Editor's Introduction

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Editors’ Introduction

This special issue on Raphaël Lemkin is only possible through the hard work and contributions from our guest editors, Jeff Benvenuto and Ben Meiches. The editorial board wishes to thank the guest editors for their hard work and dedication to this issue. Lemkin scholarship has grown exponentially over the last five years, in large part because of a 2013 special issue of the Journal of Genocide Research. In the years since, international conferences have been held in honor of Lemkin in every continent of the world, books and substantial portions of books on Lemkin have been published, and Lemkin’s writings and theories of conflict and violence have been increasingly influential outside of “genocide studies.” This issue of GSP is intended to deepen the scholarly conversation on Lemkin, focusing on Lemkin as a subject of study rather than applying Lemkin’s thinking to analyzing cases of genocide or mass violence. We hope this issue of GSP can help color in some of the important gaps that still exist in the literature on this complicated figure, who stands at the center of the field of “genocide studies,” yet still remains largely unknown and shrouded in myth.

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