

EDITORIAL

The Journal of Resistance Studies initiates collaborations with academic associations and activist communities

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There exist thousands of journals, and as a reader it is not easy to find the journals that write on topics you are really interested in and publish the kind of high quality work you want to read. At the same time, a key problem for an academic journal is how to become known, read and relevant for that quite particular audience of readers that would probably appreciate it, if only they knew it existed ... Therefore, it is very much a matter of how to do the matching, like with dating ... One way is to connect academic associations with relevant journals.

As JRS enters its sixth year of publication we are proud and happy to announce a collaboration with three important networks of academics and activists.

We have reached an agreement to offer the JRS to all members of *International Peace Research Association* (IPRA), the *European Peace Research Association* (EuPRA) and the *Peace and Justice Studies Association* (PJSA). After some initial discussions, we all saw the benefits of closer cooperation. There is a need for a high quality journal to publish academic texts, book reviews, comments, and discussions that the members of these three networks find relevant today.

All members will receive two e-issues of JRS free of charge during the first year. Our hope is that this experiment will result in more subscribers by individuals as well as institutions.

Of course, JRS will continue to be open to publish any texts that fit our Policy Statement, not only texts from members of these peace studies networks. We will continue to have a double blind peer review process for all articles, and we are committed to being open to a wide variety of topics within the still growing field of resistance studies.

In recent years, we have normally had a special issue for every second publication in the year, and we hope to maintain this tradition. We would welcome anyone who is interested in being guest editor(s) to present a proposal for a topic. Send your ideas to the editors and we will do our best to help with developing the topic, and make a work schedule for the process to turn the idea into a published journal.

Our special issue for 2021 will hopefully open a discussion about the relevance of traditional Peace and Conflict Studies in a rapidly changing world. In what way is this established field of social science helpful for understanding unarmed revolutions, ‘nonviolent action’ and the contemporary growth of unarmed protest movements?

As we have seen over the years, particularly in the critique of the ‘liberal peace paradigm’ (Richmond, Mac Ginty, and others), and the growth of interest in ‘nonviolent action’ (Chenoweth and Stephan 2011), alongside the strong emergence of unarmed protests movements in recent decades (e.g. the so-called ‘Arab Spring’, Occupy, the extraordinary protest wave of 2019, the Climate Justice Movement, etc.), there seems to be a need for new and more radical theoretical frameworks that help us to understand these movements. International relations has marginalized the pacifist perspectives in favor of more liberal and ‘realistic’ approaches, while revolution studies has historically relied on a more state-oriented approach with a special interest in armed insurgencies, while the strong field of social movement studies offers very little understanding of nonviolent action strategies. If we as researchers are interested in exploring the strengths and weaknesses of movements and developing avenues for new and creative strategies of resistance, then none of these conventional social science fields are very helpful. We at the JRS are interested in becoming more relevant for activists, organizers and resisters in their work to undermine different forms of domination. This is partly the reason why we, some 15 years ago, felt a need to participate in developing ‘resistance studies’.

We invite all kinds of contributions to this special issue that can help us to move forward and better understand unarmed forms of resistance and its relations to forms of power.

JRS has also developed close cooperation with the online news site *Waging Nonviolence*, and we ask all our authors to write a shorter and more popularized version of their JRS-texts in order to be more accessible for the more activist oriented audience. These popular versions will be published

on the JRS site and sometimes also on Waging Nonviolence. Our hope is to create more interest among activists for theories and critical analyses of acts of resistance, while at the same time providing our more academic oriented readers a better understanding of, and more contacts with, the activist world. Cooperation that bridges across the often too high walls around university campuses will benefit all of us.

Our economic base is dependent on getting more paying subscribers, and we appreciate all help that we can get to ask libraries and institutions to subscribe. This is vital, since we have learnt that the most efficient way to get subscriptions is if someone that is employed or a student at the university asks their own library or institution for access to the JRS. Please contact us if you need help, advice or information about how to subscribe or get others to subscribe.

Thank you for being part of the resistance studies community. It is only by acting together that we can build critically relevant knowledge on how resistance and power are linked to social change. In a world filled with injustice and domination, our field is absolutely essential.



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