

# UC Berkeley

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Letter from the Editor

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## *Letter from the Editor*

With the arrival in full of the presidential election campaign in the United States—following Donald Trump’s thirty-four felony convictions in New York City—in this country at least the question is being called as never before: whether a far-right party can come to power in a liberal democracy with a blueprint to undermine such fundamentals of liberal democracy as minority rights, an independent judiciary, the peaceful transition of power, and much else. Trump’s movement is hyperactive in state and local governments, in media, and on the web with a kind of relentless theatricality. I am reminded of the words of an elected official of a European far-right party of a hundred years ago: “[The party] will not let the people rest in peace until they have obtained power.”

What happens in the US will act as a lodestar for kindred parties across the globe. The *Journal of Right-Wing Studies* publishes this issue with these developments as a backdrop. A central *JRWS* focus has been to establish right-wing studies as an academic discipline. This Special Issue addresses that goal in two ways. The essays in the issue speak directly to questions researchers of the right encounter, and the research articles pioneer new models and methods in right-wing studies. Beyond that, the issue has been guest edited. That is, three scholars in right-wing studies have solicited and curated the articles and have written the introduction. We are grateful for their collaboration.

Making the journal open to special issues and guest editors reflects our goal that *JRWS* act as a guiding and central focus of the discipline. It is in this spirit that we have welcomed this issue’s guest editors, and it is a welcome we look forward to extending to others.

Lawrence Rosenthal  
June 5, 2024