

Introduction: Placing Justice

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Since 2009, the Centre for Interdisciplinary Justice Studies (CIJS) – housed in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Winnipeg – has held an annual workshop at University of Winnipeg that brings together national and international scholars, students, and practitioners of justice across the disciplines. Previous iterations of the annual event contemplated broad issues that frame the interdisciplinary study of justice such as the theoretical underpinnings of the justice disciplines (2009), the link between the academy and the community in practices of justice (2010), and the place of the justice disciplines within postsecondary education in Canada (2014). More recently, the CIJS has used the annual event to interrogate new and evolving conceptual approaches and methodologies for the justice disciplines such as visibility and visibility (2015) and most recently a critical interrogation of spatial perspectives on justice and injustice (2016). The CIJS organized *Placing Justice: Critical Perspectives on Space, Justice, Law, and Order*, May 9–11, 2016. Our event was held at University of Winnipeg in conjunction with *Critical Perspectives: A Critical Criminology Workshop* (a joint Carleton and University of Ottawa initiative), which provides an annual Ottawa-based forum for critical scholars and community stakeholders to examine criminological and social justice issues. This was the first joint conference of the CIJS and *Critical Perspectives*, in Winnipeg, making it a truly national interdisciplinary justice dialogue. What follows in this volume are select, peer-reviewed papers that assess issues of place, space, law, justice, and related themes.

Context for this Volume

Place and space are ideal concepts for interdisciplinary justice studies because they implicate a variety of fields including philosophy,

cultural studies, and a variety of social sciences, from geography and politics to history and criminal justice (Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos 2011; Jarzombek 2010; Oglesby and Ross 2009; Marcuse 2009; Escobar 2001; Desfor and Keil 1999). In its broadest sense, the study of space and place involves research on where social practices happen and how context shapes social, political, and economic outcomes. To put it simply, everything happens somewhere and it is therefore important to interrogate the spaces and places where justice and injustice unfold. This is the context to the present volume of the *Annual Review of Interdisciplinary Justice Research*.

Place and space should play a central role in criminal justice studies because they are key resources in the criminal justice process, from experiences of crime to responses to it. For example, when people talk about crime and justice they are often reflecting on certain places (Vilalta 2013; Fornango 2010; Adresen 2006; Warr 1992). Place could mean the home, a neighbourhood or community, a larger area like a city, some area that people move through or exist in, or even a sense of place created by temporary social practices (Lehman-Frisch 2011). Spatial studies of neighbourhood-level perceptions of crime reveal that even in areas statistically associated with high levels of violent and property crime, residents may be more fearful of encounters with other forms of socially marginal behaviour in the everyday micro contexts of daily routines (Kohm 2009). When people talk about crime they experience emotions about place and proximity, though there is variation by race, class, and gender (Pain 2001; Koskela 1997). Some authors have commented on the need to develop a “place-sensitive sociology of public sensibilities towards crime” (Girling et al. 2000: 12).

Place and space matter in criminal justice studies in ways beyond simply fear of crime. They are important in the development of responses to crime, the central focus of criminal justice studies. For example, place and space are recognized as important resources and variables in policing (Walby and Hurl 2014; Walby and Lippert 2012; Bennett 2009; Herbert and Beckett 2006; Eick 2006). Place

and space are also central to studies of prisons and jails (Gowan 2002) and of courts and legal proceedings (Moran 2016; Layard 2010; Valverde 2009; Auty 2009; Mawani 2007; Merry 2001). Beyond the focus on place and space in our own discipline, in this volume we have encouraged an interdisciplinary approach. For instance, social and legal geography investigates the spatialization of law (see Valverde 2011; Blomley 2005, 2004, 2003a, 2003b; Blomley and Sommers 1999; Ford 1999; Mitchell 1997), in which the categorizing of space into public and private becomes a crucial dividing practice.

We also remain open to ideas about what place and space are. Importantly, geographers have shown how place and space are not simply “things” (Peck and Tickell 2002) or geometric zones. Jessop, Brenner, and Jones’s (2008) model of socio-spatial relations is important to note here. These authors offer a typology of place that shows how social practices are 1) embedded in different *places*; 2) oriented toward enclosing different kinds of *territories*; 3) advanced at different kinds of *scales*; and, 4) interlinked in a multifaceted policing *network*. Linking such typologies of place and space to questions of justice and injustice push beyond disciplinary boundaries and open up new frontiers of what John Crank (2004) has referred to as the justice imagination.

The theme *Placing Justice* also refers to imagining a just world, and encourages us to think about the scales at which justice is produced. Space and place extend beyond the physical world into philosophical, institutional, and virtual realms. The Internet, for example, has become a source of place for social activist movements, moments, and justice-based debates. Thus, contributors to this volume also explore the meanings of *Placing Justice* and the possibilities for social change. Overall, the contributions will examine how space and struggles for justice are connected (also see Alfasi and Fenster 2014; Bengtson 2013; Barrera 2012; Schostak 2012; Martin 2011; Iveson 2010; Cunningham 2010; Lewis 2006; Gilbert 2004; Nicholls and Beaumont 2004). Thus, scholars and practitioners as well as

advocates will be interested in the *Placing Justice* theme, extending the breadth of this thematic volume of the *Annual Review of Interdisciplinary Justice Research*.

Cities are now places of advanced forms of social control; they are places where structures of state and economic power are most dramatically affirmed (Hubber and Currie 2007; Keil and Boudreau 2006; Joyce 2003; Escobar 2001; Desfor and Keil 2000). These overlapping social processes contribute to the vitality and value of cities, but also to their most violent practices. This thematic volume thus addresses topics of policy relevance.

Criminal justice and social justice scholars often struggle to define unique theoretical perspectives. We ask: How can the concepts of space and place enhance conceptual work done by interdisciplinary justice scholars? This thematic volume includes papers on spatial methods that should appeal to faculty and students across the justice disciplines. These contributions should foster methodological debates about space in the social sciences (see Katz 2011; Short and Hughes 2009; de Leon and Cohen 2005).

Overview of the Volume

The present volume of the *Annual Review of Interdisciplinary Justice Research* presents the work of scholars from a range of disciplines, artists and practitioners of justice from Canada, the United States, and beyond. Karen D. Schwartz and Zana Marie Lutfiyya examine space and place from the perspective of people with intellectual disabilities. They argue that space and place critically structure the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, and that public attitudes powerfully shape the spaces where they live their lives. Joanne Struch focuses on the spaces of the introductory university writing course in order to interrogate theories of cognitive (in)justices. While acknowledging the possibilities of classroom space for justice, Struch concludes that broader contexts of postsecondary education from wider geographic scales must also be considered in an analysis of pedagogical justice.

Several essays in this volume take up topics related to policing and security. Devin Clancy examines the way police employ violence to reproduce a geography of the Canadian settler state in his study of Indigenous land reclamations at Ipperwash and Caledonia. Mandi Gray and Laura Pin examine security responses to sexual assaults on the campus of a major Canadian university, arguing that policies and practices are informed by rape myths and a neoliberal ethos that underpins the corporatization of the university. John Manzo's ethnomethodological study of private security invokes space as a central analytical concept in a case study of security in situ in a shopping mall. Similarly, Rick Ruddell and Nick Jones explore the use of student participants in a study of perceptions of police, interrogating the role that space and place might play in shaping attitudes. Kristi Brownfield and Courtney A. Waid-Lindberg analyze the places and spaces of rural policing as represented in contemporary fictional American television, noting the way reality is reflected and refracted in these programs and the implications for public perception and justice policy.

Shifting to a discussion of visual methods in the justice disciplines, Kevin Walby interrogates the places and spaces of environmental injustice in his photographic exploration of Uranium City, Saskatchewan. Importantly, Walby draws our attention to the limits of visual methods in capturing the lived experience of justice and injustice in specific spatial contexts. Carolyn McKay's reflection focuses on an artistic installation that imagines the idea of virtual imprisonment – mirroring the tendency for the accused to appear virtually in court in a way that limits their connection to the spaces and places of the justice system. James Gacek and Richard Jochelson critically interrogate recent Supreme Court decisions relating to bestiality and animal cruelty; they argue that, rhetorically and legally, these decisions *place* animals into “the legal zones of property and rights-bearing subject.” Lastly, Valentina Cappurri explores the use of violence as a tactic of resistance in territorial struggles. Countering the view that nonviolence is the only acceptable form of protest, she

instead argues that in order to find a *place* for justice, we must accept the idea that “anything goes.”

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