

## Editorial

*Antje Deckert*<sup>1</sup> & *Juan Tauri*<sup>2</sup>

Juan and I are pleased to welcome you to the second issue of volume four of *Decolonization of Criminology and Justice*.

First, a huge welcome to our new book editor, Dr Grace Gordan. Grace recently completed her PhD and joined the criminology team at Auckland University of Technology in Auckland, New Zealand as a criminology lecturer. As a prison abolitionist, non-Indigenous ally, and activist-scholar, Grace is committed to promoting decolonial and transformative change in our responses to harm. So, congratulations to Grace on the newly acquired doctorate, new job, AND new position as the journal book editor!

Second, the articles and commentaries that make up this edition cover a range of issues that are currently ‘trending’ in the discipline of criminology, and the policy sector and media. They add weight to the arguments for both the decolonization of our discipline and crime control in settler-colonial and other jurisdictions.

The issue begins with Deslandes, Longbottom, McKinnon and Porter’s article *White Feminism and Carceral Industries: Strange Bedfellows or Partners in Crime and Criminology?* The authors critique attempts by media personalities and ‘carceral’ criminologists, especially those who subscribe to the ‘Southern Criminology’ movement, to enhance the policing of coercive control and domestic violence in the Australian context by importing specialist women’s police stations that have been a feature of policing in Argentina, Brazil, and other South American as well as Central American countries since the late 1980s. Deslandes and colleagues expose numerous issues with the transfer of women’s police stations to the Australian context associated with the historical and contemporary violence perpetrated by police against Aboriginal Australians, especially women and girls. The authors also expose contradictions and anomalies inherent in Southern Criminology and carceral criminological arguments for women police stations, including that commentators from both ‘schools of thought’ largely

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ignore the aforementioned history of police (re-)victimising Indigenous survivors of domestic violence.

In the second research article of this issue, titled *The Advancement of Thug Criminology: Towards the Decolonization of 'Street/Gang' Research and Pedagogy*, Ellis and Marques advance a new strand of critical criminology to bring about the decolonization of gang research, a project they provocatively titled Thug Criminology. The authors offer three key arguments to support their critique of current manifestations of gang research, and in support of their approach. First, gang research has largely supported and furthered stereotypical views of gangs, gang members, their reasons for choosing the gang lifestyle, and their (criminal) behaviour. Second, most of the academic gang research has been undertaken by 'outsiders', non-gang associated academics, while the voices, perspectives, and experiences of insiders have been side-lined or silenced. And thirdly, those posited as 'expert' gang scholars (insiders to academia and outsider to the streets, i.e., mainstream scholars without lived street or gang experience), whose knowledge is being accorded authority, are outsiders. As such, laws and practices, which negatively affect gang-involved populations have been largely informed by an uncritical and unchallenged position of privilege. The authors offer Thug Criminology as an 'insider-informed' antidote to the harmful practices of mainstream criminology's approach to gang research and the state's formulation of gang policy.

The Ellis and Marques article is followed by two commentaries on significant, contemporary policy issues. The commentary by Brown, *The Criminalization of the Cannabis Plant: Decolonizing the Harmful Enforcement*, examines the history and current state of cannabis-related laws and enforcement internationally and argues for reformed policies and approaches to the 'cannabis problem'. Brown reveals that historically cannabis laws have targeted marginalized populations, leading to discriminatory 'policing' of policies that have disproportionately impacted Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples "who use the cannabis plant which has various medicinal, social, religious, cultural, and textile uses". Brown concludes with a call for a concerted cannabis policy reform programme based on harm reduction, rather than the preferred repressive and criminalizing policies, including decriminalization and legalization of the manufacture and use of the drug.

The volume concludes with a commentary by the editors, Tauri and Deckert, *Walking While Brown: A Critical Commentary on the New Zealand*



*Police Extra-Legal Photographing and Surveillance of Rangatahi Māori.* With this piece, the authors respond to recent attempts by New Zealand's Police Commissioner, Andrew Coster, and the President of the Police Association, Chris Cahill, to nullify a damning review compiled by the country's Privacy Commissioner and Independent Police Complaints Authority into the police strategy that involved officers stopping youth (mainly Māori) on the street, and collecting personal information and photographs for 'future investigations' despite the young people having committed no offence. Police Commissioner Coster and Mr Cahill's response focused on the argument that police needed the ability to collate this information to enable them to 'do their job', especially to investigate crime. In response, Tauri and Deckert argue that as the young people stopped in the street, and in some cases threatened into giving personal information and having their photograph taken, had committed no offence, no crime needed to be investigated, and lastly, that as the report into police conduct showed that the practice largely targeted Māori youth, granting police the right to exercise this power through legislative change – as the Police Association, the Minister of Police, and some politicians have argued – would likely lead to further discriminatory policing of Māori communities.

### **Call for Papers**

*Decolonization of Criminology and Justice* is calling for papers for Volume 5 Issue 1 to be published in June 2023. Research articles require submission by 20 February 2023. Manuscripts submitted after this date will be considered for publication in Volume 5 Issue 2, which we aim to release in November 2023. Commentaries, creative writings, and book reviews should be submitted by 2 April and 1 September 2023 respectively.

We also warmly welcome submissions by guest editors to organise a special issue that aligns with the purposes of the journal.

If you would like to review a book for DCJ, please contact our book editor Dr Grace Gordon via email: [grace.gordon@aut.ac.nz](mailto:grace.gordon@aut.ac.nz)

We look forward to receiving your manuscripts.

Warm wishes

Antje & Juan

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