Fernwood works as a guest on unceded Indigenous lands; specifically, we create from Kjipuktuk in Mi’kma’ki, colonially known as Halifax, Nova Scotia, the territory of the Mi’kmaq, as well as in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation, which in 1871 became Treaty 1 territory.

As settlers working in publishing, we have a responsibility to understand and challenge the Canadian state’s history of racist and colonial writing and publishing practices, including the erasure of Indigenous knowledges, the ongoing systemic undermining of oral history and knowledge, and land theft. We dedicate ourselves to respectful collaboration with Indigenous communities in producing critical books.
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SLAPPs and the Judicial Repression of Political Discourse
by Norman Landry
Realizing a Good Life
Men’s Pathways out of Drugs and Crime

by Elizabeth Comack

Criminalized men tell us how they overcame trauma, racism, poverty and abuse. Personal and institutional supports of caring are key — being cared for and caring for others.

Realizing a good life is almost always defined in material terms, typified by individuals (usually men) who have considerable wealth. But classed, gendered and racialized social supports enable the “self-made man.” Instead, this book turns to Indigenous knowledge about realizing a good life to explore how marginalized men endeavour to overcome systemic inequalities in their efforts to achieve wholeness, balance, connection, harmony and healing.

Twenty-three men, most of whom are Indigenous, share their stories of this journey. For most, the pathway started in challenging circumstances — disrupted families and child welfare interventions, intergenerational trauma, racism and bullying, and physical and sexual abuse. Most coped with the pain through drugging and drinking or joining a street gang, setting them on a path to jail. Once caught in the criminal justice net, realizing a good life became even more difficult.

Some of the men, however, have made great strides to realize a good life. They tell us how they got out of “the problem,” with insights on how to maintain sobriety, navigate systemic barriers and forge connections and circles of support. Ultimately, it comes down to social supports — and caring. As one man put it, change happened when he “had to care for somebody else in a way that I wanted to be cared for.”

ELIZABETH COMACK is a distinguished professor emerita in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Manitoba whose work in the sociology of law and feminist criminology has been instrumental in setting the course for Canadian scholarship. She is a member of the Manitoba Research Alliance, a consortium of academics and community partners engaged in research addressing poverty in Indigenous and inner-city communities. Comack is the author or editor of 13 books, including Coming Back to Jail: Women, Trauma, and Criminalization and Racialized Policing: Aboriginal People’s Encounters with Police.

realizing a good life; indigenous men; inequality; systemic racism; privilege; institutional support
Solidarity Beyond Bars
Unionizing Prison Labour

by Jordan House and Asaf Rashid

Well researched and engagingly written, Solidarity Beyond Bars not only describes the current (and deplorable) state of prison labour but explains how legal paradoxes and capitalist impulses brought Canada to this point, and what the paths forward may be.

—MELISSA MUNN, co-author of Disruptive Prisoners and On the Outside

This book is a timely and important contribution to scholarship on abolition, prisoners’ rights and labour organizing.

—JESSICA EVANS, Toronto Metropolitan University

The first book to examine prison labour in Canada, arguing that unionizing incarcerated workers is critical for prison justice and labour movements.

Prisons don’t work, but prisoners do. Prisons are often critiqued as unjust, but we hear little about the daily labour of incarcerated workers — what they do, how they do it, who they do it for and under which conditions. Unions protect workers fighting for better pay and against discrimination and occupational health and safety concerns, but prisoners are denied this protection despite being the lowest paid workers with the least choice in what they do — the most vulnerable among the working class. Starting from the perspective that work during imprisonment is not “rehabilitative,” this book examines the reasons why people should care about prison labour and how prisoners have struggled to organize for labour power in the past. Unionizing incarcerated workers is critical for both the labour movement and struggles for prison justice, this book argues, to negotiate changes to working conditions as well as the power dynamics within prisons themselves.

JORDAN HOUSE is an assistant professor in the Department of Labour Studies at Brock University. His research focuses on prison labour and prisoner-worker organizing, new forms of worker organization and labour movement renewal. Asaf Rashid went from being an aspiring scholar in environmental studies to a community agitator and campaigns coordinator of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group. He is a lawyer based in K’Jipuktuk/Halifax, a board member of the Halifax Workers Action Centre, a member of the Canadian Prison Lawyers Association and supporter of the East Coast Prison Justice Society.

abolition; prison justice; work; labour; rights; organizing
Abolitionist Intimacies
by El Jones

Abolitionist Intimacies is an urgently needed text. With rigour, theoretical agility and a grounded sense of integrity, Jones forwards a poetic vision of intimacy, care and human liberation, sketching out abolitionist futures beyond policing, prisons and cages.

—ROBYN MAYNARD, author of Policing Black Lives and co-author of Rehearsals for Living

El Jones has gifted us all with a political beacon for liberation and an ethical compass for how to be. Abolitionist Intimacies is a searingly lyrical, poignant and revolutionary must-read: an absolute tour de force that I cannot recommend highly enough.

—HARSHA WALIA, author of Undoing Border Imperialism and Border and Rule

Abolition is not only a political movement to end prisons; it is also an intimate one deeply motivated by love.

In Abolitionist Intimacies, El Jones examines the movement to abolish prisons through the Black feminist principles of care and collectivity. Understanding the history of prisons in Canada in their relationship to settler colonialism and anti-Black racism, Jones observes how practices of intimacy become imbued with state violence at carceral sites including prisons, policing and borders, as well as through purported care institutions such as hospitals and social work. The state also polices intimacy through mechanisms such as prison visits, strip searches and managing community contact with incarcerated people. Despite this, Jones argues, intimacy is integral to the ongoing struggles of prisoners for justice and liberation through the care work of building relationships and organizing with the people inside. Through characteristically fierce and personal prose and poetry, and motivated by a decade of prison justice work, Jones observes that abolition is not only a political movement to end prisons; it is also an intimate one deeply motivated by commitment and love.

EL JONES is a poet, journalist, professor and activist living in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She teaches at Mount Saint Vincent University, where she was named the 15th Nancy’s Chair in Women’s Studies in 2017. She was Halifax’s Poet Laureate from 2013 to 2015. She is the author of Live from the Afrikan Resistance!, a collection of poems about resisting white colonialism. Her work focuses on social justice issues, such as feminism, prison abolition, anti-racism and decolonization.

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Heroin
An Illustrated History
by Susan Boyd

This book traces a compelling and damning portrait of the long-standing harms of drug criminalization in Canada and highlights the necessity of following drug-user led movements to create a society geared toward collective health and well-being rather than punishment.

— ROBYN MAYNARD, author of Policing Black Lives

Susan carefully articulates the history of drug user activism with a great understanding of racial and gender disparities that plague our community. The Canadian Association of People who Use Drugs fully endorses Heroin and believes it’s a must-read.

— NATASHA TOUESNARD AND FRANK CRICHLOW, executive director and president of the Canadian Association of People Who Use Drugs (CAPUD)

The only book-length Canadian history of the harm done from criminalizing heroin users and “addicts,” the most horrendous being overdose epidemics caused by poisoned drugs.

Heroin is an illustrated history of Canadian heroin regulation over two centuries. Susan Boyd points to our failure to address the overdose death epidemic caused by criminalizing drug users and to the decades of resistance to harm-reduction policies. With little evidence of the harm of heroin, drug prohibition is actually tied up with colonization, systemic racism and class and gender injustice that have shaped drug law and policy for decades. This book is informed by documentary evidence and the experiences of people who use/used heroin, drug user unions and harm-reduction advocates. These sources highlight the structural violence of drug policy that uses prohibition and criminalization as the main response to drug use.

SUSAN C. BOYD is a scholar/activist and distinguished professor at the University of Victoria. She has authored several articles and books on drug issues, including Busted: An Illustrated History of Drug Prohibition in Canada. She is a long-time activist who collaborates with groups that advocate for the end of drug prohibition and for the establishment of diverse services.

harm reduction; drugs; colonialism; decriminalization; legal heroin; heroin-assisted
Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice
A Search for Ways Forward
by David Milward

David Milward provides a clear-sighted and accessible engagement with the challenge of Indigenous over-incarceration and the continuing legacy of Indian residential schools, using compelling examples to present a pathway for doing justice better in Canada.

—ANDREW WOOLFORD, University of Manitoba, and author of The Politics of Restorative Justice

This book provides an account of the ongoing ties between the enduring traumas caused by the residential schools and Indigenous over-incarceration.

The horrors of the Indian residential schools are by now well-known historical facts, and they have certainly found purchase in the Canadian consciousness in recent years. The history of violence and the struggles of survivors for redress resulted in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which chronicled the harms inflicted by the residential schools and explored ways to address the resulting social fallouts. One of those fallouts is the crisis of Indigenous over-incarceration. While the residential school system may not be the only harmful process of colonization that fuels Indigenous over-incarceration, it is arguably the most critical factor. It is likely that the residential school system forms an important part of the background of almost every Indigenous person who ends up incarcerated, even those who did not attend the schools. The legacy of harm caused by the schools is a vivid and crucial link between Canadian colonialism and Indigenous over-incarceration.

DAVID MILWARD is an associate professor of law with the University of Victoria and a member of the Beardy’s and Okemasis First Nation of Duck Lake, Saskatchewan. He assisted the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with the authoring of its final report on Indigenous justice issues and is the author of numerous pieces on Indigenous justice in leading national and international publications.
Insurgent Love
Abolition and Domestic Homicide
by Ardath Whynacht

This book is of profound importance by arguing for an alternate path to eradicating domestic homicide and violence and offering an opportunity to start engaging in these conversations.

—MARLIHAN LOPEZ, co-vice-president for la Fédération des femmes du Québec and program and outreach co-ordinator at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute

What is most significant about this book is the author’s engagement with intimate violence and abolition. Establishing links between state and intimate violence is an important framework to engage these kinds of brutalizing hardships, and without drawing on ongoing carceral legacies and colonial logics.

—VICKI CHARTRAND, University of Ottawa, and director of Centre for Justice Exchange

When loved ones transgress into violence, how do we seek justice and safety outside of policing and prisons?

Domestic homicide involves violence at the most intimate level — the partner or family relationship. The most common strategy for addressing this kind of transgression relies on policing and prisons. But through examining commonly accepted typologies of intimate partner violence, Ardath Whynacht shows that policing can be understood as part of the same root problem as the violence it seeks to mend. This book illustrates that the origins of both the carceral state and toxic masculinity are situated in settler colonialism and racial capitalism. Describing an experience of domestic homicide in her community and providing a deeply personal analysis of some of the most recent cases of homicide in Canada, the author inhabits the complexity of seeking abolitionist justice. Insurgent Love traces the major risk factors for domestic homicide within the structures of racial capitalism and suggests transformative, anti-capitalist, anti-racist, feminist approaches for safety, prevention and justice.

ARDATH WHYNACHT is an activist and writer who works for and with survivors of state and family violence. She teaches sociology at Mount Allison University and lives on unceded Mi’kmaw territory.
Abortion to Abolition
Reproductive Health and Justice in Canada

by Martha Paynter
illustrated by Julia Hutt

This critical reading offers insight into Canadian histories of reproductive health access and the manifold violence of Canada’s carceral system, while communicating the vital hope embedded in politics and action at the intersection of reproductive justice and abolition.

—Catherine Bryan, Dalhousie University

This beautifully illustrated book tells the powerful stories behind the struggles for reproductive health and justice in Canada, celebrating past wins and revealing abolition as a path forward.

The history of abortion decriminalization and critical advocacy efforts to improve access in Canada deserve to be better known. Ordinary people persevered to make Canada the most progressive country in the world with respect to abortion care. But while abortion access is poorly understood, so too are the persistent threats to reproductive justice in this country: sexual violence, gun violence, homophobia and transphobia, criminalization of sex work, reproductive oppression of Indigenous women and girls, privatization of fertility health services and the racism and colonialism of policing and the prison system. This beautifully illustrated book tells the powerful true stories behind the struggles to advance reproductive health and justice in Canada, celebrating past wins and revealing how prison abolition is key to the path forward.

Martha Paynter is a registered nurse providing abortion and postpartum care in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The founder and chair of Wellness Within: An Organization for Health and Justice and a doctoral candidate at the Dalhousie University School of Nursing, Martha has twenty years of experience working to advance gender health equity. Julia Hutt is a self-taught multi-disciplinary artist residing in Kjipuktuk. Inspired by her own experience with pregnancy, birthing and baby-raising, Julia works with both traditional and digital illustration to create anecdotal scenes that portray snapshots of early parenthood, challenging the capitalist devaluation of child rearing and traditionally gendered work.

feminism; women’s health; bodily autonomy; transformative justice; Ewanchuck; reproductive justice; Morgentaler
The Politics of Restorative Justice, 2nd Ed.
A Critical Introduction

by Andrew Woolford and Amanda Nelund

The second edition of this successful textbook introduces readers to intersectional and affective understandings of restorative justice.

In this updated edition of The Politics of Restorative Justice, Andrew Woolford and Amanda Nelund reconsider restorative justice and its politics and ask how restorative justice might work better to provide transformative justice. To achieve a transformative justice, Woolford and Neulund argue, restorative justice must be concerned with class-based, gendered, racialized and other injustices.

In this second edition, the authors expand on how intersecting socio-political contexts — gendered, racialized, settler colonial, hetero-normative and others — contour the practice and potential of restorative justice. In addition to updated examples and data, this edition discusses the embodied and emotional politics of restorative justice, transformative restorative justice and other-than-human actors/ ecological justice.

ANDREW WOOLFORD is an associate professor of sociology at the University of Manitoba. He is author of Between Justice and Certainty: Treaty Making in British Columbia and co-author of Informal Reckonings: Conflict Resolution in Mediation, Restorative Justice, and Reparations.

AMANDA NELUND is an assistant professor of sociology at MacEwan University. Her articles have appeared in journals such as Restorative Justice: An International Journal and Radical Criminology.

intersectionality; retribution; settler colonialism; sexual violence; welfarism; CJS; family violence; patriarchy; racialization; Youth Criminal Justice Act
Critical Perspectives on Social Control and Social Regulation in Canada

edited by Mitch D. Daschuk, Carolyn Books, and James F. Popham

This book is an introduction to the sociology of what has traditionally been called deviance and conformity and asks how social regulation shapes who is “deviant” and who is “normal.”

This book shifts the focus from individuals labelled deviant to the political and economic processes that shape marginalization, power and exclusion. Class, gender, race and sexuality are the bases for understanding deviance, and it is within these relations of power that the labels “deviant” and “normal” are socially developed and the behaviours of those less powerful become regulated.

This textbook introduces readers to theories and critiques of traditional approaches to deviance and conformity. Using vivid and timely examples of contemporary social regulation and control, this textbook brings to life how forces of social control and marginalization interact with social media, sex work, immigration, anti-colonialism, digital surveillance and social movements, and much more. Theories and critiques are clarified with summaries, definitions, rich illustrative examples, discussion questions, recommended resources and test banks for instructors.

MITCH DASCHUK earned a PhD from the University of Saskatchewan. His research focuses on the construction of youth subcultures, punk rock ideology and the representational politics that inform prevalent understandings of criminality and dangerousness.

CAROLYN BROOKS is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research and publications focus on youth resilience, the politics of punishment, violence, and visual and community based participatory research methods.

JAMES POPHAM is an assistant professor in the Department of Criminology at Wilfrid Laurier University, where he researches issues of cyber criminality, technology and social empowerment.
Making Sense of Society
Power and Possibility
edited by Alex Khasnabish

A significant book, aiming to achieve an interdisciplinary examination of society. I would have assumed this to be overly ambitious, if not impossible. Reading the manuscript has convinced me otherwise. The author has produced an impressive contribution to social science textbook writing, one quite beyond anything else I have seen.

—MICHAEL CLOW, St. Thomas University

A fresh and radical approach to introducing social thought to undergraduate social science students that reflects the excitement and verve of a field in transition.

Grounded in the sister disciplines of sociology and anthropology, this textbook is an accessible and critical introduction to contemporary social research. Alex Khasnabish eschews the common disciplinary silos in favour of an integrated approach to understanding and practising critical social research. Situated in the North American context, the text draws on examples to give readers a clear sense of the diversity in human social relations. It is organized thematically in a way that introduces readers to the core areas of social research and social organization and takes an unapologetically radical approach in identifying the relations of oppression and exploitation that give rise to what most corporate textbooks euphemistically identify as “social problems.” Focusing on key dynamics and processes at the heart of so many contemporary issues and public conversations, this text highlights the ways in which critical social research can contribute to exploring, understanding and forging alternatives to an increasingly bankrupt, violent, unstable and unjust status quo.

ALEX KHASNABISH is a writer, researcher and teacher committed to collective liberation living in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on unceded and unsurrendered Mi’kmaw territory. He is a professor in sociology and anthropology at Mount Saint Vincent University. His research focuses on radical imagination, radical politics, social justice and social movements.

social theory; critical social science; research practice; social movements; climate justice; social reproduction; intersectionality; social justice
Unravelling Research
The Ethics and Politics of Research in the Social Sciences

edited by Teresa Macías
afterword by Sharene H. Razack

This book makes a serious advance in state-of-the-art research: namely in its commitments to undertake a decolonial, intersectional analysis of the politics and ethics of research.

—MEHMOONA MOOSA-MITHA, University of Victoria

Without a doubt, this volume constitutes a major contribution to the research literature. Its primarily Canadian content, from the perspective of academics who are marginalized, is unique, and the pan-cultural reach of the literature is definitely unique.

—SOBIA SHAHEEN SHAIKH, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Collected essays by racialized, mad and social justice scholars on the ethical, political and methodological implications of their research.

Unravelling Research is about the ethics and politics of knowledge production in the social sciences at a time when the academy is pressed to contend with the historical inequities associated with established research practices. Written by an impressive range of scholars whose work is shaped by their commitment to social justice, the chapters grapple with different methodologies, geographical locations and communities and cover a wide range of inquiry, including ethnography in Africa, archival research in South America and research with marginalized, racialized, poor, mad, homeless and Indigenous communities in Canada. Each chapter is written from the perspective of researchers who, due to their race, class, sexual/gender identity, ability and geographical location, labour at the margins of their disciplines. By using their own research projects as sites, contributors probe the ethicality of long-established and cutting-edge methodological frameworks to theorize the indivisible relationship between methodology, ethics and politics, elucidating key challenges and dilemmas confronting marginalized researchers and research subjects alike.

TERESA MACÍAS is an associate professor in the School of Social Work, York University. Her scholarly interests include transnational human rights regimes, poststructuralism, decolonial thought, social work education, truth and reconciliation commissions, state compensation policies, nation-building, torture, issues of representation, critical pedagogy, neoliberalism in social work, research methodology and research ethics.
In Defense of Julian Assange
edited by Tariq Ali and Margaret Kunstler

I think the prosecution of Assange would be a very, very bad precedent for publishers ... from everything I know, he’s in a classic publisher’s position and I think the law would have a very hard time drawing a distinction between the New York Times and WikiLeaks.
—DAVID MCCRAW, lead lawyer for the New York Times

After being forcibly removed from the Ecuadorian Embassy, Julian Assange is now in a high security prison in London where he faces extradition to the United States and imprisonment for the rest of his life. The charges Assange faces are a major threat to press freedom. James Goodale, who represented the New York Times in the Pentagon Papers case, commented: “The charge against Assange for ‘conspiring’ with a source is the most dangerous I can think of with respect to the First Amendment in all my years representing media organizations.” It is critical now to build support for Assange and prevent his delivery into the hands of the US administration. That is the urgent purpose of this book. A wide range of distinguished contributors, many of them in original pieces, here set out the story of Julian Assange and WikiLeaks, the importance of their work, and the dangers for us all in the persecution they face. In Defense of Julian Assange is a vivid, vital intervention into one of the most important political issues of our day.

Pursuing Justice, 2nd Ed.
An Introduction to Justice Studies
edited by Margot A. Hulbert

Pursuing justice is daunting. It plays out in a variety of contexts — like the environment, the criminal justice system, employment — and raises tough issues like racism, gender discrimination and poverty. But ultimately the aim of studying justice is to achieve it.

This book is about justice in Canada: its definition, its boundaries, its contradictions and its nuances. It is also about the mechanisms and practices that enable the pursuit of justice. It problematizes the notion of justice while defining and pursuing the illusive notion of justice in Canadian society. This second edition features updated content from the popular first edition as well as new content about social justice and racism, the experiences of racialized persons with police, settler colonialism and issues of justice for gender and sexual minorities — all from a Canadian perspective. Additionally, each chapter contains objectives of the chapter, case studies and discussion questions.
Policing Indigenous Movements
Dissent and the Security State
edited by Andrew Crosby and Jeffrey Monaghan

An accessible must-read for all Canadians concerned about respectful relations with Indigenous People and the decline of civil rights in the war-on-terror era.
—Publishers Weekly

In recent years, Indigenous peoples have led a number of high profile movements fighting for social and environmental justice in Canada. From land struggles to struggles against resource extraction, pipeline development and fracking, land and water defenders have created a national discussion about these issues and successfully slowed the rate of resource extraction. In one of the most comprehensive accounts of contemporary government surveillance, the authors vividly demonstrate that it is the norms of settler colonialism that allow these movements to be classified as national security threats and the growing

land theft; Idle No More; Indian Affairs; treaty rights; dispossession; self-determination; extractive capitalism; logic of elimination; decolonization

Policing Black Lives
State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present
by Robyn Maynard

This book should be read by anyone interested in the abolitionist and revolutionary potential of the Black Lives Matters movement more broadly.
—ANGELA Y. DAVIS

If you only read one book this year, make it this one. This is a comprehensive and necessary book for anyone who cares about the past, present and future of Black life in this country. Brilliant work!
—BLACK LIVES MATTER TORONTO

Delving behind Canada’s veneer of multiculturalism and tolerance, Policing Black Lives highlights the ubiquity of Black resistance and provides readers with the first comprehensive account of nearly four hundred years of state-sanctioned surveillance, criminalization and punishment of Black lives in Canada. Emerging from a critical race feminist framework, Maynard addresses the unique and understudied experiences of Black women, shining a light on the ways that state violence specifically impacts their lives. This groundbreaking work challenges popular understandings of race and urges readers to work toward dismantling structures of racial domination and to re-imagine a more just society.

activism; blackness as dangerous; racial profiling; slavery; transracial; global north; global south; incarceration of Black people; neoliberalism; border regulation
Coming Back to Jail
Women, Trauma, and Criminalization
by Elizabeth Comack

This is a superb book. It breaks new ground in linking Aboriginality, gender and incarceration through in-depth interviews with forty-two female prisoners. This book should be required reading for politicians, activists, scholars and students.

—LAUREEN SNIDER, Queen's University

Coming Back to Jail examines the role of trauma in the lives of forty-two incarcerated women. Resisting the popular move to understand trauma in psychiatric terms — as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) — the book frames trauma as “lived experience” and locates the women’s lives within the context of a settler-colonial, capitalist, patriarchal society. Doing so enables a better appreciation of the social conditions that produce trauma and the problems, conflicts and dilemmas that bring women into the criminal justice net. In this book, Comack shows how — despite recent moves to be more “gender responsive” — the prisoning of women is ultimately more punishing than empowering. Because the sources of the women’s trauma reside in the systemic processes that have contoured their lives and their communities, true healing will require changing women’s social circumstances on the outside so they no longer keep coming back to jail.

Crime & Inequality
A Custom Textbook from Fernwood Publishing
compiled by Walid Chahal

This book is intended to provide critical readings for criminology courses. The authors all see crime as both a social and a political process. That is, what comes to be defined as criminal, how society responds to crime and why individuals become entangled in the criminal justice system are often the result of individual and systemic social inequalities. That is crime and the CJS both produce and reproduce class, race and gender inequalities in society. The chapters in this book take up a number of empirical, theoretical and substantive issues in criminology and mostly focus on Canada. These include wrongful convictions (which are most likely to ensnare people who are on the margin of society), how the police and other representatives of the CJS operate within an institutional and cultural context that, by and large, sees racialized Canadians as most likely to be criminal, that youth crime is really a criminalization of young people who are poor and Indigenous, as well as connecting terrorism to the dynamics of neoliberal capitalism, among others.

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Busted
An Illustrated History of Drug Prohibition in Canada

by Susan Boyd

Busted comes at a pivotal point in Canadian drug policy and should be heeded by all.
—DESSY PAVLOVA, Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy

Canada’s drug laws are constantly changing. But what does Canada’s history of drug prohibition say about its future? Busted is an illustrated history of Canadian drug prohibition and resistance to that prohibition. Reproducing over 170 archival and contemporary drawings, paintings, photographs, film stills and official documents from the 1700s to the present, Susan Boyd shows how Canada’s drug prohibition policies evolved and were shaped by white supremacy, colonization, race, class and gender discrimination. This history demonstrates that prohibition and criminalization produces harm rather than benefits, including the current drug overdose crisis.

More Harm than Good
Drug Policy in Canada

by Susan Boyd, Connie I. Carter and Donald MacPherson

This book expanded students’ thinking and understanding and fostered critical and reflective thought. Readings sparked rich conversations about their own hopes and wishes for the field, broader social and political responses and the impact on youth and families affected by substances.
—STEPHANIE MCCUNE, University of Victoria

In More Harm Than Good, Carter, Boyd and MacPherson take a critical look at the current state of Canadian drug policy and raise key questions about the effects of Canada’s increasing involvement in and commitment to the “war on drugs.” A primer on Canadian drug policy, the analysis in this book is shaped by critical sociology and feminist perspectives on drugs and incorporates insights not only from individuals who are on the front lines of drug policy in Canada — treatment and service workers — but also from those who live with the consequences of that policy on a daily basis — people who use criminalized drugs. Finally, the authors propose realistic alternatives to today’s failed policy approach.
Gender, Race & Canadian Law
A Custom Textbook from Fernwood Publishing

compiled by Julie Dowsett

Gender, Race & Canadian Law explores feminist and critical race approaches to Canadian law. The collection, which is suitable for undergraduate courses, begins with a basic overview of Canadian law and an introduction to critical concepts including "the official version of law," race and racialization, privilege and heteronormativity. Substantive themes include the Montreal massacre, hegemonic and other masculinities, equality rights, sexual assault and other gendered violence, trans, colonialism, immigration and multiculturalism.

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Gender, Law & Justice
A Custom Textbook from Fernwood Publishing

compiled by Emily van der Meulen

Gender, Law and Justice explores feminist theoretical frameworks and gendered experiences of Canadian law and the criminal justice system. Taken together, the authors advance an intersectional approach that examines how the law structures and is structured by social contexts, socio-demographics and social inequalities, including race, class and sexuality.

This custom textbook from Fernwood draws on a variety of Fernwood publications and is designed for undergraduate courses related to gender, sexuality and the law. Chapters topics include feminism and theory, marriage and family violence; racism and colonialism; reproductive justice; poverty; labour; the war on drugs; and prison.

CUSTOM TEXTBOOKS FROM FERNWOOD are for instructors and professors who want to hand-select material for their students from every Fernwood Publishing title. We have content on a huge range of topics in the social sciences and humanities that can be combined to fit your course. For more information, please contact editorial@fernpub.ca.
Screening Justice
Canadian Crime Films, Culture and Society
edited by Steven Kohm, Sonia Bookman and Pauline Greenhill

What do Canadian films say about crime and justice in Canada? What purpose do Canadian crime films serve politically and culturally? Screening Justice is a scholarly exploration of films that focus on crime and justice in Canada. Crime films are pivotal for understanding and shaping Canadian sensibilities by setting out widely available templates for thinking about crime and justice in Canadian society.

Spanning disciplines and examining films from across Canada, Screening Justice is the first comprehensive Canadian volume on crime films that takes up cultural criminology’s call for more critical scholarly analyses of the interplay between crime, culture and society.

Marginality & Condemnation, 3rd Ed.
A Critical Introduction to Criminology
edited by Carolyn Brooks and Bernard Schissel

This well-received criminology textbook, now in its third edition, argues that crime must be understood as both a social and a political phenomenon. Using this lens, Marginality and Condemnation contends that what is defined as criminal, how we respond to “crime” and why individuals behave in anti-social ways are often the result of individual and systemic social inequalities and disparities in power.

Beginning with an overview of criminological discourse, mainstream approaches and new directions in criminological theory, the book is then divided into sections based on key social inequalities of class, gender, race and age, each of which begins with an outline of the general issues for understanding crime and an introduction that guides readers through the empirical chapters that follow. The studies provide insights into general issues in criminology, ranging from the historical and current nature of crime and criminal justice to the various responses to criminality. Readers are encouraged and challenged to understand crime and justice through concrete analyses rather than abstract argumentation.
The Vigilant Eye
Policing Canada from 1867 to 9/11
by Greg Marquis

In The Vigilant Eye, Greg Marquis combines the narrative and chronological approach of traditional institutional history with the critical approaches of social history, legal history and criminology. The book begins with the English and Irish roots of nineteenth-century British North American policing and traces the development of the three models of law enforcement that would shape the future: the local rural constable, the municipal police department and the paramilitary territorial constabulary. Marquis examines the development of provincial police services, whose expansion coincided with the rise of mass automobile ownership and controversies over alcohol prohibition and control, and their eventual absorption into the RCMP. In terms of political policing, the vigilant eye has monitored, harassed and disrupted various social and political movements ranging from Fenians to communists, to Quebec separatists and environmentalists. Marquis argues that Canada’s simplistic crime-fighting model undermines genuine reform, including curbs on the use of deadly force on citizens, and justifies the increased militarization of policing. Marquis argues that it is time for citizens to turn their vigilant eye towards police and policing in their own communities.

The Disappearance of Criminal Law
Police Power and the Supreme Court
by Richard Jochelson and Kirsten Kramar, with Mark Doerksen

If the authors' aim was to identify thought-provoking issues and demonstrate how a shift toward a surveillant state may be occurring, they achieved their purpose.
—Cara Hill, Saskatchewan Law Review

In The Disappearance of Criminal Law, Richard Jochelson and Kirsten Kramar examine the rationales underpinning Supreme Court of Canada cases that address the power of the police. These cases involve police power in relation to search, seizure and detention; an individual’s right to silence, counsel and privacy; and the exclusion of evidence. Together these decisions can be understood as the rules by which good governments should act, and they serve to legitimate the actions of the police. Because there is no singular definition of “police powers,” some argue that they do not exist, nor is there a specific theory about such powers, even though the term appears thousands of times in legal databases. Jochelson and Kramar illustrate the ways in which the Supreme Court, by allowing for increased surveillance and control by the state, is using the Charter to impose limitations on the rights of Canadians.
An Act of Genocide
Colonialism and the Sterilization of Aboriginal Women

by Karen Stote

During the 1900s eugenics gained favour as a means of controlling the birth rate among the “undesirable” populations in Canada. Though many people were targeted, the coercive sterilization of one group has gone largely unnoticed. An Act of Genocide unpacks long-buried archival evidence to begin documenting the forced sterilization of Aboriginal women in Canada.

Grounding this evidence within the context of colonialism, the oppression of women and the denial of Indigenous sovereignty, Karen Stote argues that this coercive sterilization must be considered in relation to the larger goals of “Indian policy” — to gain access to Indigenous lands and resources while reducing the numbers of those to whom the federal government has obligations. Stote also contends that, in accordance with the original meaning of the term, this sterilization should be understood as an act of genocide, and she explores the ways Canada has managed to avoid this charge. This lucid, engaging book explicitly challenges Canadians to take up their responsibilities as treaty partners, to reconsider their history and to hold their government to account for its treatment of Indigenous peoples.

Indivisible
Indigenous Human Rights

edited by Joyce Green

Indivisible is a critical call to governments and Indigenous Peoples to take up the indivisible framework of rights protection enshrined in the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

—ALEX NEVE, Amnesty International

Indigenous rights are generally conceptualized and advocated separately from the human rights framework. The contributors to Indivisible: Indigenous Human Rights, however, deftly and powerfully argue that Indigenous rights are in fact human rights and that the fundamental human rights of Indigenous peoples cannot be protected without the inclusion of their Indigenous rights, which are suppressed and oppressed by the forces of racism and colonialism. Drawing on a wealth of experience and blending critical theoretical frameworks and a close knowledge of domestic and international law on human rights, the authors in this collection show that settler states such as Canada persist in violating and failing to acknowledge Indigenous human rights. Furthermore, settler states are obligated to respect and animate these rights, despite the evident tensions in political and economic interests between elite capitalists, settler citizens and Indigenous peoples.
Criminalizing Women, 2nd Ed.
Gender and (In)justice in Neo-Liberal Times
edited by Gillian Balfour and Elizabeth Comack

Criminalizing women has become all too frequent in these neo-liberal times. Meanwhile, poverty, racism, and misogyny continue to frame criminalized women’s lives. This second edition of Criminalizing Women introduces readers to the key issues addressed by feminists engaged in criminology research over the past four decades. Chapters explore how narratives that construct women as errant females, prostitutes, street gang associates and symbols of moral corruption mask the connections between women’s restricted choices and the conditions of their lives. The book shows how women have been surveilled, disciplined, managed, corrected and punished, and it considers the feminist strategies that have been used to address the impact of imprisonment and to draw attention to the systemic abuses against poor and racialized women.

In addition to updating material in the introductions and substantive chapters, this second edition includes new contributions that consider the media representations of missing and murdered women in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, the gendered impact of video surveillance technologies (CCTV), the role of therapeutic interventions in the death of Ashley Smith, the progressive potential of the Inside/Out Prison Exchange Program and the use of music and video as decolonizing strategies.

trauma trails; gender-responsive programming; domestic violence; good girl/bad girl; zero-tolerance policy; neo-liberalism; sex work; sexual assault;

Locating Law, 3rd Ed.
Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality, Connections
edited by Elizabeth Comack

Students regularly tell me that Locating Law is their favourite book out of the selections available. The case studies are sufficiently different from one another that the students deepen their general knowledge, and they appreciate the fact that the chapters are written in a style they can understand.

— Jennifer Jarman, Lakehead University

A primary concern within the study of law has been to understand the “law-society” relation. Underlying this concern is the belief that law has a distinctly social basis; it both shapes — and is shaped by — the society in which it operates. This book explores the law-society relation by locating law within the nexus of race/class/gender/sexuality relations in society.

In addition to updating material in the theoretical and substantive chapters, this third edition of Locating Law includes three new contributions: sentencing law and Aboriginal peoples; corporations and the law; and obscenity and indecency legislation. The analyses offered in the book are sure to generate discussion and debate and, in the process, enhance our understanding of law’s location.

governmentality; Indian Act; "White Canada" policy; xenophobia; IRPA; Bill C-86; victimization-criminalization continuum; workers’ compensation law; corporate crime; welfare fraud; markets fraud legislation; "underserving poor"; risk discourse
About Canada: Corporate Crime
by Laureen Snider

When corporations misbehave the consequences are devastating. The monetary costs of the 2008 financial crisis, a direct result of financial mismanagement, were in the trillions, and yet none of those responsible were held to account. The monetary costs of Criminal Code theft pale in comparison, and yet our prisons are filled with people who commit "street theft." In order to understand why governments, regulators, unions, activists and community groups have such a difficult time preventing and sanctioning corporate criminals we must first recognize the vital role of corporate economic power. Assessing the present state and future prospects of corporate crime, this book asks: How did we get here? What do we know about corporate crime? Why does it matter? And what are the main issues/developments today? In the end, it asks the most important question of all: How can political and economic systems be changed to prevent, or at the very least mitigate, the tremendous damage corporate activities are inflicting on human lives, health, jobs, communities and economies?

The ABOUT CANADA series is an accessibly written and affordable collection of books that explore cultural and political issues that are central to our Canadian identity.

Threatening Democracy
SLAPPs and the Judicial Repression of Political Discourse
by Norman Landry

Threatening Democracy is an introduction to the phenomenon of judicial intimidation used against socially and politically active citizens. Strategic lawsuits against public participation (also known by the acronym SLAPP) involve the deliberate use of judicial procedures as tools for intimidation, censorship and political reprisal in the context of social and political debates.

This book discusses strategic lawsuits against public participation by addressing their conceptual difficulties and synthesizing the various social, political and psychological issues associated with SLAPPs. Norman Landry details the processes by which politically active citizens are bullied out of a public sphere of political debate and confined into a legal arena of private action. Landry also provides a comprehensive review of the rights and freedoms threatened by this practice of legal intimidation. Examining SLAPPs in Canada, the United States and Australia, Threatening Democracy illustrates the ways in which the legal system is instrumentalized against activists in order to impede social change.

legal intimidation; Quebec; Écosociété; Bill 9; public debate; gag suit
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Celebrating 30 years of radical publishing to highlight some of Fernwood’s most impactful authors. Each episode is hosted by Nora Loreto to explore how radical books contribute to the work of political movements.

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