

Editorial

*Juan Tauri*¹ & *Antje Deckert*²

We are pleased to welcome you to the second issue of volume six of *Decolonization of Criminology and Justice*. The three original research articles included in this edition cover a range of issues that concern the discipline of criminology and marginalised/Indigenous communities across settler colonial jurisdictions. Although not all authors write about the Canadian context, they coincidentally all reside in the northern regions of Turtle Island.

The first article was penned by Marsha-Ann Scott. *The Garrison and the Jamaican State: A Model of Co-option* relates how *garrisons* – inner-city communities of contemporary Jamaican society – practice informal justice that is “deemed outside of the law”. Dr Scott demonstrates that garrison communities have been marginalised by wider Jamaican society, necessitating the development of community-based and focused justice processes. Dr Scott contends that “the ineptitude of the Jamaican state has resulted in the institution of various mechanisms by non-state actors within these communities to address their justice concerns”. However, in contradiction to the neglect the state shows these communities, it nonetheless relies on their informal services to precipitate justice. Dr Scott completes her analysis by arguing that garrison communities seek ways to coalesce “these informal structures into Jamaica’s formal [justice] framework”.

The second offering, *Developing and Implementing Methods for Assessing the Adequacy of Police and Coroner Investigations into Suspicious Unnatural Deaths*, is co-authored by Drs Ted Palys, annie ross, Steff King, and Gail Anderson. The authors reveal that thousands of Indigenous people in Canada have provided testimonies related to the suspicious disappearances and deaths of loved ones, and in so doing reveal the errant nature of the investigative procedures followed by officials in response to

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these events. However, regardless of the extensive engagement of Indigenous families and communities with the investigative processes of governments across the country, the authors argue that “there remains little information at ground level for families on how to challenge investigative practices and few cases that have done so successfully.” One of the significant barriers to attempts to decolonise settler-colonial justice is often the absence of what the state, and its justice officials define as reasonable evidence of bias (and with this the necessity for institutional and/or systemic change), and/or policy-relevant responses to systemic problems. In their article, the authors’ outline that after being called upon to evaluate the investigative processes employed for suspicious deaths of three Indigenous youth, they developed a generic list of “ostensibly ‘standard’ investigative principles and procedures” which they subsequently employed to evaluate police and coroner conduct in all three cases. As a result of their analysis the authors’ uncovered “numerous instances of inadequacy” in the investigative processes carried out by officials, including several key tasks not meeting “nationally and internationally recognized standards”, and police and coroners failing to conduct half, and sometimes fewer of the required procedures in each of the cases.

The third and final research article included in this edition also focuses on the broad issue of Indigenous deaths and disappearances in Canada, and the state response to this issue. Authored by Leon Laidlaw, *Searching for Justice: Indigenous Self-determination over the Landfill Search as a Matter of Justice for MMIWG2S* analyses the development of the ‘Search the Landfill’ movement that evolved in response to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S) in Winnipeg, Canada, and the racism that permeated police response to these issues. The catalyst for the movement were calls from the Indigenous community for government officials to search the Prairie Green Landfill near the city of Winnipeg, “to recover the bodies of two of four First Nations women who were murdered in early 2022 at the hands of a white supremacist serial killer”. Through an analysis of media reports about the landfill search, Leon analyses Indigenous leaders’ resistance to the inadequacy police response to the issue, and in doing so “transformed the discourses that surrounded the search”. Perhaps most importantly, Leon shows that “[b]y at once condemning the Winnipeg Police Service’s refusal to search the landfill and rejecting police authority and control over the decision-making process, *Indigenous women* became the leaders of this movement and crafted the



space to articulate for themselves how and why the search must occur as a matter of Indigenous rights [emphasis added].” Finally, Leon’s article explores what an Indigenous-led decolonizing approach to justice issues may look like in cases of MMIWG2S which, “in turn, invites further opportunities to problematize, subvert, and move beyond oppressive Western legal norms and traditions in pursuit of Indigenous self-determination.”

In the book review section, Dr John Buttle offers his thoughts on Chris Cunneen’s *Defund the Police: An International Insurrection*, and Dr Grace Gordon her views on Cara Page and Erica Woodland’s 2023 offering *Healing Justice Lineages: Dreaming at the Crossroads of Liberation, Collective Care and Safety*.

Call for Papers

Decolonization of Criminology and Justice is calling for papers for Volume 7 Issue 1 to be published in May 2025. Research articles require submission by 1 March 2025. Manuscripts submitted after this date will be considered for publication in Volume 7 Issue 2, which we aim to release in October 2025. Commentaries, creative writings, and book reviews should be submitted by 1 April 2025 and 1 September 2025 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 *Decolonization of Criminology and Justice*, please contact our book editor Dr Grace Gordon via email: grace.gordon@aut.ac.nz.

We look forward to receiving your manuscripts.

Warm wishes
Juan & Antje

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