

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The UNSA and I are thrilled that we are publishing the fourth issue for JIOS which features articles whose publication has been pending for quite a while now. UNSA, as the responsible publisher, wishes to apologize to all the authors for the backlog caused by organizational constraints. We thank you all for your patience and understanding and hope that you enjoy the reading. With this said, please note that nearly 5M people are fighting for their lives in Haiti; gang violence has increased dramatically, spurred by political unrest and thousands of people have been displaced. Circumstances have now prompted intervention from other countries and placed Haiti on the precipice of further collapse. The fallout will cause generational damage, yet most Haitian families suffer in relative silence because much of the world is unaware of their dire situation. All of the topics covered in this special issue on Haiti are relevant, and the issues studied are timely. JIOS is extremely grateful to all the authors that have contributed to this special issue on Haiti. Reflecting on JIOS's mission, this issue covers a wide range of topics, methods, and perspectives regarding the study of Haiti. Institutions matter; they influence norms, beliefs, actions and shape outcomes; however, their functioning depends on the conditions under which they emerge and can endure over time and remain stable. Through Haiti's past and present, our authors examine the challenges to Haiti through its people, its culture, society, conflicts, and institutions through topics such as the rule of law, gender relations, peace projects, peace journalism, natural disasters and structural vulnerabilities, international human rights law, transitional justice mechanisms, tourism development, reciprocity in agrarian labor and UN missions in Haiti.

This special issue on Haiti is dedicated to Bernard "Bernie" Diederich; he was a New Zealand-born author, journalist, and historian. Bernard's career as a reporter and historian spanned seven decades. He was a longtime journalist in the Caribbean region; Bernard became a freelance correspondent for the *Associated Press*, *The New York Times*, and *The Daily Telegraph*, among others. In 1961, he covered the assassination of Rafael Trujillo in the neighboring Dominican Republic. In 1963, after having displeased Haiti's dictator François "Papa Doc" Duvalier, he was briefly imprisoned and expelled. In the Dominican Republic he established himself as a staff correspondent for *Time-Life News*. In 1966, Bernard moved to Mexico working for *Time* magazine covering Caribbean affairs. He was honored in 1976 with a Maria Moors Cabot award from Columbia University for coverage of the Americas. In 1981, the office was moved to Miami, and he worked there until his retirement in 1989. Bernard continued to publish after retirement with a focus on the political and historical developments in the Caribbean, notably in Haiti. In recent years, Bernard, who also mentored younger journalists, focused on writing books about Haiti that were translated into Haitian Creole as a way to preserve his knowledge of the country. He died at his home in Frères, Port-au-Prince, on 14 January 2020, aged 93.

Leading this issue is Bernard Diederich's personal memoir *Blan*, which reviews his youth post WWII amid his arrival in Haiti, and the beginnings of the *Haiti Sun*, his English weekly, with reflections while in solitary confinement after his arrest following the bloodiest day of the Duvalier dictatorship. It is a great memoir covering his life in Haiti in the 1950s and shows his love of Haiti and the Haitian people. In this vein, in *The Many Faces of Peace: Rule of Law, Justice of the Peace, and Everyday Life in Haiti*, Marco Motta examines the concept of peace at work in the everyday lives of the Haitian people he has met and exposes the discourse of Haiti's "culture of violence" and rhetoric on peacebuilding in Haiti. Motta's research exposes the prior

discourse on Haiti and acknowledges the connection between foreign meddling and the devastating disappointment it can bring. He shows the discrepancy between the ideology promoted from above and the daily reality that the people live in and how it should inspire us to reflect on how such a mismatch actually enables forms of violence.

In *Not so much absence, not so much contract: women, men, and the production of familiarity in Jacmel, Haiti*, Flávia Freire Dalmaso utilizes extensive ethnographic research within the commune of Jacmel, in Haiti's Southeast Department. This research seeks to understand how love relationships are constructed and experienced by women in their daily lives. Based on a dialog with the literature on the cultural specificities of Afro-American and Afro-Caribbean families, Flavia observes that gender relations are ambivalent, crossed by moral expectations, frustrations and conflicts, but also marked by interdependence and solidarity. Institutions and the Rule of Law are important topics as concerns Haiti throughout its history.

In *Peace Journalism in Haiti*, Leara Rhodes suggests that UN peacekeeping should have provided a space for institutions within Haiti to transition into keeping the peace for themselves and to offer a process that would incur a change of mindset rather than financial support. Through philosophical logic, existing constitutional guarantees, and the functions of three major institutions: political, economic and communications, Rhodes reasons that through each of these institutions, especially in peace journalism, Haiti can create its own peacekeeping policies.

In *Building on International Law and Diplomacy to Explore a Legal Policy for Change in Haiti*, Mulry Mondélice exposes the increasing interest of international society in the promotion of the rule of law and the legal foundation of this doctrine in international law, as well as concrete expressions of the promotion of the rule of law in Haiti, while underlining their limits. Analyzing the role that international human rights law plays in today's diplomacy in the quest for social change, Mondélice asks how such a trend can help Haiti improve the domestic legal and institutional landscape in cooperation with interested states and international organizations in order to empower the people.

In researching some of the factors that leave Haiti vulnerable from disasters, Patrick Sylvain addresses the intricate complexities of natural disasters and structural vulnerabilities within the context of post-colonial governance and dictatorial regimes in *Haiti's Structural Vulnerability at the Juncture of Ineptitude*. Sylvain's goal is to establish a new topography of the prevailing effects of *structural vulnerability* on the Haitian people. Sylvain also demonstrates how social factors such as poverty, political instability, rapid urbanization, and the fragility of the state constitute the causes of sustainable underdevelopment in Haiti. The corollary effects of natural disasters not only expose the weaknesses of the State, but irrevocably compromise the future of the Haitian people.

In *What Difference has the Government of Haiti Made for Tourism Development?* Ludmilla M. Anglade examines the actions that the Haitian government has taken to develop and sustain tourism within their borders. Anglade's premise is that governments, through state institutions and policies, can implement branding strategies that impact and change existing country image perceptions. Expanding on the determinants of tourism demand literature, she presents a theoretical framework for how government institutions collaborate to create a favorable country brand by investing in the development of functional benefits {public safety and infrastructure quality}.

In *Leveraging the Power of the People*, Isabelle Clérié presents a detailed account of the three-year process undertaken between Haitian civil society and the United Nation's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner to determine if and how Haiti can address past crimes through transitional justice mechanisms and tools. She found that Haiti's dysfunctional government and judicial sector made investigating past crimes an unrealistic undertaking, however, community organizations within civil society are an overlooked and highly valuable conduit for reshaping narratives about the present by shedding light and insight on the truths of the past.

In *Rank versus Normative Commitment among Haitian Peasants: A case study of Reciprocity in Agrarian Festive Labor*, Yves-François Pierre finds that contrary to descriptions found in the previous literature on agrarian labor, the existence of a stringent norm of reciprocity in a non-reciprocal labor event redefines the Haitian *konbit* as a work party exchange among cultivators with both food and labor as currencies; this research discloses the existence of a stringent norm of reciprocity in *konbit*, unlike what has been described in previously literature.

Finally, in *Misguided Multilateralism? The Saga of UN Peacebuilding in Haiti*, Henry F. Carey and Alla Manukyan analyze the United Nations active involvement in Haiti since 1990, by focusing on the legacy of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) 2004 - 2017. There have been various international actors with a long presence in Haiti, however, their complex effects have not been systematically studied. This research explains MINUSTAH's limited effectiveness and discusses its consequences for Haiti in the context of the political, security, and humanitarian situation in the country after the mission ended. Moreover, MINUSTAH is interpreted through the lenses of seven theoretical frameworks on peacebuilding. Although there have been various international actors with a long presence in Haiti, Carey and Manukyan provide a more nuanced and focused study of MINUSTAH's impact and its implications for Haiti now and in the future.

These special studies on Haiti reflect the changing landscapes of our time, yet they all reflect how important the issue of Haiti is for the future through studies and current events. Lastly, the UNSA and I wish to thank our Editorial Team; we are so grateful for all the great work this team has done for us for over a decade. At the same time, our heartfelt thanks to Alla Manukyan, and Deborah Cotton; without their tremendous effort, this special issue would not have been possible.

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