

Deadline Extended

Call for Papers Special Thematic Issue on
'Business, Human Rights and Security'
in the Business and Human Rights Journal (BHRJ) published by Cambridge University Press
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Scope of the Special Thematic Issue

All too often the business and human rights discourse, with its focus on addressing the abuses of corporations and other business enterprises, fails to adequately consider the precariousness of many people's daily existence and working environments, which are threatened by forms of insecurity in the shape of intimidation, conflict and violence. The often unstable context in which business activities take place will attract various security actors, armed groups and criminal gangs. Paradoxically the resulting securitization of business activities often contributes to increased violence and insecurity as those actors pursue divergent agendas.

Exploring the relationship between business, human rights and security brings such forms of insecurity into sharper focus and aids our understanding of the wider impacts of business and security actors on human rights and the right to security of the individual, communities or groups, including indigenous peoples. Those impacts are not limited to certain economic sectors, such as textiles/apparel, information technology or the extractive industries, but may embrace all sectors of the economy.

While states still bear the primary obligation under international law to protect individuals, communities or groups from human rights abuses committed by TNCs, SMEs, PMSCs and other business enterprises, the latter also have a responsibility to respect human rights. They should avoid infringing on the human rights of others and address adverse human rights impacts with which they are involved.

At the same time states face greater scrutiny with respect to business-related human rights abuses, which are linked to the physical and psychological security of individuals, groups and communities, and have been facilitated by the state and/or private actors. The latter includes regular armed forces personnel, police forces, militias, criminal gangs, private military and security companies, as well as corporate security personnel.

Finally, when it comes to the business, human rights and security nexus individuals, communities and groups, whose rights are affected by business activities, are often unable to obtain meaningful redress at the local, the national or the international level or else fear retaliation in their attempts to do so. The added element of a situation of insecurity brought about by intimidation, conflict or violence, which exists in some working environments, may make redress even harder to achieve. It may also render illusory the possibility of access to justice for victims of business and security-related human rights abuses.

Subject Coverage:

This Special Thematic Issue on Business, Human Rights and Security seeks original contributions related, but not limited, to:

- theoretical and methodological approaches to business, human rights and security;
- the alignment of business & human rights and security standards in the state-business-security nexus;
- the emerging regulatory framework for private and military security providers in the protection of business and human rights;
- the securitization of business activities and its effect on human rights;
- business, human rights and security under the UN Guiding Principles and/or CSR instruments;
- the integration of human rights and security considerations incorporating due diligence procedures (including in supply chains) to avoid complicity in human rights abuses;
- the role of corporate complicity in, and accountability for, human rights abuses in conflict-affected and fragile states;
- corporate and government accountability, and redress for victims of human rights abuses arising from business, that affect the security of the individual or community;
- empirical studies, arising from qualitative research, including fieldwork on the relationship between business, human rights and security.
- The contributions to the Special Thematic Issue should be full-length articles of no more than 12,000 words, inclusive of notes, abstract, title and appendices; or

Deadlines

30 September 2017: submission of an extended abstract about 1000 words plus a bibliography.

The abstract should be sent by e-mail to bhrj@cambridge.org;

22 October 2017: Guest editors' decision on abstracts and communication thereof to potential authors;

1 May 2018: Full-length article or developments in the field submission, following journal format and style guide to be supplied by BHRJ;

1 May – 1 August 2018: Editorial review and communication with authors;

1 August – 1 September 2018: Copy editing;

January 2019: Publication.

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