

Sociological Research Online Special Issue Call for Abstracts

Towards a Sociology of Dignity: Reimagining Victims' Reparations



Deadline for abstract submission: 12 June 2025, 17:00 BST

Serious human rights violations in the context of internal armed conflicts, authoritarian regimes, or war constitute a clear violation of human dignity. There is no doubt that victims of serious human rights violations experience a lack of recognition of their worth through systematic and diverse forms of ongoing humiliation. Moreover, countries and communities experiencing post-conflict transformation implement transitional justice mechanisms to restore victims' rights to truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-repetition, often framed as restoring victims' dignity. Nevertheless, there is a lack of sociological research, analysis, intervention, and scholarship suggesting ways or mechanisms to fully understand the linkages between dignity, victims' reparation, and society.

In this context, this special issue of *Sociological Research Online* aims to develop a sociological approach to the study of dignity and victims' reparations, shifting the focus from legalistic and policy-driven frameworks to sociological, cultural, and participatory perspectives. While transitional justice mechanisms often emphasise the restoration of victims' dignity, there is limited sociological research on how dignity is conceptualised, experienced, and mobilised in processes of truth-seeking, justice, and reparation, especially from the perspectives of affected communities in the Global South.

The subject of reparations for victims of serious human rights violations has garnered scrutiny mostly from legal scholars seeking optimal methods for redressing victims' grievances and formulating policy recommendations that harmonise international and domestic legal frameworks. With this Special Issue, we aim to centre sociological epistemologies and debates as crucial to holistically comprehending victims' dignity and reparation. It grapples with the challenge of defining norms aimed at addressing historical injustices and dealing with issues related to stigmatisation, recognition, and respect, which have been significant debates in the sociological discipline.

This Special Issue, *Towards a Sociology of Dignity: Reimagining Victims' Reparations*, seeks to expand sociological debates on dignity, recognition, and reparations by exploring how grassroots activism, social movements, and community-driven processes influence victims' claims for justice and memory. We welcome empirical, theoretical, and methodological contributions that critically engage with dignity as a contested concept, particularly in post-conflict settings where victims struggle for recognition, justice, and meaningful reparations.

Key Themes and Topics

We invite original sociological contributions that address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- *Dignity as Recognition and Social Struggle*, – How do victims of human rights violations and their communities construct and claim dignity?

- *Reparations 'from below'* – Grassroots activism, community-based justice, and non-state-led initiatives for victims' reparations.
- *Historical and Collective Memory in Reparations* – The role of storytelling, digital archives, and artistic expressions in shaping victims' dignity.
- *Transformative and Transitional Justice* – Comparative approaches to reparations in post-conflict societies.
- *Coloniality and the Politics of Dignity* – Postcolonial critiques of human dignity and reparations frameworks.
- *Environmental Harms and Dignity* – How do environmental injustice produce dignity violations and how they can be repaired?
- *Intersections of Gender, Race, and Class in Reparations* – How do intersecting identities shape experiences of dignity and justice?
- *Methodological Innovations in Studying Dignity and Reparations* – Participatory, decolonial, and creative research approaches.
- *State and Bureaucratic Constraints on Dignity* – The impact of legalistic and neoliberal governance on reparative justice.

Submission instructions

The special issue welcomes research articles (between 5k-7k words) and Sociology in Action pieces (between 2k-4k words). More information on Sociology in Action pieces [can be found here](#). We also welcome Beyond the Text pieces that publish innovative and creative work generated as a product of social science research or as an expression of research participation, collaboration and output. The Beyond the Text guidelines [can be found here](#).

The guest editors invite abstracts along with a biographical note about the authors in the first instance. The guest editors will review the abstracts and invite a selection to submit full papers to the journal for the normal SRO peer review processes. Papers selected after full peer review will be published in the special issue.*

Please submit your abstract (300-400 words) and a biographical note to: s.riosoyola@ucr.nl, c.a.tamayogomez@hud.ac.uk, and m.j.snell@hud.ac.uk

*Please note your abstract being selected for full paper submission will not guarantee publication in the special issue.

Deadline for submission of abstracts for the special issue: 12 June 2025

Decisions on abstracts will be communicated by late June 2025.

Full paper submission: 29 January 2025

For further information and queries, please contact the guest editors: Sandra Ríos Oyola (s.riosoyola@ucr.nl), Camilo Tamayo Gomez (c.a.tamayogomez@hud.ac.uk) or Matthew Snell (m.j.snell@hud.ac.uk)

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