

Preface

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We are proud to present our readers with this special issue of *Hagar* devoted to an exploration and reexamination of decolonization. This collection of essays, edited by Ben Gurion University scholars Ruth Ginio and Lynn Schler, offers new and insightful analysis of the seemingly straightforward process of undoing colonial rule. By asking how decolonization has reshaped identities, cultures and values of both the colonized and the former colonizer societies, and in foregrounding research questions that view decolonization as an ongoing process that has produced postcolonial realities of great complexity, the papers in this special issue of *Hagar* offer a new appreciation of colonialism and decolonization. Most of the contributors are concerned with African-specific historical and contemporary settings (Maano Ramutsindela), including postcolonial Senegal (Sokhna Sané), Congo (Johan Lagae, Luce Beeckmans and Sofie Boonen), South Africa (Nicky Falkof) and West Africa (Ayodeji Olukoju). But the issue also includes an exploration of the anti-colonialist experience in post-1979 Iran (by Haggai Ram), as well as a study of colonialist memories in France by veterans of the Indochina War (by Kathryn Edwards). From India, Ranabir Samaddar poses some fresh and thought-provoking questions regarding current approaches to decolonization using Franz Fanon's work on the political subject as his spotlight. Taken together, the authors whose work is published here present a novel analytical and theoretical contribution, exploring decolonization as a process that has reshaped politics, cultures and societies of all participants in the colonial setting. This issue is an excellent illustration of *Hagar's* mission of encouraging scholarship that is not focused on centrist perspectives, an approach that makes the margins a productive site for social and historical investigation and new theorizing.

Editors' note: We regret an important omission from the essay published by Dr. Esther Herzog in the previous issue of *Hagar*. While the essay cited the work of a gender specialist who acted as advisor to an Israeli company involved in a development project evolving in Nepal, her name and the exact reference of her work were not included in the paper. The missing reference is as follows: Tahal Consulting Engineers Ltd. (1996). *Bhairahwa Lumbini Groundwater Project: Gender Activities in the Project Area*. Report prepared by Tovi Fenster, submitted to the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Nepal.