

# ABSTRACTS

## **Police Abolition as Community Struggle against State Violence**

Bronwyn Dobchuk-Land & Kevin Walby

The advances made by current social movement organizing to defund police challenge academic abolitionist traditions to more thoroughly theorize the centrality of policing to the penal system. Contributing to this objective, we make three arguments for police abolition, situating our work in the claims of the US Black feminist abolitionist tradition. Its focus on state violence and transformative justice has laid the groundwork for the police abolition movement. First, we show how budgetary analysis is used as a tool for abolitionist organizing, revealing police spending as a source of fiscal drain and a strategic target for local political intervention. Second, we illustrate how Black feminist abolitionist praxis has tied divestment from institutions of control to investment in community capacities for survival, self-defense, and insurgent safety, emphasizing a vision of abolition as community development. Third, we suggest through a commitment to ending both state and interpersonal violence that the Black feminist abolitionist tradition has made visible the violence of a range of interconnected systems of social control. We close with comments on the importance of the scholar-activist tradition at this juncture and its history of filtering out reformist reforms and avoiding co-optation.

## **What Works and What Doesn't When Policing People with Mental Health Issues**

Jerry Flores & Joyce Chua

Over the last few years, police encounters with people who have mental health issues have increased and become a topic of conversation for academics and the public alike. A large portion of this population (especially those living on the streets) regularly come in contact with police and are often caught in a cycle of police contact, incarceration, and temporary stays in poorly funded hospitals until they end up back on the streets. This is exacerbated by the lack of training and resources police have to address the unique needs of this population. Most of these individuals only commit minor offenses, but with the stigma surrounding mental health issues and the lack of mental

health training, police often use excessive force to handle these situations. Drawing on a video ethnography of a large police force in the United States and other publicly available videos, we demonstrate what works and what does not when officers interact with people who have mental health issues and how these interactions are shaped by multiple intersecting identities.

### **On the Outs: Global Capitalism and Transcarceration**

Oscar Fabian Soto

This article looks at the link between global capitalism, the hyperincarceration of poor and racialized communities, and surplus labor. It explores the exclusion of formerly incarcerated individuals from social institutions in a revolving door of control and repression. In an effort to draw out the links between the micro, meso, and macro levels of analysis, I undertake a macro-analysis of the crisis of global capitalism and then turn to twelve interviews with self-identified Chicano men that are part of a larger project involving an ethnographic approach. I show how the formerly incarcerated face what I term a revolving door incarceration system—a system that funnels people back into the prison system and that forms part of what Robinson calls the global police state. The article calls for an abolitionist perspective that rallies for the abolition of the prison industrial complex and the criminal (in)justice system. It argues that such a justice standpoint must include a critique of and struggle against global capitalism.

### **Keeping Kids for Profit: A Cautionary Tale of Public Service Corruption and “Slumcare” within the Expanding Juvenile Crime Control Industry**

Kenneth A. Cruz

In theory, a culture of control (Garland 2001) has led to the emergence of privatized—third sector—organizations premised on cost-efficiency and preventive crime control. In this case study of a for-profit violence prevention group home for impoverished youth in the southwestern United States, I show how a variety of what I call slumcare practices, including keeping kids for profit, are cost prohibitive and harmful for Indigenous youth. Additionally, this study uses critical realist grounded theory methods to develop a theory of public service corruption that can account for inconsistencies between policy and practice within the neoliberal state and its expanding juvenile crime control industry.

**Commentary: Political Violence and Behavioral Economics**

Vincenzo Ruggiero

This commentary addresses three thematic areas characterizing political violence: radicalization, armed struggle, and terrorism. The analysis avails itself of some categories elaborated by behavioral economics, which challenges the common assumption that rationality guides human choice. Behavioral economics, it will be contended, may also inspire responses aimed at reducing the most destructive forms of political violence.

