

Conflicts in Wikipedia & the Real World

Wikipedia to promote peace

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What and how?

Wikipedia is virtually unique in helping people with very different perspectives develop a narrative that all can more or less live with.

How can we use this to reduce destructive conflict between

- Wikipedia editors and
- different groups in the totality of humanity?

This presentation

- **Background** including
 - [8 presentation at Wikimania 2021](#) and
 - [other research on increasing political polarization worldwide.](#)
- **Objective:** *Can we convince peace research and nonviolence advocacy organizations to hire Wikimedians in Residence and improve information available on Wikipedia?*
 - *How to ask appropriate organizations ...?*

Wikimania 2021 presentations on:

- Managing conflicts in Wikipedia
- Biased editing
- Broadening media coverage of societal conflicts
- New law regarding "terrorism"

summarized in Wikiversity:

"Managing conflict on Wikipedia and internationally"

Managing conflicts in Wikipedia

- ["Wikipedia:RedWarn is a counter-vandalism tool, ... to revert problem edits, warn and report editors, request page protection..."](#)
 - ***Concern: What's to limit its use for harassment / Wikihounding?***
- [Asaf: Some conflict can be constructive,](#)
 - but not if it goes too long.
 - It's better to set a time limit by which a decision will be made, and people can move on to other things.

Biased editing per Kitamura Sae

- The Japanese-language Wikipedia was unfairly accused of bias after different decisions in edit wars in English and Japanese Wikipedias.
- ~40 administrators for >1.27 million articles in the Japanese Wikipedia
- Solution: More editors & admins
- e.g., via *a workshop on Wikipedia at the 71st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Western History.*

Biased editing per Deryck Chan

- [w:pl:Gdańsk](#) vs [w:de:Danzig](#) & edit wars > [w:en:Gdańsk](#)
- Hong Kong editors of the Cantonese Wikipedia were told they would be reported to the national security police ...
- WMF or Peace organizations: protect minorities: ***If authority censors Wikipedia, Wikipedia should censor them.***
- A language is a dialect with
 - [an army and a navy \(cf. Max Weinreich 1945\).](#)
 - a missionary and a dictionary (cf. Lüpke and Storch 2013)
 - an [ISO 639](#) and a [Wikipedia](#).

Broadening media coverage of societal conflicts

- [WikiGap & WikiForHumanRights](#)
- [Documenting social movements thru Wikimedia \(AR, CL, CO\)](#)
 - Dozens of workshops on Commons, Wikipedia, Wikidata
 - over a thousand new images
 - used in over a thousand articles,
 - tens of thousands of views,
 - offering the public a broader perspective of concerns, esp. re. violence by police
- [Lea Volz: Research: How to make Wikipedia more welcoming?](#)

New law regarding "terrorism"

- Terrorist Content Regulation in the European Union (EU)
- Passed using procedures that circumvented the usual open discussions.
 - *with teeth*
- May criminalize discussions of terrorism or "eco-terrorism"
 - ***Could seriously impact Wikipedia***

What's a "terrorist"?

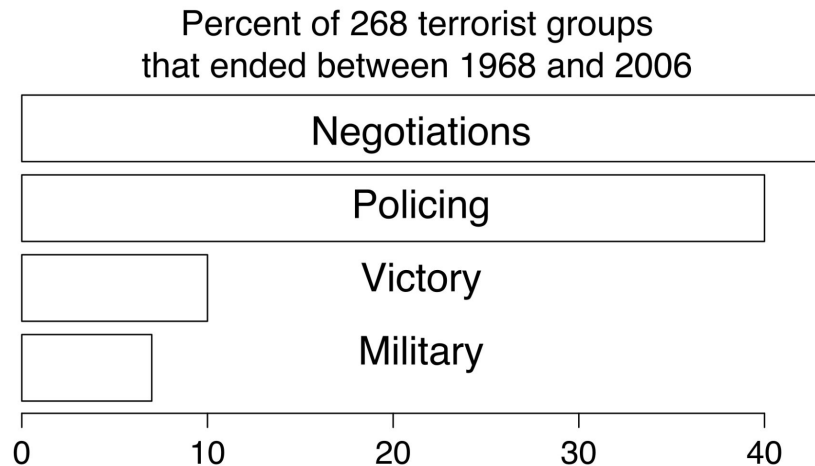
- Terrorist: Someone who threatens the social status of those who control the money for the media. (Spencer Graves / User:DavidMCEddy)
- Documents declassified in 2016 establish that the US government knew in 1999 that Saudi government employees were preparing for something like the Sept. 11 attacks.
 - Wikipedia, "[The 28 pages](#)"

Terrorism research

- 2,996 killed in Sept. 11 attacks is less than one month's road kill on US highways (3,516 in 2001)
- US terrorist deaths (averaged 116 between 1970 and 2015) is less than
 - male breast cancer (~500 / yr)
 - drowning in bathtubs, hot tubs, spas (~335/yr)
- Wikiversity, "[Winning the War on Terror](#)"
 - ***Over 99.99% of those killed by US-led operations in Afghanistan and Iraq had nothing to do with 9-11.***
 - Few in the US understand this.

Effective approaches to terrorism

- The military is the *least* effective response to terrorism
- People everywhere believe in rule of law.
- People with power believe they are above the law.
- Community policing by US Special Forces worked in Afghanistan
- but does not sell high tech weapons.



[Jones & Libicki \(2008\) How terrorist groups end](#)

Wiki Human Rights Project- Wikimedia Argentina

- In 2016 the first project was called **Wikilesa**. We created content on the process of Memory, Truth and Justice.
- **It was made in partnership with organisations as:** Canada Embassy, Parque de la Memoria, Dirección General de Verdad, Justicia y Reparación (Paraguay), Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo, Madres de Plaza de Mayo, CELS, Coalición Internacional de Sitios de Conciencia, Museo de Memoria Histórica de Colombia - CNMH, Memoria Abierta, Amnistía Argentina, Paraguay and Chile, national and regional universities, among others.
- **Democratization of justice:** *Wiki Human Rights activities* helps to democratize access to legal information and get experts involved.
- **2018 and 2019 Wiki Human Rights** was carried out in 7 countries in Latin America. We edited beyond the notion of crimes against humanity and addressed other human rights topics.
- **2019- 2020 milestones**
- 1st edit-a-thon on Gender and Sexual Diversity with OHCHR
- **1st Human Rights International Conference within the Wikimedia Movement**, hosted by Wikimedia Argentina in partner with Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo and IPPDH-Mercosur
- **Wiki For Human Rights Campaign** coordinated with Wikimedia Foundation and Wikimedia Argentina in the 71st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Why do we work with a Human Rights Perspective in Latin America and the caribbean?

Because we consider that:

- ↳ Free Knowledge is a Human Right
- ↳ Human rights belong to all of us, without distinction.
- ↳ People have the right to construct their own history, from their own context. These projects give the civil society the chance to build its own history.
- ↳ Historical memory also belongs to people. A society with historical memory is a more democratic society.

Edited topics:

2016-2017: Wikilesa

Edit-a-thons linked to crimes against humanity in Argentina

- 1- Megacausa ESMA
- 2- Plan Cóndor
- 3- Journalism during State Terrorism
- 4- Final judgement ESMA 29/11/2017
- 6- Memory Sites in Argentina
- 7- World Cup 78 #Wikilesa (City of Buenos Aires), Argentina.

2018-2019-2020: Wiki Human Rights

Editing meetings organized at regional level

Workshops on Human Rights and Wikipedia- during pandemic we organized virtual workshops

Topics worked:

- 1- Human Rights violations in Mexico
- 2- Memory and Human Rights in Chile and Uruguay
- 3- Human Rights in Venezuela
- 4- LGBT+ in Paraguay, Tucumán, Buenos Aires, Santa Fe y Entre Ríos
- 5- Human Rights in Colombia: Medellín and Bogotá.
- 6- Gender and Diversity Buenos Aires, in partner with the regional office of OHCHR in South America.
- 7- Human Rights and Media - Argentina
- 8- Human Rights at contexts of legal detentions- Argentina
- 7- Human Rights and Memory sites- Argentina

Wiki Human Rights- articles edited 2016-2020

34 Edit-a-thons

1308 Edited articles

29 Partners



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Some examples of articles edited during the WHR Project

- *[Juicio Plan Cóndor](#)
- *[Megacausa ESMA](#)
- *[Desaparición Forzada en México](#)
- *[Desaparición Forzada en Colombia](#)
- *[Memorial de estudiantes Uruguay](#)
- *[Archivo de Derechos Humanos en Chile](#)
- *[Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indígenas](#)
- *[Centro de detención Estadio Nacional de Chile](#)
- *[Anexo:Secuestro de niños, niñas y adolescentes durante el Plan Cóndor \(Uruguay\)](#)
- *[Diversidad sexual en América Latina y el Caribe](#)
- *[Historia LGBT+ en Argentina](#)
- *[Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos](#)
- *[Puente 12 Centro Clandestino de Detención Tortura y Exterminio](#)
- *[Juicio Contraofensiva I](#)
- *[Desaparición forzada en Colombia](#)
- *[Redacción de la Declaración de Derechos Humanos](#)
- *[Declaración de las Naciones Unidas sobre los derechos de los pueblos indígenas](#)
- *[Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos](#)

Documenting social movements: the case of 2019 Chilean riots in Wikimedia

- Oct 2019: [series of spontaneous protests across the major cities with a common critic towards the Chilean political and economical system. These protests ended with a total constitutional change.](#)
- Lots of people began to document those events and share them through social media; local Wikimedians did the same but using Wikimedia Commons.
- Four main reasons that motivated them: (1) recognizing the importance of this moment (2) building counter-hegemonic narratives to those from the mainstream media (3) reporting police violences against the protesters (4) creating protests related relevant and useful information.
- How we helped? Creating a open social media campaign to engage local contributors -from the Wikimedia movement and beyond.

We helped to collect [+250 images](#) from the firsts days of the protests.

Documenting social movements: the case of 2019 Chilean riots in Wikimedia

- March 2020: we relaunched the project as a photo contest [Los 6 meses que cambiaron Chile.](#)
- We received almost 400 images.
- We used those images to improve Wikipedia articles across different languages.

Our community had continued editing protests related content (and their outcomes) to provide quality and updated information.



Suggestions for BLM in US?

- MORE² + 6 civil rights organizations in the US:
 - 2021-07-23 letter to US AG Garland
- Graves asking MORE² to
 - post letter and other documentation to Commons
 - documentation to create Wikipedia articles
 - organize Edit-a-thons ...

Questions?

- Allowable formats for Commons?
 - PDF but not Open Office nor MS Office ...
- Copyrights for public documents obtained from local and state governmental entities in Missouri?
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Your turn:

- What groups can we work with?
- How to approach them?
- What might *you* want to do related to this?

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What groups can we work with?

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How to approach them?



What might you do about this?

