

Abstracts

Confronting Felony Disenfranchisement: Toward a Movement for Full Citizenship

Marc Mauer

A record 6.1 million people in the United States are barred from voting as a result of felony disenfranchisement laws. Policies in 48 states prohibit persons with felony convictions from voting for varying periods of supervision, including those who are incarcerated, on probation or parole, or (in 12 states) even after completion of supervision. Disenfranchisement poses challenging questions for the meaning of democracy, and it erects a barrier for successful reentry to the community after prison. A broad reform movement dating from the late 1990s has achieved policy reform in many states, but moving forward we should consider the model of many industrialized nations that view disenfranchisement as a fundamental aspect of citizenship that should not be taken away as a result of a criminal conviction.

Confronting the Disabling Effects of Imprisonment: Toward Prehabilitation

Diana Johns

Harm is embedded in every aspect of the prison: from its inception as an institution of punishment and correction to the deprivations of prison and post-prison life. Recognizing that penal harms militate against prisons' rehabilitative aim and capacity, this article applies a therapeutic justice lens to argue for *prehabilitation* as a means of strengthening communities, protecting against criminogenic conditions and the disabling effects of imprisonment, and ultimately reducing the reliance on imprisonment as a supposed crime-reduction strategy.

This article explores two conceptualizations of the prison: in terms of violence and of health. These different conceptualizations illustrate the various ways in which penal harms may be understood as disabling, and they locate the prison on a continuum of which violence and health are intertwined components.

Confronting Gendered Pathways to Incarceration: Considerations for Reentry Programming

Jennifer K. Wesely & Susan C. Dewey

Pathways both into and out of the criminal justice system are gendered, and research finds that reentry can be particularly challenging for women. Community programming has the potential to address important issues in the lives of women during this crucial time of transition, but reentry efforts pay scant attention to gendered pathways before and after incarceration. This study

employs findings from interviews conducted at a women's reentry program to examine women ex-offenders' perceptions of their pathways into crime and related struggles upon reentry. Our analysis identifies three major pathways to incarceration, each with its own enduring implications for reentry: intersectional vulnerabilities, abuse and neglect, and substance abuse and compromised mental health. After examining how participants identified and described each of these three pathways, we suggest an action agenda to better address women's unique reentry needs.

Confronting Immigration Enforcement under Trump: A Reign of Terror for Immigrant Communities

Judith Greene

When Donald J. Trump first announced his candidacy for the presidency, he instigated a national moral panic by broadly denouncing US immigration policy with rhetoric designed to criminalize all immigrants—be they naturalized, documented, or undocumented. His public pronouncements on this topic throughout his campaign set a firestorm of public fear and resentment ablaze, greatly aiding his effort to amass enough votes to win victory in the electoral college. One of his first acts as president was to issue executive orders designed to broaden and strengthen the immigration enforcement dragnet across the nation.

This article examines the recent surge of anti-immigrant fervor in the United States and argues that immigrants and their allies struggling to survive the federal zero tolerance campaign need all the protection and support our citizenry can muster.

Confronting Christian Penal Charity: Neoliberalism and the Rebirth of Religious Penitentiaries

Michael Hallett

This article addresses the rise of Christian seminary programs in US prisons as a function of penal regime change in late-modern corrections. The article documents the neoliberal roots of faith-based programming in US prisons, featuring increased reliance upon religious volunteerism as a structural charity in correctional budgeting. Federal revocation of Pell Grant eligibility for convicted felons in 1994 has produced a de facto monopoly of Christian educators promulgating an exclusively sectarian framing of offender rehabilitation. Although faith-based programming can offer effective counternarratives to punitive justice that dramatically improve the well-being of prisoners who freely volunteer, overreliance upon Christian instruction in US prisons fosters a coercively sectarian framing of rehabilitation and a newly privatized mechanism for inmate education.