

Editor's note

The articles collected in this special issue of *Acta Humana* deal with minorities and their political rights, representation, territorial claims and inter-ethnic relations. The authors are young scholars who presented the original version of their papers at the 2nd Global Minority Rights Summer School organized by the National University of Public Service in co-operation with the Tom Lantos Institute (Budapest) and the Middlesex University London in 2014. The focus of the 2014 Summer School was civil society, political participation and minority rights. The National University of Public Service together with the Tom Lantos Institute launched an annual summer academy on minority rights in 2013. The two Hungarian organizers are proud that from 2014 the Middlesex University of London joined as co-organizer of the Summer School. Questions on ethnic conflicts, inter-ethnic reconciliation, implementation of minority rights standards and other minority related issues are often a persistent conundrum for many in the world. Our commitment has not changed in giving an opportunity for the participants not just to listen to, but to meet and consult with the guest professors, who were distinguished experts in their field. Participants had also the opportunity to present their own research projects and to discuss them. In this volume four of the best research papers are published.

In 2014 the idea was to broaden the focus to include a global perspective of minority issues. That is why the rights of indigenous peoples was one of the main topics of the Summer School. As last year, the special issue of *Acta Humana* is dedicated to the best papers presented by participants at the Summer School. The articles cover a broad range of issues from regional autonomy to nation-building endeavors and broad areas from Crimea to Ethiopia. The authors come from different backgrounds, which explains the differences between their academic and methodological approaches. Nevertheless, all articles are the result of genuine research and offer new ideas and perspectives in their fields.

An important innovation of this special issue is that we can also publish an article from one of our distinguished lecturers. The decision to include Valmaine Toki's seminal paper on indigenous rights was aimed at providing a broader view on one of the distinctive topics of the Summer School. In the Appendix we also publish two recent documents related to the global developments in minority rights protection: the Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues submitted to the 7th Session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues and the Recommendations adopted by the Forum at its 7th Session in November 2014.

In 2015 the National University of Public Service and the Tom Lantos Institute are organizing the 3rd Global Minority Rights Summer School together with the Middlesex University of London. There seems to be a permanent interest among young scholars in doing research and preparing studies on the situation and problems of minorities. In 2015 – a centenary year of the First World War – the main topics covered by the Summer School are related to the impact of boundary politics on identity and inequality. *Acta Humana* will hopefully remain an academic forum for the participants to publish their papers this year as well.

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