



Journal of Law and Political Economy

A Message from the Editors

This issue of the *Journal of Law and Political Economy* is dedicated to the memory of Sally Engle Merry, who died in September of 2020 before our journal's formal launch.

Professor Merry's scholarship spoke to many audiences. Her interests were broad, including human rights, gender violence, popular justice, global standards, legal pluralism, legal consciousness, and the history of colonization. Hers was also a voice for, and an example of, the value of embedding legal studies within an understanding of political economy. Having served as president of the Law and Society Association, president of the Association for Political and Legal Anthropology, and president of the American Ethnological Society, Professor Merry spent a career in the disciplinary intersections of sociolegal studies, and her ability to cross academic borders with fluency and rigor is an inspiration to our work.

As a founding member of the Advisory Board of *JLPE*, Professor Merry was generous to us personally, providing advice at crucial stages to our fledgling journal. We will miss her support—and her clear-sighted understanding of the limits of legal reform and rights talk in the face of structural economic inequality. In 2013, she wrote: “A reform ideology that asks for better treatment for the vulnerable but does not question a system in which a small fraction of the population controls a vastly disproportionate amount of the wealth of a society holds an appeal for the wealthy.” A better jumping-off point for the Law and Political Economy endeavor is hard to imagine.

The Editors