Editors’ Comment

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We would like to thank Phil Mariani, the Guest Editor, for conceptualizing, organizing, and editing this issue on “Law, Order, and Neoliberalism.” Though the articles were written prior to September 11, the authors address long-term trends in policies that will continue to shape Justice Americana around the world.

Also included in this issue are four opinion pieces regarding the implications of September 11 for the antiterrorist state. Written by four members of the journal’s Editorial Board and by Christian Parenti, they speak to our concerns about the widening of the war, the attacks on civil liberties and dissent in the name of patriotism, the international repercussions of the campaign against terrorism, and political instabilities at home. We welcome responses and commentaries on this topic.

We are saddened to note the loss of two members of the Social Justice Editorial Board, Esther Madriz and Rosa del Olmo, who died of cancer within two weeks of each other. Esther and Rosa will be missed as friends, comrades, and important Latina intellectuals who made significant contributions to the struggle for social justice. Rosa was involved with our journal from its initiation in the 1970s. As a Venezuelan sociologist, she brought an international, left perspective to the study of crime, structural violence, women, and the War on Drugs. Rosa introduced Tony Platt to Esther, one of her students, who came to California specifically to study radical criminology. Along the way to becoming an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of San Francisco, Esther touched countless lives with her passion for social justice, personal warmth, and dedication to teaching. At USF, she was co-chairwoman of the President’s Advisory Committee on the Status of Women and associate director of the Center for Latino Studies in the Americas. To the very end, Esther envisioned putting out a special issue on human rights; on the day of her death, she delivered a class lecture on corporate crime; and her last public address, which appears in this issue, addresses the centrality of structural violence and the responsibility of intellectuals to take an active stance in defense of democratic rights. Both of these extraordinary women will be greatly missed.

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