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# Editorial: SOLON Law, Crime and History Volume 7 No.1 2017

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## EDITORIAL

We are delighted in this issue to hand over the reins to Dr Daniel J. R. Grey as Guest Editor for this Special Issue on The Child at Risk. This is an area that we know many SOLON members have a special interest in and this edition therefore builds upon and expands themes addressed in an earlier Special Issue (published under the Journal's previous title *Crimes and Misdemeanours: Deviance and the Law in Historical Perspective*). That issue was edited by Kate Bradley, Anne Logan and Simon Shaw, and published in 2009 to commemorate the centenary of the Children Act 1908: '[Centennial Reflections on the Children Act 1908](#)'. Nearly a decade on, the issues and concerns remain – and we still need a better historical and contemporary comprehension of the issues involved in the broad area of child protection, as any reading of the media (including the social media) underlines. We go to press as the emotional and contentious Charlie Gard case still grabs headlines, with all the implications that has for the child at risk. Our Guest Editor will provide the full introduction which will contextualise the range of papers included in the Special Issue, but we are delighted to note that one of the editors of the last special issue on children and the law in historical and modern perspective has a paper included in this one. All the contributions are of fine quality, but we are also thankful, as well as delighted, that the flexibility of the e-journal format espoused by the SOLON journal from the start has enabled this special issue to be particularly substantial (both quantitatively as well as qualitatively), with the inclusion of Meg Arnot's extended article. This extensive consideration of depictions of child killing as a way of comprehending the emotional complexities that always surround the legalities and assignment of culpability is one, we believe, that (like the other contributions) will stand the test of time to be acknowledged as a piece of outstanding scholarship - as have the articles in the other special issue from 2009. However, it could not have been published within the constraints of a print journal, despite its intrinsic quality. Had we had to consider these limitations, the Special Issue would have been deprived of a distinguished piece of scholarship simply because it could not, without damaging the integrity of its analysis, have been shortened. It is a reminder to us all of one of the key reasons we set this journal up – to be a home to high quality interdisciplinary scholarship via pieces that might not always (for reasons of length or 'fit') be accepted elsewhere. We are honoured that Daniel Grey and the various scholars involved in this Special Issue have come to *Law, Crime and History*, and now leave it to him to introduce the papers in more detail.

Kim Stevenson, Judith Rowbotham, and Samantha Pegg, July 2017.