up the social crafting of conditions for a flourishing life as well as its diminishment and ultimately, extinguishment. Ultimately, the lives of the asylum seekers during the pandemic are lives, and deaths, unrecognised in the violent frames of the 'global crisis'.







