

CHRISTINE
STRAEHLE

Symposium on Catherine Lu, *Justice and Reconciliation in World Politics:* Introduction

Reading Catherine Lu's book on *Justice and Reconciliation in World Politics* (2017) is an intellectual voyage into different histories and situations of injustice, in many different places and epochs. To give an example, in what book will you read about the Treaty of Versailles, the Mao Mao uprising, the genocide against the Herero, but also about Canada's truth and reconciliation commission, the plight of Korean comfort women in Japan and the Vietnam war? Lu makes two conceptual points that the authors contributing to this symposium examine in more detail. First, Lu argues for the distinction between justice and reconciliation: in her view, while "justice aims at redressing wrongdoing and injustice"; "reconciliation responds to alienation that results from injustice." The second distinction Lu proposes is that between structural and interactional justice. Whereas she considers interactional justice backward-looking and corrective, aiming at settling accounts, Lu proposes structural justice as a forward-looking concept. Ultimately, Lu argues that interactional justice is not enough, or does not actually justify sufficiently specific duties of justice that today's actors have to remedy historical injustices, such as those arising from colonialism, slavery and subjugation.

The book has received much attention since its publication, and we are very pleased to have assembled the following comments from different disciplinary perspectives, taking up some of the earlier discussions, and deepening the conversation that the book has prompted.

