



Justice, Power and Resistance

**The Journal of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and
Social Control**

CALL FOR PAPERS – SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

Pandemics, Policing and Protest

1) Coronavirus – Crisis, Control and Beyond

2) Police Abolitionism – Critical Perspectives on Policing

Deadline for abstracts: 1 December 2020

In a recent interview with Vanity Fair, Angela Y. Davis stated that this current moment marks “a conjuncture between the COVID-19 crisis and the increasing awareness of the structural nature of racism” and that such a moment cannot be predicted, but can be taken advantage of. In this spirit we call for articles that are critical of contemporary increases in policing, regulation and social control, much of which at present may be seen as opportunistic in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This Call for Papers takes place against a background of ongoing crisis and control. In March 2020, The World Health Organisation declared the Coronavirus COVID-19 a pandemic. At the time of writing, 22,703,716 cases of Coronavirus have been recorded worldwide, according to The Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Research Centre. 794,187 people are known to have died as a direct result. In addition to these deaths, responses to the virus have created immense harm and suffering. These have facilitated the further growth of solitary confinement in the penal estate and impacted upon the relationship between those detained and the ‘outside world’. Responses have also included further restrictions on freedom of movement and the ‘enhancement’ of border controls, the strengthening of police powers and significant increases in the levels and forms of surveillance.

The management of this crisis has further evidenced the economic violence of capitalism, as more and more people are forced into poverty, insecure and/or unsafe accommodation and homelessness, whilst the health risks and dangers associated with work and the workplace have also become heightened. Responses to the Coronavirus ‘crisis’ have also increased and strengthened pre-existing social, political and economic inequalities and intersections,

particularly in relation to age, (dis)ability, sex, 'race' and class. Preventable deaths of older, sick and (dis)abled people have taken place in 'care homes', whilst 'lockdown' conditions preventing people from leaving their homes have contributed to rising levels of intimate partner violence and – disproportionately – violence against women. Deaths have further disproportionately impacted Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities. Restrictions around access to healthcare, the closing of schools and public transport networks along with limits on the use of public spaces have also impacted unevenly across societies. And while notions of a 'herd immunity' have continually suggested that some lives are expendable, this has been further reinforced in different ways through the manner in which it is frequently those from BIPOC communities who have been categorised as essential workers and disproportionately exposed to the COVID-19 virus in the process.

Ongoing inequality, discrimination and state violence can also be seen in the high-profile killings by state agents, particularly of Black women and men. The police killings of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd in the USA in 2020 has further strengthened the social movements gathering under the 'BlackLivesMatter' umbrella and heightened calls for the defunding and abolition of Police. These calls are underpinned by an awareness of both the past and present of policing, with its links to colonialism, the preservation of particular forms of social, political and economic order and its intrinsic reliance upon violence, repression and control. As Vitale argues in *The End of Policing* (2017:21) "the basic nature of the law and the police, since their earliest origins, is to be a tool for managing inequality and maintaining the status quo".

Research has repeatedly evidenced the harmful biases and inherent violence of the Police as an institution, alongside the absence of any causal relationship between the size of a police force and public safety. Whilst women and men continue to die at the hands of 'law enforcement', it is time to rethink the provision of police control, not least beyond the reformist calls for 'community policing', and how we can achieve justice, security and safety for all in our communities both now and in the future through a politics of abolition. In doing so, this necessarily involves thinking of policing in its broadest terms and widening the focus beyond simply the Police force and towards the inclusion of other agencies of control and repression.

This Special Double Issue therefore seeks critical perspectives on a range of themes linked to 'Pandemics, Policing and Protest' including but not limited to: Inequality; Rights; State-Corporate Crimes; Surveillance and Health Technologies; Border harms and violence; The development of Mutual Aid networks; Critical Statistics; Denial and silencing; Environment; Colonialism and policing; Structures of policing; Policing beyond the police; Protests and social movements; Exclusion and stigma.

The Journal, *Justice, Power and Resistance*, welcomes theoretical and ethnographic studies from interdisciplinary perspectives including sociology, zemiology, geography, law, history, criminology, penology, philosophy, social policy and social theory from scholars and activists. The journal is primarily a vehicle to make accessible and advance challenging research and scholarship that can be utilised to critically inform contemporary debates and policies. The journal is also committed to enhancing communication and collaboration across critical and radical networks. Consequently, it welcomes short papers, campaign updates, poetry, personal reflections and (auto)biographical accounts from academics and non-academics alike.

Abstracts of 300 words should be sent to jprjournal@outlook.com by December 1st, whilst completed contributions should be submitted by February 1st 2021. In the meantime, potential contributors are welcome to contact the Editors Lisa White, Ida Nafstad and Jon Burnett at jprjournal@outlook.com to discuss potential papers. Guidelines for contributions will be available soon.