

*International Journal of Transitional Justice*  
**SPECIAL ISSUE**

# CREATIVE APPROACHES to Transitional Justice: Contributions of Arts and Culture

To be guest edited by Cynthia Cohen, director of the Program  
in Peacebuilding and the Arts at Brandeis University's  
International Centre for Ethics, Justice and Public Life, US.

**CALL FOR PAPERS**



Submission Deadline:  
1 July 2019

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The *International Journal of Transitional Justice* invites submissions for its 2020 Special Issue, '**Creative Approaches to Transitional Justice: Contributions of Arts and Culture**'.

This Special Issue invites works that document, critically engage with, and imagine new forms of artistic and cultural research and practice in/with transitional justice processes. The Issue seeks creative approaches crafted to address the legacy of human rights abuses and to effect social reconstruction and transformation through transitional justice in the wake of widespread violence and oppression. We welcome a variety of forms, including scholarship, practitioners' reflections and creative works suitable for presentation in print format and on the journal's website.

This Special Issue aims to explore the possibilities, challenges, risks and constraints associated with art and culture within transitional justice scholarship and/or its applications.

The *International Journal of Transitional Justice* encourages contributions from the global South, including those from transitional justice scholars and practitioners and artists and cultural workers engaged in transitional justice processes. We welcome full-length articles, Notes from the Field, and creative works accompanied by short reflections.

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Artists and cultural workers have been marginalized in conflict transformation initiatives of all kinds, including, for instance, efforts designed to redress inequalities, to negotiate settlements and to advance environmental justice, as well as in established and emerging transitional justice processes. More recently, as rational and linear approaches have proven to be insufficient to meeting many contemporary challenges, the promise of creative approaches is increasingly recognized.

Artistic and cultural approaches distinguish themselves from social and political challenges by engaging individuals and groups in processes that are at once cognitive, sensory, emotional, and, in many instances, spiritual. These experiences, sometimes understood within the framework of 'the aesthetic,' can reach beneath defenses to invite certain qualities of presence that open people to new ideas and new ways of perceiving the world. Within this context, we include 'culture' to refer to the expressive forms of collectivities. Such forms, (e.g. rituals) emerge and have been revised and/or sustained in societies including those that have no distinct category of 'the arts,' that engage and perform collective expressions of deep and symbolic meaning.

## QUESTIONS THAT SUBMISSIONS COULD EXPLORE INCLUDE:

- How have various forms of art and cultural expression contributed to institutional and community-level transitional justice processes and/or scholarship reflecting upon these processes?
- How have arts-based transitional justice initiatives negotiated the dilemma between concerns for aesthetic integrity and concerns for sociopolitical outcomes?
- What are the possibilities and risks of arts-based and cultural approaches to transitional justice in relation to epistemic violence and the project of decolonization?
- How have artists worked creatively with the transcripts of the proceedings of trials, tribunals and truth commissions to make their testimonies and deliberations accessible and compelling for people not familiar with judicial terminology and procedures?
- What roles have or can cultural institutions, such as museums, theatre companies, artists' collectives and poetry magazines, play in engaging communities in the complex ethical choices entailed in transitional justice processes?

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