

# Editors' comment: an exceptional issue for an exceptional year

**HUMAN  
REMAINS  
& VIOLENCE**

Inherently multi-disciplinary in its conception, *Human Remains and Violence* aims at analysing the fate of corpses and body parts when they appear en masse in contexts marked by violence, whether in post-conflict, mass crime or genocidal situations, or in the aftermath of natural disasters. As such, the journal covers a vast range of topics and fields, from political science, the sociology of religion and diplomatic history to forensic anthropology, disaster studies and international criminal law (this list being purely illustrative and by no means exhaustive).

Following the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide on 7 April 2014, the year 2015 contains a series of inescapable commemorations of genocides, to which *Human Remains and Violence* chose to pay special attention: the year started with the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp on 27 January and then the 40th anniversary of the atrocities perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia on 17 April, followed by the anniversaries of the Armenian and Srebrenica genocides – marking 100 years and 20 years respectively – on 24 April and 11 July.

Despite its editorial policy aiming at publishing issues of varia, the Editorial Board of *Human Remains and Violence* decided, exceptionally, to commission a thematic issue on the topic of human remains and commemoration, with a particular focus on the question of the place given to, and taken by, the various body parts and human remains in post-mass violence memorial procedures. The Board chose Professor Sévane Garibian (Universities of Geneva and Neuchâtel), who has worked extensively on the aftermath of genocide and mass violence including genocide denial and enforced disappearances – notably in Argentina, Spain and Turkey – to act as a guest editor. The Board takes this opportunity to thank her for all her work on this issue.

Élisabeth Anstett, Jean-Marc Dreyfus and Caroline Fournet  
Editors