



IAIA
International Association
for Impact Assessment

CALL FOR PAPERS

Human Rights and Impact Assessment

A Special Issue of the journal, *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal* (IAPA)

Guest Editors:

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Submission deadline of full paper: 30 June 2012

Please send an *intention* to submit paper (EoI) by 30 October 2012 to d.kemp@smi.uq.edu.au – specifying author(s), affiliation, email, draft title and brief (150 word) summary of intended paper.

Description:

Papers are sought for a special issue of the journal, *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal* (IAPA), the journal of the International Association for Impact Assessment (www.iaia.org), which will focus on the relationship between human rights and impact assessment, including the emerging specialisation of human rights impact assessment (HRIA). This special issue will bring together for the first time an explicit focus on these topics. The June 2013 issue of IAPA has been reserved for this special issue.

Many large projects have considerable potential to impact on human rights, yet impact assessment has tended not to consider human rights in any explicit sense. New policies, too, have considerable potential to infringe or enhance the enjoyment of human rights. While there has not been an explicit focus on human rights within impact assessment to date, many human rights considerations are central to impact assessment, such those that relate to livelihoods, environment, water, health, safety and security, land and property, culture, gender and so forth.

Since the mid 1990s, interest in human rights has been expanding rapidly. The topic has been given particular prominence by the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) of the United Nations (UN) on Business and Human Rights, Prof John Ruggie. Following endorsement by the UN Human Rights Council of the SRSG's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, many companies have incorporated human rights commitments into their policies, commitments and management systems, including impact and risk assessment processes. To be effective, these processes must provide information that can be utilised to ensure that business activities avoid infringing upon human rights. The challenge is one of ensuring that impact assessments are meaningful rather than a superficial response to an emerging agenda.

The special issue will focus on the challenges facing the impact assessment community as it considers how best to respond to the global human rights agenda and to HRIA as an emerging discipline, including its value to the impact assessment community as well as to those communities, groups and individuals whose human rights may be under threat. Topics to be explored will range from the inconsistency between policy and practice; the introduction of HRIA into the IFC's Sustainability Framework; the influence of the SRSG's work in business and human rights; new and emerging debates, such as the right to water access; and the practical application of HRIA, such as the challenge of undertaking assessments in jurisdictions where openly discussing 'human rights' is forbidden or inhibited. There are also several case studies that may warrant coverage within the special issue.

Guidance for contributors:

- a) All papers should comply with the general style of the papers published in *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal* (IAPA). The Harvard system of referencing will be used.
- b) Because IAPA will shortly have a new publisher, the new style guide and precise instructions for submission will be provided to all people who register their expression of interest with the guest editors.
- c) Papers should normally be 5,000 to 7,000 words long (including references), although short case study papers may also be considered.
- d) Please ensure that all references listed at the end are mentioned in the text and vice versa.
- e) Please divide your article into clearly defined sections, all with headings.
- f) All submitted papers should include an introduction. The introduction should explain what the paper is about and should *explicitly* say how the paper relates to the topic of human rights and impact assessment.
- g) The paper should include relevant academic context (i.e. please make sure you include relevant links to academic literature).
- h) The introduction should end with an explanation of how the paper is structured (mentioning just the main sections, i.e. the first-level headings).
- i) The last section of the paper should have the title “Conclusion and Future Developments” (or similar). As implied, this should contain *both* a summary of what was discussed in the paper, and suggestions for future research and/or recommendations for future practice.

The timetable for editing this special issue is as follows:

- 30 October 2012 – Authors to send *intention* to submit paper to d.kemp@smiuq.edu.au
- 30 June 2012 – Deadline for authors to submit full paper
- 30 August 2012 – last date for referees to return comment on papers
- 30 September 2012 – Based on referees’ comments, a shortlist of papers are selected and authors contacted asking them to re-submit taking into account comments from referees and editors
- 30 November 2012 – Deadline for authors to re-submit revised papers based on the comments of the referees and editors
- June 2013 – Special Issue published

Endorsement:

The Special Issue has emerged as a result of collaboration between the Corporate Stewardship and Risk Management Section and the Social Impact Assessment Section of the International Association for Impact Assessment (www.iaia.org).