Call for Chapter Proposals

Rapid-Response Volume on “Social Problems in the Age of Mass Incarceration”

A Project of the Justice 21 Committee of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

Chapter Proposals Due October 21, 2022
Chapter Drafts Due January 13, 2023
Anticipated Publication Date: August 2023

Beginning in 1973, the United States penal system saw extraordinary growth setting year-by-year records of the number of people incarcerated in prisons. Fifty years later, mass incarceration continues with devastating effects. In order to address the social problem of mass incarceration, the Justice 21 Committee (J-21) of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is producing a rapid-response digital volume—Social Problems in the Age of Mass Incarceration.

This project affirms the resiliency and commitment of the SSSP to social justice scholarship. This volume will be an “agenda for social justice in the age of mass incarceration,” in that it will convey scholarly insight and clarify the effects of mass incarceration on significant social problems, including specific and actionable recommendations for elected officials, policy makers, community members, and the public at large.

This work is scheduled to be published in electronic format by Policy Press, an academic publisher at the University of Bristol, UK, as a project in public sociology.

The aim is to convey the best available knowledge about the effects of mass incarceration on social problems. We ask you, individually or with colleagues, to submit a brief proposal (1-2 pages max.) identifying a significant social problem affected by mass incarceration. Each proposal should include responses to each of the following four prompts:

- Identify and define a concrete social problem which has been notably affected by mass incarceration; and then answer the following three questions:
  - Question 1: What do we know about the problem and how does mass incarceration affect it (i.e., what is the definition and extent of the problem, and how is this affected by mass incarceration)?
  - Question 2: How do we know this information (i.e., what are the sources of data about this problem, and particularly how it is affected by mass incarceration)?
  - Question 3: What kinds of policy and social actions can alleviate the problem (i.e., what are viable and actionable solutions for reducing, mitigating, solving, or abolishing the problem)?

Please submit a copy of your 1 to 2-page proposal using the Google Form by October 21, 2022. Chapter drafts will be due January 13, 2023, and final manuscripts will be due April 21, 2023. Final contributions will be limited to 3000 words maximum (or roughly ten double-spaced manuscript pages). The e-volume is expected to launch in August 2023.
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For more information on the J-21 Project, see Robert Perrucci’s presidential address in the May 2001 issue of Social Problems ("Inventing Social Justice"). Past rapid response e-volumes produced by the J-21 committee are on the following SSSP webpage.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Bail Systems
- #BLM Black Lives Matter
- Children’s Rights / Issues and Mass Incarceration
- Clemency
- Communities and Mass Incarceration
- Compassionate Release
- Corrections
- Disability Rights
- Drug Policy
- Economic Policy & Inequality
- Education in Correctional Facilities
- Employment / Unemployment
- Environmental Policy
- Extreme Sentencing
- Family Policy
- Felony Disenfranchisement / Voting Rights / Barriers
- Financial Systems
- Gender Justice
- Gun Violence / Control
- Health Care Policy
- Human Rights & Violations
- Income Security
- Juvenile Justice
- Labor Issues and Rights
- LGBTQ+ Rights
- Mass Media
- #MeToo Movement
- Mental Health and Mass Incarceration
- Minority Rights
- Parole
- Police Violence and Militarization
- Political Processes
- Population / Demography
- Poverty / Class Inequality
- Preventative Detention
- Prison Abolition
- Prison Industrial Complex and Labor
- Privatization of Incarceration / Private Prisons
- Probation
- Public Health and Mass Incarceration
- Racism / Ethnic Bias
- Racial and Ethnic Justice
- Religious Issues
- Reentry
- Rule of Law
- Sexual Assault and Harassment
- Slavery
- Social Movements, Protests, Activism and Mass Incarceration
- Social Welfare Systems
- Student Loans
- Substance Abuse / Addiction and Mass Incarceration
- Violence in Correctional Facilities
- Violence against Women
- Youth Justice