


## Policy debate



January 11 is Human Trafficking Awareness Day, one of the many ways that the cause of fighting human trafficking will be promoted throughout the year. Is that a good thing? We asked 10 people who work with human trafficking awareness a simple question: **'Campaigns to raise public awareness of human trafficking may have flaws, but their overall impact is positive. YES OR NO?'** This is what they answered.

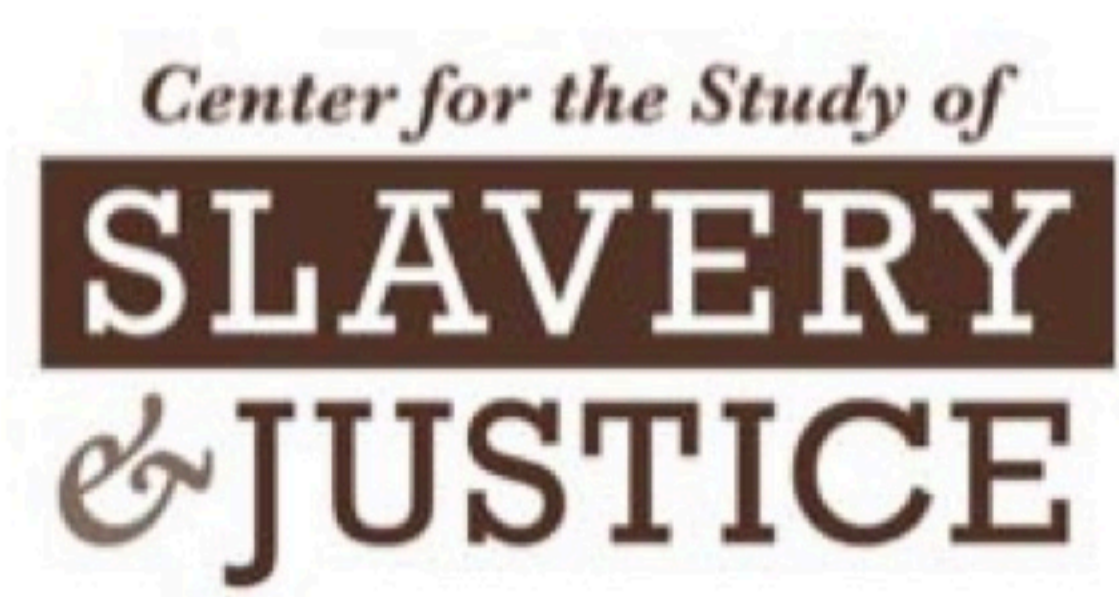

### Convenors

**Elena Shih & Joel Quirk**

*Elena Shih is an Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies at Brown University.*

*Joel Quirk is Associate Professor in Political Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa).*

**Introduction: do the hidden costs outweigh the practical benefits of human trafficking awareness campaigns?**

**With support from Brown University's Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice and Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center.**

### Respondents

**Anne Elizabeth Moore (NO)**  
*Author of Threadbare: Clothes, Sex & Trafficking*

**Katherine Chon (YES)**  
*Director of the Office on Trafficking in Persons, US Dept. of Health and Human Services*

**Joanna Ewart-James (YES)**  
*Advocacy Director at Walk Free*

**David Feingold (NO)**  
*Director of the Ophidian Research Institute*

**Matthew Friedman (YES)**  
*CEO for The Mekong Club*

**Zoe Trodd (NO)**  
*University of Nottingham*

**Cris Sardina (NO)**  
*Director of Desiree Alliance*

**Marilyn Murray (YES)**  
*Creative Director at Love146*

**Sameera Hafiz (NO)**  
*Advocacy Director at the National Domestic Workers Alliance*

**Ima Matul (YES)**  
*Survivor of Human Trafficking*

### Replies

**Borislav Gerasimov (NO)**  
*Advocacy Officer at Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women*

**Jamison Liang (YES)**  
*Digital Programme Officer at IOM X*

**Kelli Lynn Johnson (NO)**  
*Associate Professor, Miami University Hamilton*

**Dina Haynes (NO)**  
*Professor, New England Law/Boston*

**Tryon P. Woods & P. Khalli Saucier (NO)**  
*Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts; Associate Professor, Rhode Island College*

**Lyndsey P. Beutin (NO)**  
*Doctoral candidate, University of Pennsylvania*

Campaigners, activists and government officials spend much of their time and energy crafting messages that are designed to win specific audiences over to their cause. The main goal behind these messages is to 'raise awareness' of specific problems or issues, and to offer target audiences with potential solutions or remedies.

Human trafficking awareness campaigns intend to inspire both individuals and institutions to 'do something' (there is even a campaign called DoSomething.org). While taking action against injustice is undoubtedly a laudable impulse, the 'something' in question is by no means as straightforward as it might first appear. Thus while awareness campaigns may well reach large audiences, are they teaching their audiences the right things? [Read on...](#)

**Call for responses to our policy debate on the overall effect of human trafficking awareness campaigns**

BTS EDITORIAL TEAM 19 January 2017

On 11 January Beyond Slavery and Trafficking launched an online policy debate exploring the practical effects of human trafficking awareness campaigns. This debate is not yet complete, and now waits on your responses.



Beyond Trafficking and Slavery seeks to help those trying to understand forced labour, trafficking and slavery by combining the rigour of academic scholarship with the clarity of journalism. Our goal is to use evidence-based advocacy to unveil the structural political, economic, and social root causes of global exploitation.

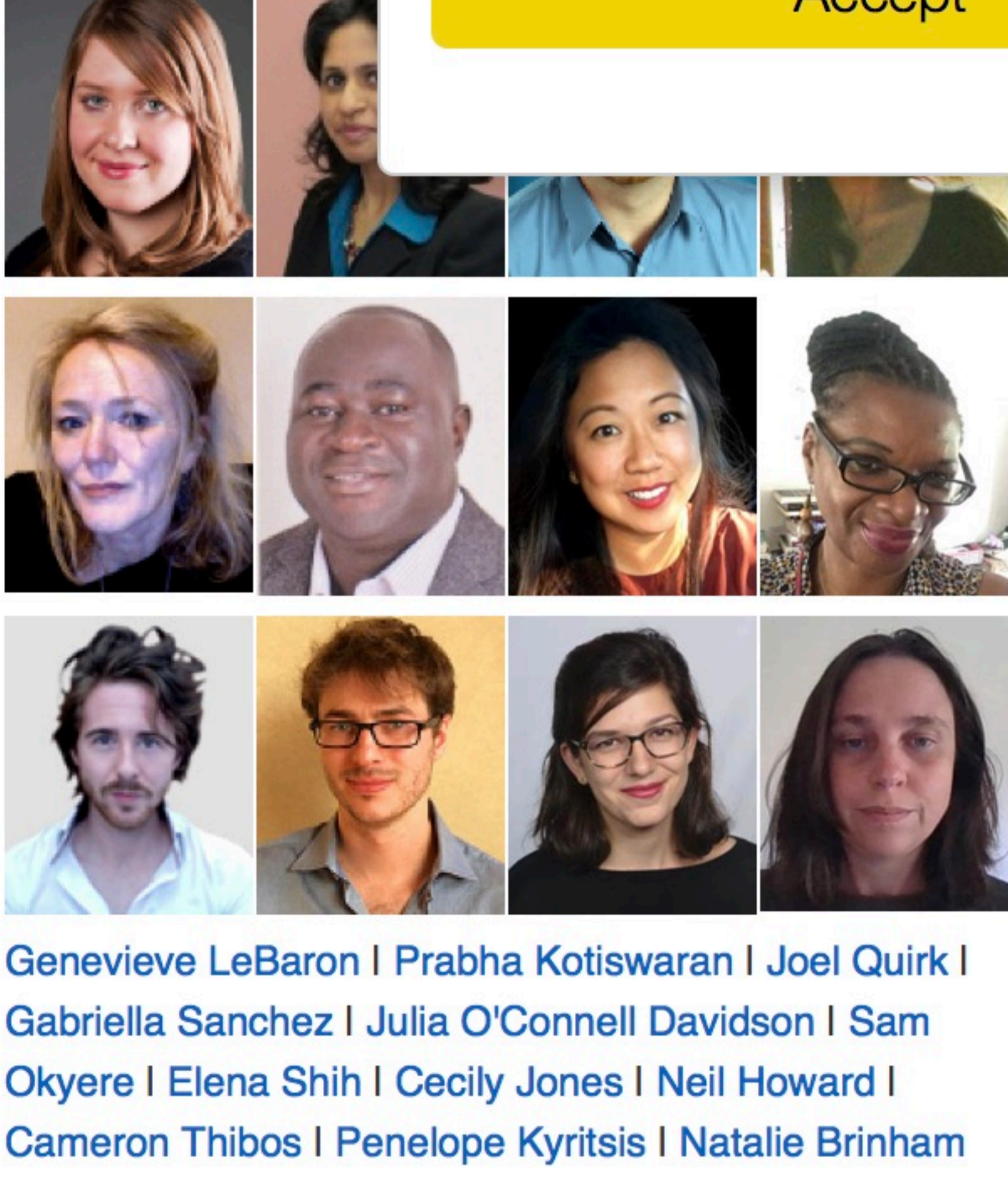
### Guest editors

**Marco Gardini**  
**Alice Bellagamba**

*University of Milano-Bicocca*

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### Editors



Genevieve LeBaron | Prabha Kotiswaran | Joel Quirk | Gabriella Sanchez | Julia O'Connell Davidson | Sam Okyere | Elena Shih | Cecily Jones | Neil Howard | Cameron Thibos | Penelope Kyritsis | Natalie Brinham

## anti trafficking review

**No. 9 (2017) – The Lessons of History**

*In the past two decades human trafficking has been increasingly termed 'modern slavery' and anti-trafficking work likened to nineteenth century efforts to abolish slavery. But are such historical references really warranted?*

**Editorial: The Presence of the Past: Lessons of history for anti-trafficking work**  
*Julia O'Connell Davidson*

**Black suffering for/from anti-trafficking advocacy**  
*Lyndsey P. Beutin*

**'The new order of things': immobility as protection in the regime of immigration controls**  
*Nandita Sharma*

**'Bound coolies' and other indentured workers in the Caribbean: implications for debates about human trafficking and modern slavery**  
*Kamala Kempadoo*

**Anti-white slavery legislation and its legacies in England**  
*Laura Lammansiemi*


**Historicising 'Irregular' Migration from Senegal to Europe**  
*Stephanie Maher*

**'Shock and Awe': A critique of the Ghana-centric child trafficking discourse**  
*Samuel Okyere*

The Anti-Trafficking Review is an open-access journal published by The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women.

### BTS short course

The *BTS Short Course* brings 167 contributions from 150 top academics and practitioners into the world's first open access 'e-syllabus' on forced labour, trafficking, and slavery. This eight-volume set is packed with insights from the some of the best and most progressive scholarship available. [Read on...](#)



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### Topics

Popular representations and dominant discourses

- Forced labour in the global economy
  - State and the law
  - On history
  - Migration and mobility
- Race, ethnicity and belonging
- Childhood and youth
  - Gender
  - Letters to BTS



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