

MAPPING INJUSTICE: NAVIGATING THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

101

SYLLABUS: RESOURCES TO EMPOWER
COMMUNITIES FIGHTING MASS INCARCERATION



Part One: Policing, Arrest, and Pretrial

ARTICLES:

Policing

- Arch City Defenders, Death by the State: Police Killings and Jail Deaths in St. Louis (Jan. 2021), <https://www.archcitydefenders.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ACD-Death-By-The-State-Police-Killings-and-Jail-Deaths-in-STL.pdf>
 - Report on Fatal State Violence by Arch City Defenders.
- Angela Y. Davis, Why Arguments Against Abolition Inevitably Fail, Medium (Oct. 6, 2020), <https://level.medium.com/why-arguments-against-abolition-inevitably-fail-991342b8d042>
 - An article that explains abolition and its necessity
- Amna Akbar, An Abolitionist Horizon for Police Reform (2020)
 - An article charting the history of police violence and arguing that an abolitionist framework for policing is necessary
- Dorothy Roberts, Abolishing Policing Also Means Abolishing Family Regulation, The Imprint (June 16, 2020), <https://imprintnews.org/child-welfare-2/abolishing-policing-also-means-abolishing-family-regulation/44480>
 - Article calling to defund the police and arguing that divestment should not support diverting funding to other carceral mechanisms.
- Dream Defenders, Defund Police, Rebuild Our Communities, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UFNn-2ZZsCKlwzZmj5MIDa_LqSbcdc9w/edit
 - A report outlining steps that individuals, cities, and states can take to defund the police.
- Jessica Pishko, Are Sheriffs Necessary?, The Appeal (Apr. 24, 2019), <https://theappeal.org/are-sheriffs-necessary/>
 - A brief article that discusses the push to abolish sheriffs.
- Mariame Kaba, Police “Reforms” You Should Always Oppose (Dec. 7, 2014), <https://truthout.org/articles/police-reforms-you-should-always-oppose/>
 - A guide for evaluating proposed police reforms.
- Mariame Kaba, Yes, We Mean Literally Abolish the Police, NY Times (June 12, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/12/opinion/sunday/floyd-abolish-defund-police.html>
 - A short article on the meaning of police abolition.
- May Day Collective and Solidarity & Defense, 12 Things to Do Instead of Calling the Police, <https://www.sproutdistro.com/2017/07/28/new-zine-12-things-cops>
 - A list of alternative options to calling the police.
- Pascal Emmer, Woods Ervin, Derecka Purnell, Andrea J. Ritchie, and Tiffany Wang, UNMASKED: Impacts of Pandemic Policing, Community Resource Hub (Dec. 2020), <https://communityresourcehub.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Unmasked.pdf>
 - A report outlining the relationship between policing and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Arrest

- Assata's Daughters, Copwatch Cards, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/563ba1f2e4b00df90728bb0b/t/5787f663b8a79b31d122f59d/1468528231068/CopWatch+cards.pdf>
 - A set of printable cards that you can keep with you for reference if stopped by the police.
- Assata's Daughters, Know Your Rights, https://docs.google.com/document/d/164dAsBUSS3XGpT4Mm96lt2RFztfqQ_Q1rRP0MLxpGdE/edit
 - A "Know Your Rights" flyer with tips to remember if you are stopped by the police.
- Audrey Nguyen and Noel King, If You're Stopped by Police, You Have Rights To Protect You. Here's What to Remember, NPR Lifekit (Oct. 28, 2020), <https://www.npr.org/2020/10/23/927134939/if-youre-stopped-by-police-you-have-rights-to-protect-you-here-s-what-to-remember>
 - A checklist of rights to keep in mind if you are stopped by the police; also available in audio.

Pretrial

- Jennifer Gonnerman, Before the Law, The New Yorker (Sep. 29, 2014), <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/10/06/before-the-law>
 - An article that describes Kalief Browder's experience as a young person incarcerated on Rikers Island Detention Facility in New York City.
 - Jodi S. Cohen, A Teenager Didn't Do Her Online Schoolwork. So a Judge Sent Her to Juvenile Detention, ProPublica, <https://www.propublica.org/article/a-teenager-didnt-do-her-online-schoolwork-so-a-judge-sent-her-to-juvenile-detention>
 - An article about a fifteen-year-old in Michigan who was arrested after not completing online schoolwork.
 - Malik Neal, What the Pandemic Revealed About 'Progressive' Prosecutors, The N.Y. Times (Feb. 4, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/04/opinion/prosecutors-bail-reform.html>
 - A critique of progressive prosecutors, with a focus on their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - National Bail Out Collective, Until Freedom Comes: A Comprehensive Bailout Toolkit (July 2019), <https://southernersonnewground.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Until-Freedom-Comes-A-Comprehensive-Bailout-Toolkit.pdf>
 - A comprehensive resource for those who want to organize a community-led bailout.
 - WNYC, Police Disciplinary Record Availability by State, <https://project.wnyc.org/disciplinary-records/>
 - A collection of information about police disciplinary record availability by state.
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- Alex Vitale, The End of Policing (2017)
 - A discussion of the history and growth of policing and police departments and alternatives to law enforcement that address harm and other social issues.
 - Andrea J. Ritchie, Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color (2017)
 - A book that centers and explores the experiences of women of color with law enforcement and oppressive and abusive policing.
 - Kristian Williams, Our Enemies in Blue (2004)
 - A book that explores the historical social violence of policing.

BOOKS:

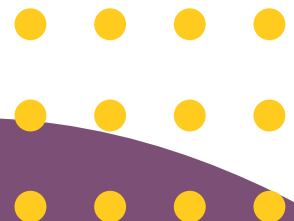
MEDIA:

Podcasts:

- 16 Shots,
<https://www.wbez.org/shows/16-shots/55c63c72-d518-4ad9-b5dc-dd0d841d79a7>
 - A podcast series about the police shooting of Laquan McDonald and the Chicago Police Department.
- NPR Throughline, American Police,
<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/03/869046127/american-police>
 - Interview with Khalil Gibran Muhammad about the history and origins of policing in the United States.
- NPR Code Switch, After the Cameras Leave (Aug. 7, 2019),
<s://www.npr.org/2019/08/07/747012446/after-the-cameras-leave?ft=nprml&f=747012446>
 - A discussion of the status of policing in Ferguson, Missouri five years after Michael Brown's murder.

Films:

- Interrupting Criminalization, 6Ds Until She's Free, available on YouTube,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwwJ3iH_ULM&feature=youtu.be
 - A short video about Interrupting Criminalization's efforts to end criminalization of women, trans, and gender non-conforming people.
- Project NIA & Blue Seat Studios, Defund Police, available on YouTube,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bT0YpOmk8NA&feature=youtu.be>
 - A short animated video about historical and modern policing in the United States
- Crime + Punishment, available on Hulu (2018)
 - Film about NYPD's continued use of quotas after they were outlawed in 2010.
- The Blood Is At The Doorstep, available on Sundance Now and IMDB.tv (2017)
 - Follows Dontre Hamilton's family as they become community organizers after his murder by a police officer.



Part Two: Trial, Sentencing, and Plea Negotiations

ARTICLES:

- American Bar Association, [How Courts Work](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/resources/law_related_education_network/how_courts_work/),
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/resources/law_related_education_network/how_courts_work/
 - Descriptions of each element of a case.
- Clark Neily, [Prisons Are Packed Because Prosecutors Are Coercing Plea Deals. And, Yes, Its Totally Legal](https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/prisons-are-packed-because-prosecutors-are-coercing-plea-deals-yes-ncna1034201), NBC News Think (Aug. 8, 2019),
<https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/prisons-are-packed-because-prosecutors-are-coercing-plea-deals-yes-ncna1034201>
 - An article discussing coercive plea bargaining practices.
- Victoria Law, [Whose Justice System Is It Anyway?](https://progressive.org/magazine/whose-justice-system-is-it-anyway-law/) (Aug. 18, 2020),
<https://progressive.org/magazine/whose-justice-system-is-it-anyway-law/>
 - Explores the meaning and purpose of participatory defense.

BOOKS:

- Alexandra Napatoff, [Punishment Without Crime: How Our Massive Misdemeanor System Traps the Innocent and Makes America More Unequal](#) (2018)
 - A critique of various elements of the massive misdemeanor system in the United States.
- Emily Bazelon, [Charged: The New Movement to Transform American Prosecution and End Mass Incarceration](#) (2019)
 - An exploration of prosecutorial power and the prosecutor's role in perpetuating the crisis of mass incarceration.
- Mumia Abu-Jamal, [Jailhouse Lawyers: Prisoners Defending v. the USA](#) (2009)
 - A book detailing the experiences of incarcerated people's efforts to represent themselves and other incarcerated people.

MEDIA:

Podcasts

- Gideon's Promise, [The Critical Role of Public Defenders in Transforming Justice](https://www.gideonspromise.org/gideonspromisethepodcast/) (June 30, 2020),
<https://www.gideonspromise.org/gideonspromisethepodcast/>
 - A discussion of the roles that public defenders play in the criminal legal system.
- KALW Local Public Radio, [Interview with Maria Ledesma](https://www.kalw.org/post/participatory-defense-trains-families-fight-back-against-justice-system#stream/0) (Organizer with Silicon Valley De-bug),
<https://www.kalw.org/post/participatory-defense-trains-families-fight-back-against-justice-system#stream/0>
 - A brief interview that discusses the basics of participatory defense and how it impacts a loved one's case.

Films

- Ava DuVernay, [When They See Us](#), available on Netflix
 - A miniseries that details the experiences of the Central Park Five, five young men wrongfully convicted in New York City in the 1980s.
- Raj Jayadev, [How Community Transforms the Courts](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lr6_0a6P7M), available on Youtube,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lr6_0a6P7M
 - A TEDx talk by a co-founder of Silicon Valley De-bug about participatory defense.

Part Three: Incarceration and Re-Entry

ARTICLES:

- Essie Justice Group, [Because She's Powerful: The Political Isolation and Resistance of Women with Incarcerated Loved Ones](https://www.becauseshespowerful.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Essie-Justice-Group_Because-She-s-Powerful-Report.pdf),
https://www.becauseshespowerful.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Essie-Justice-Group_Because-She-s-Powerful-Report.pdf
 - A report that explores the impacts of having an incarcerated loved one on women and their lives.
- Katie Rose Quandt and James Ridgeway, [At Angola Prison, Getting Sick Can Be a Death Sentence](https://inthesetimes.com/features/angola-prison-healthcare-abuse-investigation.html) (Dec. 20, 2016),
<https://inthesetimes.com/features/angola-prison-healthcare-abuse-investigation.html>
 - An investigation into Angola prison and the abysmal healthcare practices inside the facilities and carceral system.

- Matthew Menendez and Lauren-Brooke Eisen, [The Steep Costs of Criminal Justice Fines and Fees](https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/steep-costs-criminal-justice-fees-and-fines), Brennan Center (Nov. 21, 2019), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/steep-costs-criminal-justice-fees-and-fines>
 - A report on the impact of fines and fees associated with the criminal legal system.
- Maurice Chammah, [A Boy Among Men](https://www.themarshallproject.org/2015/02/25/a-boy-among-men), The Marshall Project (Feb. 25, 2015), <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2015/02/25/a-boy-among-men>
 - An article about a teenage boy's experience in an adult prison and violence experienced by incarcerated young people generally.
- Nicole D. Porter, [Voting in Jails](https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/voting-in-jails/), The Sentencing Project (May 7, 2020), <https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/voting-in-jails/>
 - A description of the current state of voting in jails.
- Rachel Kushner, [Is Prison Necessary? Ruth Wilson Gilmore Might Change Your Mind](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/17/magazine/prison-abolition-ruth-wilson-gilmore.html), NYT Magazine (Apr. 17, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/17/magazine/prison-abolition-ruth-wilson-gilmore.html>
 - An interview with Ruth Wilson Gilmore.
- Shane Bauer, [My Four Months as a Private Prison Guard](https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/06/cca-private-prisons-corrections-corporation-inmates-investigation-bauer/), Mother Jones (July/August 2016), <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/06/cca-private-prisons-corrections-corporation-inmates-investigation-bauer/>
 - A five-part investigation into the private prison system.
- Survived and Punished NY, [Clemency and Parole](https://survivedandpunished.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SP_ClemencyParoleGuide_Digital.pdf), https://survivedandpunished.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SP_ClemencyParoleGuide_Digital.pdf
 - A guide that explains clemency and parole and how to apply in New York.
- The Ella Baker Center, [Who Pays? The True Costs of Incarceration on Families](http://whopaysreport.org/who-pays-full-report/) (Sep. 2015), <http://whopaysreport.org/who-pays-full-report/>
 - A report that explores the lasting financial, social, and emotional impacts of incarceration on the family unit.
- The Sentencing Project, [Americans with Criminal Records, Poverty and Opportunity Profile](https://www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Americans-with-Criminal-Records-Poverty-and-Opportunity-Profile.pdf), <https://www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Americans-with-Criminal-Records-Poverty-and-Opportunity-Profile.pdf>
 - An infographic outlining the long-term impact of incarceration on reentry.
- The Sentencing Project, [Incarcerated Women and Girls](https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/incarcerated-women-and-girls/), <https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/incarcerated-women-and-girls/>
 - A short report on the involvement of women and girls in the criminal legal system.
- Worth Rises, [The Prison Industry: How it Started, How it Works, How it Harms](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58e127cb1b10e31ed45b20f4/t/5ff2bbe318d44937a922e754/1609743335995/The+Prison+Industry+-+How+It+Started%2C+How+It+Works%2C+and+How+It+Harms+%28December+2020%29.pdf) (Dec. 2020), <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58e127cb1b10e31ed45b20f4/t/5ff2bbe318d44937a922e754/1609743335995/The+Prison+Industry+-+How+It+Started%2C+How+It+Works%2C+and+How+It+Harms+%28December+2020%29.pdf>
 - An extensive report about the history and pervasive impacts of various elements of the prison industrial complex.
- Victoria Law, [Against Carceral Feminism](https://www.jacobinmag.com/2014/10/against-carceral-feminism/), Jacobin (Oct. 2014), <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2014/10/against-carceral-feminism/>
 - A discussion of the intersection of police violence and survivors of domestic violence.

BOOKS:

- Angela Y. Davis, [Are Prisons Obsolete?](#) (2003)
 - Professor Davis lays out the history of the prison system and argues for decarceration and transformation and abolition of systems of incarceration.
- Albert Woodfox, [Solitary](#) (2019)
 - A memoir about Woodfox's 40 years incarcerated at Angola Prison in Louisiana and the social movements he led behind bars.
- Danielle Sered, [Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration, and a Road to Repair](#) (2019)
 - A book that explores alternatives to prison and incarceration, and addressing harm through a restorative justice lens.
- James Forman Jr., [Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America](#) (2017)
 - An exploration of the relationship between communities of color and the failures of "tough-on-crime" policies and responses to violence and harm, often championed by Black and brown community leaders.
- Joey L. Mogul, Andrea J. Ritchie, and Kay Whitlock, [Queer \(In\)Justice: The Criminalization of LGBT People in the United States](#) (2012)
 - A chronicle of the criminalization, policing, and punishment of LGBTQIA people.
- Michelle Alexander, [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](#) (2010)
 - A powerful text that presents the crisis of mass incarceration as a tool of racial control and subjugation while simultaneously providing a roadmap for how we got to this point.
- Ruth Wilson Gilmore, [Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California](#) (2007)
 - Examines the economic and political influences that led to prison expansion in California.
- Talitha L LeFlouria, [Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South](#) (2015)
 - Chronicles the experiences of Black women within the convict leasing system in the South.
- Bryan Stevenson, [Just Mercy](#) (2014)
 - A memoir that confronts unfairness and racism in the death penalty system in the south and the criminal legal system generally.

MEDIA:

Podcasts/Interviews:

- Beyond Prisons, <https://www.beyond-prisons.com/listen>
 - A podcast series that spotlights different elements of the criminal legal system and their impacts.
- Ear Hustle, <https://www.earhustlesq.com/>
 - A podcast series that shares first-person stories and experiences of individuals inside prison and post-incarceration.
- Justice in America, <https://theappeal.org/topics/justice-in-america>
 - A podcast series about various elements of the criminal legal system.
- Intercepted, Ruth Wilson Gilmore Makes the Case for Abolition (June 10, 2020), <https://theintercept.com/2020/06/10/ruth-wilson-gilmore-makes-the-case-for-abolition/>
 - A two-part podcast interview with Ruth Wilson Gilmore, where she discusses prison (and police) abolition.
- This American Life, Unteachable Moment (June 8, 2018), <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/648/transcript>
 - An narrative piece about incarcerated young people and the impacts on access to education.

Films:

- 13th, Ava DuVernay (Netflix), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcg5pF8u8>
 - A documentary film that explores the roots of the prison industrial complex and its impact on Black and Brown communities.
- Convict Leasing, PBS Slavery by Another Name, <https://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/convict-leasing/>
 - A documentary about the convict leasing system in the deep south.

Freedom Dreaming: Building A World Without Systems of Mass Incarceration

ARTICLES:

- 8 to Abolition, Abolitionist Policy Changes to Demand from Your City Officials, https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5edbf321b6026b073fef97d4/t/5ee0817c955eaa484011b8fe/1591771519433/8toAbolition_V2.pdf
 - A collection of various policy demands to address to city officials.
- Logan Jaffe, Torture Included a Public Memorial. Survivors Are Still Waiting. (July 3, 2020), <https://www.propublica.org/article/the-nations-first-reparations-package-to-survivors-of-police-torture-included-a-public-memorial-survivors-are-still-waiting>
 - Describes Chicago's failure to uphold commitment to a reparations package for survivors of police violence.
- Movement for Black Lives (M4BL), Policy Platform, <https://m4bl.org/policy-platforms/>
 - A collection of policy briefs centered on resistance to police and state sanctioned violence.
- Allegra McLeod, Prison Abolition and Grounded Justice, 62 UCLA L. Rev. 1156 (2015), <https://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2502&context=facpub>
 - An academic piece that describes the reasoning behind the prison abolition movement and suggests community alternatives for incarceration.
- Amna Akbar, Toward a Radical Imagination of Law, NYU L. Rev. (June 2018)
 - Academic article that describes the Movement for Black Lives, the transformative power of social movements, and shifting power to communities.
- Avava Stahl, We Have Already Stopped Calling the Cops (July 21, 2020), [What Domestic Violence Activists Can Teach Us About Police Abolition \(bustle.com\)](https://www.bustle.com/p/we-have-already-stopped-calling-the-cops-2020-7-21)
 - Insights from activists and community members working to avoid carceral responses to intercommunal harm.



BOOKS:

- Mariame Kaba, [We Do This 'Til We Free Us](#) (expected 2021)
 - Reflections on the prison industrial complex abolition and a vision for collective liberation.
- Robin D.G. Kelly, [Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination](#) (2002)
 - Explores the history of Black radical thinkers and artists from the twentieth century.
- Kimberly Drew, Jenna Wortham, [Black Futures](#) (2020)
 - Anthology of creative works celebrating Black resistance, movements for social change, art and culture.

MEDIA:

- Radical Imagination, [Police Abolition](https://radicalimagination.us/episodes/police-abolition) (Oct. 7, 2019), <https://radicalimagination.us/episodes/police-abolition>
 - Podcast series that discusses police abolition.
 - Mariame Kaba on Moving Past Punishment, For the Wild (Dec. 27, 2019), <https://forthewild.world/listen/mariame-kaba-on-moving-past-punishment-151>
 - Episode about transformative justice, prison abolition, and community accountability
 - Critical Resistance, <http://criticalresistance.org/>
 - An organization and movement thought leader in resources to dismantle the prison industrial complex and abolish policing.
- 