Special Issue

Transnational Genealogies: The Politics of Space, Migration, and Identity in Colonial and Postcolonial Contexts

Message from the Guest Editor

The complex pattern of current global migration is composed of threads spun throughout the colonial era. Colonialism significantly altered the politics of geography, migration, and identity, creating transnational genealogies that continue to have a substantial influence in postcolonial contexts. These forced movements resulted in enduring diasporas that dismantled communities and generated new, often contested identities in colonial territories that were rigidly separated to uphold racial and social inequalities (Mamdani, 1996).

Urban planning, seizing land, and creating borders that arbitrarily separated ethnic groups and altered notions of belonging all exemplify the colonial politics of space.

These family trees remain in the postcolonial era. Former colonial powers and newly independent states continue to grapple with the effects of these planned migrations and spatial divisions. To understand contemporary migratory politics, spatial inequalities, and ongoing struggles for recognition and decolonisation of identity and territory, we need to explore these transnational genealogies.

Guest Editor

Dr. Nomatter Sande

School of Social & Political Sciences, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK

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Genealogy Editorial Office MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5 4052 Basel, Switzerland Tel: +41 61 683 77 34 genealogy@mdpi.com

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Message from the Editorial Board

Genealogy is a scholarly journal that provides a venue for academic, cutting-edge contributions to the interdisciplinary field of genealogy studies. We welcome contributions that examine genealogies of family lineage, use genealogical considerations and methods in examining other historical processes (including migration histories, personal, social, and national identities, and social institutions) or study the construction of genealogical narratives. The journal is also interested in biographical studies and their contribution to the understanding of broader social and historical phenomena.

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