

Monday May 11, 2026

3C00, 3rd FLOOR, CENTENNIAL HALL

6:00–6:30PM Doors Open and Registration

6:30–7:00PM Welcome to Territory and Opening Remarks

7:00–8:00PM Featured Speaker

Introduction : John Ogunwale, University of Winnipeg

Dr. Onwubiko Agozino

**“The Executive Lawlessness of the
Trump Administration”**

Reflections on the administration of Donald Trump in the US showed supporters and opponents alike that he is not a democrat but a corrupt megalomaniac. His anti-democratic, lawless Executive Orders [EOs] erode what has been a generally presumed and constitutionally protected lynchpin of the U.S. legal system--due process. Yet his authoritarian efforts to dismantle due process could not succeed without the support of other government officials and judicial sycophants. Cabinet flunkies like Secretary for Homeland Security, Kristi Noem, claim the President has the right to remove anyone he wants from the country. The Supreme Court's conservative majority similarly sanctions his dictatorial power grabs by lifting temporary injunctions issued by lower courts whose judges tried to thwart the administration's lawlessness. Whitehouse Press Secretary, Karoline Leavitt, asserted that "America cannot function if President Trump, or any other president for that matter, has their sensitive diplomatic or trade negotiations railroaded by activist judges." I review the Trump administration as an example of judicial corruption.

8:00–9:30PM Welcome Reception with Refreshments



Tuesday May 12, 2026

8:00–8:30AM Coffee (3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall)

8:30–9:45AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANEL 1.1: CORRUPT INSTITUTIONS

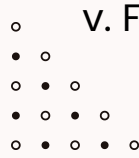
3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall

Chair : Kelly Gorkoff UWinnipeg

“Corporate Crime Through the Lens of Institutional Corruption”

Michele Patricia Akiobe Songolo

Institutional corruption, in the sense proposed by Lessig (2013) and Thompson (2018), refers to a form of corruption that arises from the functioning of rules themselves rather than from their violation. This article mobilizes this concept to examine corporate crime and assess the extent to which the institutions that regulate it may be structurally corrupted. The objective is twofold. First, it aims to show what the notion of institutional corruption contributes to the analysis of corporate crime, beyond approaches centered on individual wrongdoing. Second, it seeks to develop a tool for identifying situations in which corruption stems from institutional mechanisms themselves rather than from individual behaviors. To address this question, the article develops an analytical framework based on three criteria: the diversion of institutional purposes, structural irreformability, and the normalization of deviance. The three complementary theoretical perspectives that structure this framework are Foucault’s (1975) critique of power, North’s (1990) theory of path dependence, and Vaughan’s (1996) concept of the normalization of deviance. The framework is then applied to two cases, the Citizens United v. FEC decision and Glencore’s extractive activities in certain jurisdictions.



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◦ ◦ The analysis shows that, in both cases, corporations do more than violate existing rules; they transform the very functioning of institutions and the ways in which these institutions distribute power. This form of corruption remains largely invisible to major international corruption and governance indices, which struggle to capture its structural and organizational dimensions (Spyromitros & Panagiotidis, 2022), and it proves particularly resistant to reform.

“Institutions of Higher Learning as Sites of State-Corporate Crime: The Neo-Liberal Transformation of Post-Secondary School Education”

Walter S. DeKeseredy, Donna Selman, Andrea DeKeseredy, Ping Lam Ip

It is well-known in progressive academic circles that, with the assistance of government agencies, institutions of higher learning around the world are aggressively and rapidly being transformed into handmaidens of the corporate sector and bastions of rigid neo-liberal thought. There is, indeed, a rapidly growing body of interdisciplinary research on this problem, but critical criminologists have not been fleet of foot in dealing with it. Guided by the path-breaking writings of scholars such as Raymond Michalowski, Ronald Kramer, Herman and Julia Schwendinger, and zemiologists like Victoria Canning and Steve Tombs, this paper makes a compelling case for defining the corporatization of the academy as a state-corporate crime. More specifically, it contends that managerialism, the transformation of students into consumers, what Peter Fleming refers to as the “businessification” of higher education, and related ills (e.g., the exploitation of academic labor) are socially harmful actions resulting from collaborative partnerships between state institutions and the private sector. The damages described in this paper are mutually beneficial to certain political parties and corporations. Additionally, as Taylor, Walton, and Young, authors of the 1973 book *The New Criminology*, would argue, they are also examples of “normalized repression” by capitalists and their government agents. Informed by left realism, this piece concludes by suggesting some short-term strategies to chip away at the neoliberal stranglehold on universities and colleges.

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“Coffee and Crime: Tim Hortons and Canadian Corporate Corruption.”

Zoe M. Savitsky

Tim Hortons has long been an iconic Canadian brand, with thousands of locations across the country and worldwide. But despite its reputation, symbolic cultural meaning, and appeal, it is not only no longer a genuinely Canadian company, but is increasingly the driver, site, locus, and object of myriad forms of corruption. It has been accused of violating Canadians’ privacy through its digital app, violating labour and sick leave laws during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, failing to pay or seeking to avoid paying legally mandated minimum wages, unnecessarily recruiting temporary foreign workers in hopes of finding employees who will accept lower wages and worse working conditions, pushing that temporary workforce into predatory substandard housing, and far more.

This paper uses Tim Hortons as a cauldron, a lens, an exemplar, and an object of material study to pull apart the many ways that corporations are contributing to corruption in Canada in this era. It collects and analyzes the categories of corruption Tim Hortons has been accused of in the past decade, from data theft to human trafficking. For each category of corruption, it assesses the evidence of corruption, any actions taken by public or private actors to respond to that corruption, and the public’s response to the accusation. In doing so, it reveals how corporate corruption is hidden, or amplified, in the Canadian public’s legal imagination, depending on how each form of corruption aligns with, or contradicts, larger conversations, assumptions, and heuristics about societal crises in Canada today.

“I’ll Be Watching You: The Effects of Randomly Assigned NYC Immigration Court Observers”

Lenni B. Benson, Decio Coviello, Nicola Persico, Petra E. Todd
Legal representation is critical for noncitizens seeking relief in U.S.

immigration courts, yet appointed counsel is not guaranteed. This paper reports findings from a randomized controlled trial in which law students were assigned to observe immigration judges during removal hearings.

We examine whether judicial observation—and the message conveyed by

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◦ the observer—affects judges’ procedural decisions and, in turn, respondents’ access to legal representation. We find that observation significantly increases the likelihood that judges grant continuances at initial hearings, allowing respondents additional time to obtain counsel, and increases the probability that respondents are represented at subsequent hearings. The effects exhibit substantial heterogeneity across judges, reflecting differences in baseline tendencies to grant continuances. Lastly, we show that respondents who are able to obtain attorney representation have cases of longer duration and are substantially less likely to experience adverse case outcomes.

PANEL 1.2 : CORRUPTING GENOCIDE AND PERMANENT SECURITY

2M70, 2nd Floor, Manitoba Hall

Chair : Andrew Woolford, UManitoba

“Constructing Genocide: How State-Enacted Legal Frameworks Shape Violence, Victimhood, and Global Response”

KC Boismier

Genocide is inextricably linked to law, such that actionable responses to genocide can only occur within the legal realm. However, this fact obscures the moral and political aspects of genocide, thus socially constructing the issue of genocide within the legalisms of those in power. I argue that the failure of genocide studies, especially in the context of the ongoing genocide in Gaza, reflects the broader, strategic failure of the international legal system. The failure of the international legal system is strategic precisely because it is designed to uphold the hegemony of dominant Western powers, which inherently involves deflecting accusations of, and making rationalizations for, genocidal aggression – if and when it benefits them to do so. The legal, actionable definition of genocide only includes what fits the 1948 Convention determined by state

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actors, rather than the social, historical, or analytical reality. The ability of the state to structure public debates, monopolize legislative agendas, and ultimately create laws, protocols, and institutions for the long-term management of social problems impacts the structure of society (Bail 2015) This, in turn, has direct implications for individual actors on the ground, such as who gets to be a victim or whose life is grievable (Butler 2016).

“Redefining War Crimes in International Criminal Law: Permanent Security, Social Death, and the Legal Blind Spot Exposed by the Minab Girls’ School Attack.”

Pius Forkuo

International Criminal Law (ICL) is corrupted by a fundamental failure of vision: its inability to distinguish between the legal fiction of “collateral damage” and the strategic reality of mass civilian destruction. This paper argues that this blindness is rooted in the law’s failure to criminalize the perpetrator’s core motive: the quest for what A. Dirk Moses calls “permanent security”. Using the February/March bombing of the Shajareh Tayyebbeh girls’ school in Minab during the US-Israeli campaign in Iran as my central case study, I build an integrated framework to dissect this logic. I contend that the pursuit of permanent security activates a necropolitical motive, rendering an entire enemy civilian population disposable. Violence against this population is not accidental but strategic, designed to inflict a collective social death, the systematic destruction of the enemy’s social fabric and future. The reported airstrike in Minab, which killed 168 people, primarily young girls, caused by an attack on a school adjacent to a military complex, exemplifies this strategy. It reveals the causal chain: an absolutist political motive (permanent security) enables a strategic mechanism (necropolitics) to achieve a devastating societal harm. This logic of civilian destruction is the central crime that the International Criminal Law cannot see, a conceptual failure that guarantees impunity for its architects.

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“Convergence of Permanent Security & Neoliberal Capitalism in Contemporary Genocide”

Moinul Hasan Rifat

This presentation examines modern genocidal violence as the structural outcome of permanent security projects intertwined with neoliberal capitalist imperatives that normalize the slow, attritional destruction of targeted populations without moral restraint. Drawing on A. Dirk Moses’s (2021) concept of permanent security, Mbembe’s (2003) necropolitics, Rosenberg’s (2012) genocide as process and genocide by attrition, and Wakeham’s (2022) slow violence of settler colonialism, I contend that the legal and scholarly narrowing of genocide around the Holocaust archetype depoliticizes its roots in imperial, security, and economic logics.

“Permanent Security and Organized Callousness in a Post-9/11 World: United States Military and Collateral Damage”

Kyle Harper

The United States military during the War on Terror has engaged in violent acts against civilian populations in the Middle East under the guise of collateral damage and self defence. According to leaked classified documentation and footage, as well as testimonies from Iraq War veterans, violence against civilians was permitted within a certain degree. Previous research from sociology of war scholars and genocide studies have examined the growing number of civilian casualties in post-9/11 wars and how new warfare technology is heavily impacting civilian populations. Using the concepts of permanent security from A. Dirk Moses and organized callousness from Siniša Malešević & Lea David, this study intends to analyze the shifting dynamics of warfare and the targeted populations. The analysis determines that due to the permanent security and new technology of war, there will be a growing organized callousness that will heavily impact civilians. The ongoing wars in the Middle East are prime examples of this change occurring and how states will engage in future wars.



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“Judas wolf”: Interrogating the militarization of wolf ‘management’ as a settler project”

Tandeep Sidhu, Amy Graham, McKenzie Duguay

The eliminatory logic of settler colonialism operates by rendering Indigenous peoples, and their more-than-human kin, as threats to the material and psychic interests of settlers. This logic is embodied in the destruction of native wildlife species that impede the expansion of extractive industries and the reshaping of land for settler use. The destruction of wolves across North America may be understood as a structural event that characterizes the settler colonial project. This structural event is buttressed by the social construction of the wolf as a ‘threat’ to settler ranching, resource extraction, and hunting interests. The framing of the wolf relies on two discursive discourses: (a) wolves are framed as the primary threat to caribou populations in Western Canada, and (b) reintroduced wolves in the American Northern Rocky Mountains are Canadian superwolves and wildlife terrorists that threaten ranching interests and elk populations. We critically examine how the social construction of wolves as the colonial Other justifies the militarization of wolf ‘management’. We demonstrate the shifts in (a) the tracking of wolves using radio collars, (b) the normalized use of militarized equipment, weapons to kill wolves, and (c) the use of helicopter gunning. We critically engage with how this militaristic management of wolves reinforces and legitimizes extractive settler land use activities, and how this violence may be understood as a form of symbiogenetic destruction that destroys Indigenous knowledge structures and ontological relationships with the land.

“Corrupting Accountability: the Facade of Democratic Abolition”

Chantale Garand, Inez Hillel

Police corruption is rampant across Canadian cities. That corruption is further enabled by accountability processes that bypass standard legal responses and rely on mechanisms that only apply to police. This presentation will look at the similarities between police boards and internal investigative units that create a two-tiered justice system for

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◦ police and allow them to avoid accountability. When police cause harm, there are relatively few avenues for people to pursue resolution against the officers, let alone the institution of policing itself. Many of the routes lead back to the police themselves. This built-in futility is a corruption of accountability mechanisms, which ultimately work to consolidate power among police. By trapping people in procedures where there is little to no likelihood of any transformative response, these mechanisms work to drain organizing capacity and keep energy on working for solutions within the system. When those mechanisms are the only options made available, carceral logics bleed into abolitionist viewpoints and provide us a corrupted vision. These limitations can be exemplified by the Bostock case where civilian complaints were an ineffective mechanism in reducing the harm that he perpetuated during his 22-year career with the Winnipeg Police Service. Are there accountability mechanisms that are publicly accessible that could have been utilized in this case that would have changed the outcome? This presentation will explore how this corruption impacts abolitionist organizing, as a site for potential struggle, and as a barrier to abolitionist imaginations.

“Brooklyn Nine-Nine and the Corruption of the Abolitionist Imagination”

Inez Hillel, Trixie Maybituin

Police-centric shows are effective at reinforcing the narrative that police work is primarily high stakes, dangerous, and consists of complex investigations done by morally righteous officers. Ranging from crime dramas to sitcoms, beloved shows such as Law & Order, Criminal Minds, and Brooklyn Nine-Nine all promote the same false narrative of the “good cop.” As a sitcom, Brooklyn Nine-Nine disassociates its identity from other police-centric productions with its lighthearted and comedic elements. The show is also seemingly unique due to its relatively consistent portrayal of corrupt, racist, and homophobic cops who make up the majority of police officers outside of the main cast. Police brutality and abuse of powers are passed off for jokes if done by those portraying the “good cops”. Taken together, its lighter feel and outward self-awareness make it harder to discern its copagandist agenda. In this presentation, we argue that Brooklyn Nine-Nine realistically depicts how people argue against

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abolishing the police. We suggest that unlike other police shows that are meant to shape present understandings of the police and their role, Brooklyn Nine-Nine can be understood as the alternative to imagined abolitionist futures. By actively depicting the inherent flaws of policing, the show can present a redeemable path forward for the police by identifying solutions that do not undermine police power. This depiction corrupts our collective imagination to envision police-free futures by presenting a ready-made and clear path forward where police reforms effectively produce so-called "good cops".

PANEL 2.2 : RECKONING WITH INJUSTICE AND CORRUPTION

2M70, 2nd Floor, Manitoba Hall

Chair : Nicole Murdock, UWinnipeg

“'I'll Leave With More Hate in My Heart': Institutionalization as State Violence and the Civil Governance of Disorder in Canadian Carceral Regimes.”

Desiree Homolka

Canadian correctional institutions are publicly framed as rehabilitative sites designed to promote responsibility, moral reform, and safe reintegration. This paper argues that incarceration instead corrupts justice by systematically undermining civil personhood and reproducing social exclusion. Drawing on Jeffrey Alexander's civil sphere theory and Phillip Smith's analysis of communicative punishment, institutionalization is reconceptualized not as an individual psychological pathology, but as a civil injury produced through punishment practices rooted in anti-civil logics. Through analysis of Canadian empirical research on prisons, parole, and halfway houses, the paper demonstrates how the carceral system corrupts the moral foundations of justice by communicating symbolic degradation. Incarcerated individuals are positioned as

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dangerous, and morally untrustworthy, eroding core pillars of civil membership such as autonomy, reciprocity, and trust. These symbolic classifications do not merely punish wrongdoing; they institutionalize civic exclusion and legitimate heightened surveillance and control both inside and beyond prison walls. Denied recognition within the civil sphere, incarcerated people develop alternative moral communities within custodial spaces organized around different sacred and profane binaries. While functionally adaptive for survival, these moral orders are later misrecognized in the community as evidence of inherent incivility, reinforcing stigma, parole violations, and recidivism. Justice thus becomes corrupt not through failure to manage risk, but through institutional practices that actively produce anti-civil dispositions and then punish individuals for possessing them. By reframing institutionalization as a civil injury, this paper shifts responsibility for reintegration away from individualized moral reform and toward the collective task of civil repair. The paper contributes to interdisciplinary justice scholarship by exposing how contemporary Canadian corrections corrupt justice by converting rehabilitation into symbolic exclusion.

““I never would fully feel like I ever got any actual justice, in a way’ Defining, discussing and meeting the justice needs of post-secondary survivors of sexual violence”

Amanda Nelund, Joanne Minaker

From 2015 to 2020 we witnessed a period of heightened attention and institutional response to sexual violence on post-secondary campuses. Despite invoking the language of “survivor centered,” few institutions clearly articulate how policies or programming centers victims and there is little research specifying what post-secondary survivors need. Drawing on in-depth qualitative interviews with survivors we explore how survivors define justice, how they (often unknowingly) name complex justice needs and how institutions may respond to and meet those needs. In this presentation we explore how dominant social constructions of justice particularly those rooted in formal criminal justice processes shape survivor’s imaginings of justice. Survivors name justice needs that are broader, such as recognition, connection, and care but rarely directly

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framed these in terms of justice. This opens space for universities to respond well to survivors as many of those needs are suited to the types of services and opportunities on campuses. However, it also invites the question – is there a conceptual justice gap?

“Towards a Conceptual Model of Corrupted Justice in Comparative Drug Policy Analysis”

Steven Hayle

Drug policy is often justified using an objectivist narrative that presents prohibition and enforcement as neutral, rational, and common-sense responses to serious threats to public health and safety. Drawing on an historical and comparative sociological analysis developed in my textbook *International Drug Policy* (published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2025), this paper challenges that narrative through a subjectivist framework in which drug policy can be understood as a form of corrupted justice. Comparative analysis—an underdeveloped but growing field within drug policy studies—reveals patterns that cannot be explained by objective indicators of harm alone. Across a wide range of national contexts, and over a long period of time, punitive drug laws consistently have arisen in response to racialized moral panics, colonial governance projects, and efforts to manage groups who have been socially constructed by politicians and the media as economic or cultural threats. Consequently, differences and similarities between countries can often be explained by colonial history and geopolitics, and not necessarily public health needs. I argue in this paper that a comparative perspective can help to illuminate the historical processes through which drug policy becomes a corrupted tool of social control. These corrupted foundations shaped the development of international drug law, and they continue to influence contemporary justice systems today. Using a synthesis of existing theoretical scholarship and historical case studies, this paper introduces a conceptual model of “corrupted justice” in comparative-historical drug policy, identifying how economic interests, state politics, and colonialism have structured drug governance across space and time.

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12:00-1:00PM Lunch – Sponsored by CIJS (3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall)

1:00-1:50PM Featured Speaker

3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall

Introduction : Kelly Gorkoff, University of Winnipeg

Dr. Steve Bittle

“Corruption as Mystification: Rethinking Justice under Capitalism”

Corruption is invoked across moral, legal, and political domains, yet its ubiquity conceals significant conceptual fragmentation. It often denotes discrete rule-breaking incidents while leaving systemic power relations unexamined. We argue that within dominant policy frameworks, "corruption" functions as a discursive strategy that frames wrongdoing as a deviation from an otherwise legitimate set of rules within an equally uncontested social order. This incident-focused orientation channels interventions toward technocratic monitoring and compliance, thereby obscuring the structural harms and forms of corruption endemic to contemporary capitalism. According to the predominate view that the social order is liberal pluralist and governed according to the rule of law and democratic legislative processes, corruption is understood as the actions of primarily individuals deviating from legitimate external rules and therefore these individuals can be identified and controlled. Drawing on two case studies -- the state's regulation of corporate violence and the global anti-corruption movement -- we explore how corruption is conceptualized in narrow, individualistic terms that effectively obscures forms of systemic or 'grand' corruption having to do with the creation of the very rules supposedly broken by corrupt actors, which make other forms of corrosive activity legal and acceptable. The paper concludes with a call to conceptualize corruption as a structural problematic that requires remedies rooted in transformative political ideals.

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2:00–3:15PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANEL 3.1: Corruption and Injustice in International Contexts

3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall

Chair : Amanda Nelund, McEwan University

“The Board of Peace and the Corruption of International Justice”

Nathan Derejko

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2803, adopted on 17 November 2025, establishes a controversial framework for the post-conflict governance of Gaza by endorsing the United States’ “Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict.” Although the resolution is marked by significant gaps and an unprecedented degree of constructive ambiguity, two elements are clear and deeply contentious. First, the resolution authorizes the creation of the Board of Peace (BoP), a transitional administrative body chaired by U.S. President Trump. Second, it establishes the International Stabilization Force (ISF), a multinational entity mandated with the demilitarization of Gaza. This paper provides a critical legal analysis of UNSC Resolution 2803 under international law, including its legal basis and status. In doing so, it examines if/how Resolution 2803 constitutes a fundamental departure from established UNSC practice; if/how it undermines and constrains core principles of international law, including mechanisms of oversight and accountability; if/how it arguably violates both the UN Charter and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination; and, finally, arguing that it represents a form of neo-colonial governance legitimized through the political and legal authority of the Security Council, and thus is a profound corruption of international justice.

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“Criminalizing Rohingya Mobility and the Production of Corruption in Bangladesh”

Rokon Uddin, Muhammad Asadullah, Sharin Fatema

Bangladesh hosts over a million Rohingya population and considers them as “forcibly displaced foreign nationals” (FDMN), implying that they are illegal immigrants. They are primarily governed through legal exclusion and mobility restrictions. Their presence in Bangladesh is not only criminalized, but they are also made invisible to the legal infrastructure, especially by barring them from pathways of lawful registration. Existing scholarship concentrates on: (a) legal precarity and protection deficits of the Rohingya, and (b) the impact of the Rohingya influx on the host community; however, there has hardly been any attention on how criminalizing Rohingya mobility systematically creates opportunities for everyday corruption and exploitation. This paper argues that criminalization of Rohingya mobility produces an inevitable “economy of permission,” in which refugees must routinely pay to both state and non-state actors to bypass legal and administrative constraints. To address the research gap, we place special emphasis on the key criminalized domains of Rohingya mobility, such as their movement for work, education, marriage, documentation, and onward migration. The paper undertakes a socio-legal analysis beginning with a review of the existing regulatory framework governing Rohingya mobility. To examine how this framework operates in practice, reported incidents of Rohingya detention published in local newspapers will be systematically documented and analyzed. This analysis will identify the contexts, actors, and motivations associated with mobility-related detention of Rohingyas. Based on the findings of this secondary analysis, around 15 respondents – including Rohingya individuals, law enforcement personnel, and humanitarian actors – will be interviewed regarding Rohingyas’ mobility-related encounters with authorities, particularly how such restrictions are bypassed through corruption. By researching the mobility restrictions as generators of corruption rather than merely instruments of control, the paper contributes to interdisciplinary debates on the corruption of justice systems and the criminalization of marginalized communities.

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“Administrative Corruption and the Criminalization of the Sick in Nigeria’s Healthcare System”

Jamilu Ibrahim Mukhtar, Ogunwale Adeniyi John

This study examines administrative corruption in Nigeria’s healthcare system and how it contributes to the criminalization of the sick. The paper is guided by three objectives. It seeks to identify the subjective rationalizations and situational definitions that make healthcare workers perceive informal payments as acceptable. It also analyzes the techniques of neutralization used to justify such practices and explains how these processes lead to the criminalization of patients. The study further examines how the interaction between corruption and criminalization weakens health justice in Nigeria. The paper adopts biased conformity theory as its analytical framework. The theory explains how actors engage in selective obedience to laws based on subjective meanings and perceived advantages. A qualitative case study design was used, relying on secondary data sources. The data were analyzed using thematic analysis guided by the assumptions of the theory. The findings show that healthcare workers often interpret informal payments as necessary responses to poor remuneration and weak institutional control. Through techniques of neutralization, they justify these practices while still maintaining the image of professional caregivers. Patients who are unable to pay are then redefined as undeserving or problematic. This process gradually transforms them from legitimate patients into subjects of exclusion and control. The study concludes that administrative corruption in healthcare is sustained not only by structural factors but also by cognitive and moral justifications. It recommends stronger accountability systems, ethical reorientation in medical training, and broader institutional reforms to protect patients from exploitation and criminalization.

“Decolonizing the Judiciary in India: Undertrials and the Justice System”

Emma Alexander, Arvind Kumar

More than 30% of the prisoners on remand (known as undertrials) in Indian jails are comprised of Dalits and Adivasis. They are the most

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marginalized communities in India. Their combined population is less than 25% of 1.428 billion.¹ However, their representation in the subordinate judiciary at the district there is representation, but in the High Court representation is almost negligible and in the Supreme Court of India they are currently completely absent. To date there have been only two members of the Dalit community who were appointed as the Chief Justice of India, that too, for a short period of time. The highest ranks of the judiciary lack diversity and are dominated by what B.R. Ambedkar called the 'Governing Class'. The argument of the paper is that the over-representation of Dalits-Adivasis among the accused and their negligible representation in the higher judiciary is a sign of the corrupt structure currently plaguing the Indian judicial system. The Law Commission of India has questioned the dominance of savarnas (so-called higher castes) and attributed this dominance to the closed character of the collegium system. This paper analyzes how the under-representation of Dalit-Adivasis is inversely proportionate to over-representation of Dalit-Adivasis undertrials in Indian jails.

PANEL 3.2 : Corrupting Culture

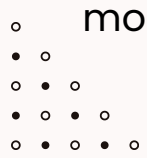
2M70, 2nd Floor, Manitoba Hall

Chair : Travis Linnemann, Kansas State

“Fight Infection with Bullets: Resident Evil: Requiem and the Militarized Syndemic”

Christina Fawcett, Alan McGreevy

Resident Evil has long featured illness as a driver of conflict and threat: as paramilitary organizations of S.T.A.R.S, B.S.A.A. and D.S.O. respond to bioterrorist and world-ending infections, the games and films show heroes battling disease with guns. Resident Evil: Requiem lets us play law-enforcement, as the story balances between two playable characters: F.B.I. analyst Grace Ashcroft and Division of Security Operations (D.S.O.) officer Leon Kennedy. Centring militarized police in games about monsters, disease and infection draws attention to the cultural elision of



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◦ crime and illness as moral syndemic. Epidemiological criminology draws from the long history of tying health to morality, and critiques how society frames both illness and criminality as socially deviant. Resident Evil: Requiem centres two law enforcement officers who unpack a mystery and attack a threat while deploying language of corruption for those who threaten, and are threatened by, law enforcement. Drawing on popular criminology and epidemiological criminology, we examine how Resident Evil: Requiem uses the monstrous zombie as a target of policing and control: the diseased body as disruptive and thus criminalized. The experiences of our police protagonists focuses us on our survival at the cost of any creatures and peoples we encounter.

In a change from earlier Resident Evil games, many infected maintain some voice and identity. This drags the zombie back into the realm of the human, and in doing so opens avenues of countervisual critique of hypermilitarised policing, our responses to disease as corruption, and the corporate and systemic causes of disease.

“Corrupting Influences and Haunting Violence: The Canadian Horror of *Les Chambres Rouges*”

Meg Lonergan

Les Chambres Rouges (or Red Rooms en anglais) is a 2023 French-Canadian psychological horror. The film centers on Kelly-Anne, a young woman obsessed with the ongoing trial of Luovic Chevalier for the abduction, murder, and creation of online “snuff films” of three teenage girls. Film critics note the similarities to the 2012 murder committed by Luka Magnotta and later uploaded online (Ramond 2023) and to the crimes of “Schoolgirl Killer” Paul Bernardo in the early 1990s (Dumais 2023). The film’s director Pascal Plante states in an interview he was inspired while watching a lot of true crime media during the pandemic (Radio-Canada 2023).

While the film has been praised for its restraint in presenting suggested rather than explicit violence on screen, both Plante’s interviews and reviewers repeat the narrative that true crime media and representations are only potential dangers for some other imagined potential viewer (see Bélanger 2024; Loayza 2024). This echoes historical arguments for

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obscene materials being allowable for some privileged few, but not those vulnerable to such depraved and corrupting influences (Mullin 2018). This argument has returned to the fore of Canadian political debate again as Parliament continues to try to enact Online Harms legislation in the name of public safety (House of Commons Bill C-36; Lonergan 2026). Using a ghost criminological approach (Fiddler et al. 2023), I speak to the specters haunting both the film *Les Chambres Rouges*, the Canadian cultural imagination and obscenity law.

“Corrupting Masculinities in Popular Cultural Depictions of Death”

Alicia Horton, Steven Kohm

Cinematic and popular cultural depictions of policing, crime, and war are ideological in their representation of gender, serving as “a medium for the definition of masculinity” (Rafter 2006: 119). Mainstream cultural representations draw on ideal constructions of masculinity, emphasizing toughness, heterosexuality, bravery and strength (Rafter 2006), equating the violence of war and criminal justice with fantasies about male efficacy (e.g. King 1999). This paper explores a neglected aspect of the cultural construction of masculinity: death and dying. Drawing on an illustrative sample of film, TV and streaming media about policing, war and crime, we qualitatively analyze how depictions of death work in tandem with other cinematographic elements to construct fantasies about the ideal man. We argue that media representations of death participate in the social construction of masculinity, forming a continuum from heroic and manly, to cowardly and weak. Performing a ‘manly’ death affirms the ideal traits of masculinity which are central to cultural constructions of policing and the criminal justice system. We demonstrate that the representation of death provides transformative moments in popular culture to affirm, occasionally contest, and participate in the construction of ideal forms of masculinity.

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3:30–4:20AM Featured Speaker

3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall

Introduction : Amy Desrochers, University of Winnipeg

Dr. Evelyn Maeder +

Dr. Michelle Bertrand

“The ‘Final Bulwark Against Oppressive Laws’?: Interrogating the Canadian Jury”

We examine the system-level corruption of jury selection and jury decision-making processes in Canada. Using data from our own programs of research, we argue that neither the Court nor Parliament made evidence-based decisions when determining recent interventions to jury processes and that some of these may have exacerbated the problems they were designed to solve. Further, we contend that the Court’s – and Parliament’s – attempts to address issues of bias during jury selections and within jurors themselves are either too narrow or too blunt to effect meaningful change. Lastly, we discuss the practical difficulties faced by Canadian jury researchers in accessing information about Canadian jury-related processes, the issues surrounding the acceptability of simulation-based research despite this lack of access, and how these difficulties compound the issues presented. We provide recommendations to address issues within Canadian jury processes, and maintain that despite these issues, juries nonetheless provide an important function in the Canadian context.

4:30PM–5:30PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANEL 4.1 : CORRUPTION AND POLICING

3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall

Chair : Inez Hillel, Vivic Research & Winnipeg Police
Cause Harm

“Representations of Drone Use in Public Police YouTube Videos”

Ryley Kowalski, Kevin Walby

Public police adopt new technologies to enhance their power and capabilities. In the past decade, public police have adopted and incorporated the use of unmanned aerial drones into police work in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere. The purpose of this paper is to examine videos promoting police drones and videos that make claims about drone effectiveness and capabilities. Our objective is to understand how police frame and legitimate these new practices through police visibility and visualization on social media. We provide a semiotic analysis of police communications about drones in YouTube videos published by police services. Drawing from Valverde’s (2006) approach to social semiotics, examining the form, content, and context of these videos, we show that the videos use rhetorical strategies to convey the prowess of police drone use and the capacities of police drones.

“Defunding the Police Through Indigenous Elders’ Teachings”

John G. Hansen

Racialized policing in Canada contributes to the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system. It reinforces patterns of surveillance and criminalization grounded in colonization and social exclusion. Police frequently respond to poverty, addictions, and mental health crises without addressing their structural causes. Within this context, arguments to defund the police represent a reallocation of resources toward community-based conflict resolution rather than an

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◦ abandonment of public safety. Drawing on qualitative research with six Swampy Cree Elders, this paper interprets Elders' teachings as a framework for reimagining justice beyond carceral control. The Elders emphasize accountability, respect, humility, reciprocity, and cultural teachings as foundations for strengthening relationships in schools and communities. From this perspective, harm is addressed through social inclusion and relational accountability rather than surveillance and punishment.

In relation to the theme of Corrupting Justice, this paper argues that racialized policing represents a structural corruption of justice. Defunding the police requires redirecting public resources toward Indigenous-led education, community development, and culturally grounded initiatives that prevent harm before it escalates. Elders' teachings offer a decolonized model of justice and safety grounded in traditional knowledge and community wellbeing that can reduce the need for police intervention. This paper contributes to critical criminology by demonstrating that community safety is strengthened not through expanded enforcement, but through restoring relationships and dismantling the social exclusion that policing fails to resolve.

"Breach and Clear: A Bivariate Analysis of Racial Disparities in SWAT Team Use of Force and its Implications for Understanding Race-Based Data"

Tandeep Sidhu, Merissa Daborn, Alexander Vessoian

The remedial aim of race-based data (RBD) is undermined by its capacity to create knowledge that racializes crime, obfuscating evidence of systemic racism. Institutional counternarratives, using these distorted figures, may be advanced by the state and advocacy scholars to expand crime control. Extrapolating from Said (1978), the use of RBD is part of a broader political strategy that creates knowledge of the racial Other. Owing to the institutionalized nature of RBD, we argue that critical researchers must contextualize this data relative to its sociopolitical context to pre-empt institutional counternarratives. This paper engages in a bivariate analysis of over 1100 tactical unit use of force incidents from Ontario, Canada. We examine key contextual factors such as weapon

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possession, call type, and racial differences in the use of force. We find that Black and other racialized people are (a) more likely to experience more severe forms of use of force, (b) are less likely to be in possession of a weapon, and (c) are less likely to encounter the police in emergency calls for service than their White counterparts. However, statistics demonstrating the overrepresentation of Black people in use of force data may be misread as a proxy for criminality. Rather than examining these findings in a positivist vacuum, we interrogate how these disparities are a byproduct of the racialized function of militarized policing.

PANEL 4.2 : Carceral Corruption

2M70, 2nd Floor, Manitoba Hall

Chair : James Gacek, URegina

“Corrupting Reconciliation: he Reconciliation–Carcerality Contradiction and the Dauphin Centre for Justice”

Nicole Murdock

In November 2025, the Government of Manitoba committed to breaking ground on the Dauphin Centre for Justice – a provincial correctional facility announced through the language of healing, partnership, and reconciliation. This paper argues that the Dauphin Centre for Justice is not a reconciliation achievement, but an expression of what this paper names the reconciliation–carcerality contradiction: a structural condition in which reconciliation discourse and carceral expansion function as mutually reinforcing logics within the same governing apparatus, producing the appearance of transformation without the redistribution of authority that transformation requires. Drawing on conjunctural analysis, this paper maps the competing forces organized around the announcement of the Dauphin Centre for Justice, examining provincial governance, Indigenous sovereignty frameworks, and abolitionist critique as distinct positions organized around a shared structural problem. That problem is the distinction between recognition and jurisdictional sovereignty – two

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fundamentally different accounts of where authority resides. This paper argues that reconciliation language mobilized in service of carceral expansion does not simply fall short of its commitments, but actively conceals the jurisdictional question at the centre of those commitments, functioning as institutional corruption of the framework it claims to express.

“The Rise of the Status of Exception”

Nyki Kish

Life sentences are on the rise in Canada, accounting for over 28 percent of the federal prison population. In the shadow of this extreme sentence which imposes punishment until death, a host of legal, social, political, ethical, and moral issues result. Drawing upon my research and Giorgio Agamben’s concept of the state of exception, I demonstrate how the experiences of people on parole for life represent all of the logics and functions of states of exception, but shift the typically geographically focused phenomena into a mobile and embodied occurrence, via statuses of exception. For life sentenced people in Canada, ordinary rights and remedies are suspended permanently through legal and administrative mechanisms that normalize and operationalize permanent exclusion from most conditions of juridical life—life sentenced people live in the community and are expected to fully participate from beneath conditions of exclusion, precarity, and deep surveillance. Further, the legal architecture of life sentencing—its rhetoric of finality, its administrative opacity, and its constrained avenues for review—actively manufactures a condition of bare life within a broader socio-political climate where individual rights for people in conflict with the law generally are in contest. Finally, remedying this requires structural change: reform must target the administrative and rhetorical practices that produce juridical abandonment, not only adjustments to sentence length. The presentation will conclude with concrete directions for litigation, advocacy, and scholarship aimed at dismantling exceptional carceral regimes.

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“Incarceration ‘Corrupting’ Health? Incarceration as a Social Determinant of Health for Formerly Incarcerated Older Persons”

James Gacek, Amin Asfari, Andrew McLennan

Does custodial space age people? And what can custodial spaces do to help people as they age—if anything? Our qualitative study explores the experiences of formerly incarcerated older persons (i.e., 50 years of age and older) navigating health, social, and community services within and beyond incarceration. Responses to the questions above highlighted an intersection between (old) age and health, an intersection which, if we consider ‘corruption’ as the debasing or changing of someone through (un)intentional alterations, encourages us to reconsider the role incarceration has for those in custody and upon release. Our sample of formerly incarcerated older persons (n=7), based in Saskatchewan, conceptualize their responses to the questions through mental and physical health needs, and social perceptions and experiences. They also reflected upon their health and wellness while incarcerated, and how their time incarcerated has impacted their health and wellness since release. Our findings highlight how incarceration can serve as a catalyst to aging, the complex needs older persons require behind and beyond bars, while carving open and nuancing conversation about health, (old) age, and healthcare access perceptions and experiences across society.

5:30–8:00PM Social Event – Appetizers, Cash Bar, and Lively Conversation (University Club, 4th Floor, Wesley Hall)

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Wednesday May 13, 2026

8:30–9:00AM Coffee (3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall)

PANEL 5.1: CORRUPTING GENOCIDE: NATURE, GENDER, AND RACIALIZATION

3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall


Chair : Andrew Woolford, UManitoba

“Why Ecoside is not the 5th International Crime Against Peace”

Lacee O’Neil

Legal formulations of ecocide have enabled and authorized ecocide due to the way it is narrowly defined. The narrow definition of the term leads to the punishment of only very specific types of ecocides. Additionally, the narrow definition of ecocide makes it very hard for states to be held accountable for committing such crimes; it is, for example, hard to establish specific intent of ecocide as it is difficult to prove the intentionality behind the actions of the perpetrators. In many modern capitalist countries, there has been a blurring of the lines between what is considered a crime of ecocide, and what are simply the unintended consequences of capitalistic gain in countries with large extractivist based economies. Because of this, ecocide has yet to be adopted as the fifth international crime in the Rome Statute. This presentation utilizes a qualitative socio-legal analyses to compare initiatives taken by in Vanuatu, Fiji, and Samoa to push the International Criminal Court to include ecocide in international law with Belgium, the first EU country to incorporate ecocide into their national criminal code. This is done to better understand the way that the law operates on domestic and

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- international scales in regard to dealing with ecocide as a crime. Ecocide has led to both cultural and physical destruction of groups, albeit in often much slower and more discrete ways than in typical genocides and should therefore still be punishable under international criminal law. This presentation will reveal that in many instances, crimes of ecocide can lead to genocidal outcomes, and should therefore be included in the International Criminal Court instead of only select individual countries.

“Too white to be Black and too Black to be white: the Brazilian whitening program from 1889–1930”

Romulo Schembida

The idea of race and civilization shaped the construction of the Brazilian Republic. In this study, I argue that the concern with “citizen quality” drove state planning for modernization from 1889 to 1930. After the abolition of slavery, the main question for the local elites was how to bring a country with a black majority to the age of civilization. This study shows that, just as modernization and development are regarded as a process, the whitening of the population was envisioned as a long-term goal of social engineering. In this respect, whitening policies like immigration contributed to intensifying the pace of population racial change. Such policies were associated with the vision of the scientific community and elites that racial mixing should be the Brazilian approach for long-term whitening. I draw on Nicholas Rose and Carlos Novas’s concept of biological citizenship to illuminate how the notion of “citizenship quality” played a central role in shaping racial policies in the country. Patrick Wolfe’s logic of elimination sheds light on this case. The local elites envisioned that blackness was doomed to end as a long-term process. Thus, the black genocide in Brazil did not necessarily involve mass killings, but a slow process of elimination of culture, memory, and ancestry.

“What about white men?": A critical look at the misuse of genocidal language in contemporary times.”

Abbey Cook

White masculinity is increasingly framed as under threat within

- contemporary political and online discourse. This paper examines how the
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- misappropriation of genocidal language constructs narratives of white masculine victimhood that mobilises fear into an urgency to act. By drawing on Sara Ahmed’s (2004) theory of affect, in tandem with theories of masculinity (Connell, 2005; Kimmel, 2013) and securitization (Moses, 2021), this paper argues that the appropriation of genocidal language misrepresents social shifts in gender and racial hierarchization as an existential threat to white men. Through use of the Great Replacement conspiracy theory, these demographic and cultural changes are discursively misconstrued as a genocidal act. This misrepresentation creates a narrative of urgency that evokes Dirk Moses’s (2021) notion of permanent securitization, justifying reactionary (often times violent) reactions to protect white masculinity. This paper demonstrates that genocidal discourse too often functions as a political tool to legitimize and restore traditional hierarchies.

“Do You Believe in Human Rights?": How the Anti-Choice Movement has Co-Opted Discussions of Genocide to Perpetuate Control over Choice"

Madison Stenning-Brown

Anti-choice groups throughout North America, such as The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform (Canada) and the National Right to Life Committee (U.S.) have articulated an argument against the right for one to access abortion that centres on defining the act of abortion as genocide. The attempt to conceptualize abortion as genocide harms the state of reproductive rights throughout North America by defining the fetus as part of a group as well as through representing the pregnant person as a potential genocidal accomplice or perpetrator. I suggest this corruption of the genocide concept is an act of biopower that seeks to enhance control over reproductive bodies, ultimately restricting bodily autonomy. The anti-choice argument that abortion is genocide illuminates, at a discursive and structural level, the ongoing attempts to control the bodily choices of women.

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“Dehumanization and De-Worlding: Conceptualizing Disconnection in a Post-Anthropocentric Genocide Studies.”

Wanda June, Andrew Woolford

In genocide studies the concept of dehumanization captures the process whereby a potential target is symbolically reduced to a condition to make them more easily expendable at the hands of perpetrators. While offering a useful descriptor for how individuals and groups are removed from ethical consideration by being presented as other-than-human, we note two limitations to the concept: 1) It centres the human as the basis for ethical relations and, in so doing, it reproduces a social-natural dichotomy by which more-than-human entities can be subject to world-destructive violence with impunity, since they are, by definition, devalued; and, 2) most important to our analysis, it misses how human and more-than-human assemblages are together represented as in need of destruction. In contrast, we propose the notion of unworlding to describe the discursive and material processes that prime perpetrators to separate, purify, and cull human and more-than-human entities enmeshed in group relations. Examples to illustrate our arguments will be drawn from Cambodia and Canada.

10:00–10:50AM Featured Speaker

3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall

Introduction : Marcella Cassiano, University of Winnipeg

Dr. Valentin Pereda

“Endemic Police Corruption and the War on Organized Crime in Mexico: Deception, Culture, and Gendered Trajectories”

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Research on police corruption and misconduct is well established, yet the relationship between corruption and the policing of organized crime remains underexplored, particularly in contexts where both phenomena are endemic. Drawing on qualitative research conducted between 2015 and 2025, this presentation examines how systemic corruption within Mexico's now-defunct Federal Police shaped the ethos, occupational cultures, and practices of officers tasked with enforcing the country's war on organized crime. The analysis synthesizes findings from three peer-reviewed studies focusing on: (1) mechanisms of corruption concealment; (2) the occupational culture of a specialized anti-organized crime unit; and (3) the professional trajectory of a female officer occupying a highly atypical role. Together, these cases illuminate different facets of corruption within an institution operating under extreme violence, organizational instability, and intense foreign pressure. The presentation critically assesses dominant Euro-American theories of police culture and corruption and unearths unexplored facets of policing in Latin America.

11:30AM-12:30PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANEL 6.1: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CORRUPTION

3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall

Chair : Andrea Dekeseredy, UAlberta

“Comparing News Representations of Police Use of Artificial Intelligence and License Plate Recognition Technologies in Canada”

Shelby Buhle, Kevin Walby, Mary Adedayo

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly being embedded in our daily lives and is also becoming more prominently used in the criminal justice system. Most literature focus on the different viewpoints on AI use

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◦ ◦ individually, without a general framing of the issues and benefits often identified by different stakeholders. In this paper, we explore news media depictions of AI used in Canadian criminal justice settings. Specifically, we examine news depictions of general police uses of AI as compared to news accounts of automated license plate recognition (ALPR) and facial recognition technology (FRT). We have located six major frames that appear in media discussions of AI and that shape public views of the use of these technologies in policing. These are legitimization, utility, trust building, governance, inevitable future, and fear-based frames. Our analysis reveals the array of positions that stakeholders are taking on issues of AI in policing. We note that these technologies are being widely adopted despite the prevalence of critical and negative claims from across the political spectrum. This paper should be of interest to scholars studying AI and society, as well as those interested in how new technologies are debated and framed in the media.

“Corrupting Environmental Justice and Genocide Prevention: Echo-Chambers of Denialism in the Era of the Anthropocene and Artificial Intelligence (AI)”

Wanda Nyx June, Karissa Berndt, Calum Munday

This presentation is intended to initiate dialogue about the corrupting force of AI-amplified denialism threatening to undermine gains made in environmental justice and genocide prevention. Climate change is arguably the greatest threat facing the planet, and its far-reaching implications are intertwined with genocidal outcomes in several ways. For example, climate change can exacerbate existing conditions of resource scarcity, which is recognized as a key contributing factor in armed conflict and the risk of genocide. As another example, in Canada, like other settler-colonial nations, resource extraction and climate change are intrinsically linked to the ongoing attempted genocide of Indigenous peoples. In this paper, we explore two seemingly divergent yet intersecting phenomena that have emerged in the era of the anthropocene and artificial intelligence, each accelerating the other. On the one hand, there is evidence of increasing public awareness of climate change and mass atrocities that is driving pressure on national and international governing

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bodies to address the climate crisis and to intervene in cases of potential genocide. On the other hand, the rise of far-right nationalism on a global scale, enabled by an unprecedented ability to circulate misleading and false narratives through AI-generated propaganda and algorithm amplification, is fuelling a resurgence in climate change and genocide denialism. We conclude by discussing the potential for new theoretical insights to frame our understanding of, and response to, the corruption of AI-intensified echo-chambers of denialism.

PANEL 6.2 : Corrupting Media and Popular Culture

2M70, 2nd Floor, Manitoba Hall

Chair : Christina Fawcett, UWinnipeg

“Legal Outcomes, Public Judgements: Social Media Responses to the Hockey Canada Trial”

Maria Cashore

This paper examines the 2025 trial of five members of the 2018 Canada World Junior hockey team accused of sexual assault, focusing on how the legal process and its outcome(s) are interpreted and contested in online public discourse. The accused were acquitted, with the presiding judge citing concerns about the complainant’s credibility as vital to the verdict. This case provides a critical lens to examine how legal processes shape broader understandings of truth, credibility, and justice in sexual assault trials. Employing qualitative analysis, this paper analyzes approximately 200 social media posts and comments from X (formerly Twitter) collected between April and July 2025. These posts are in response to trial developments, such as initial laying of charges, legal arguments, complainant and defendant testimonies, presentation of evidence, closing arguments, and, ultimately, the final verdict. This analysis focuses on how individuals interpret and debate issues of credibility, consent, and institutional legitimacy in real time. Engaging with the subtheme of culture and representation of corruption and justice, this paper situates the online

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◦ discourse within broader critiques of Canada's criminal justice system's handling of sexual assault. It is argued that public reactions reveal how legal standards, particularly those centred on credibility, may be understood as producing and/or reinforcing forms of corrupting justice, highlighting tensions between legal outcomes and public perceptions of justice in sexual assault cases.

"Snow Woke and DEIsney: YouTube Hate Videos, Feminist Scapegoats, and Troll Coalitions Against Disney's Snow White"

Pauline Greenhill, Heidi Kosonen, Aleksi Knuutila

Focusing on the hate campaign against Disney's live action Snow White (2025), we examine three databases: two anti-woke YouTube videos, aiming to incite hatred toward the film and its racialised main actor Rachel Zegler, and their comment sites, as well as the comments on the first teaser trailer. These sources claim a corrupt and unjust conspiracy by progressives, feminists, the anti-woke, critical race theorists, and other agents of social justice. We combine AI-assisted topic modelling with qualitative analysis and study these sources from the viewpoints of affective-discursive practices that can explain the review-bombing of the production and the hate speech campaign against Zegler. The anti-woke videos offer examples of the larger anti-feminist "alternative influence network" described by Rebecca Lewis, consisting of ideological agents working across media systems, cloaking toxic conservative and anti-democratic messages as forms of cultural commentary. The hate videos and their comment sites employ scapegoating and other related practices familiar from far-right participatory culture. They also show a dislike campaign aiming to strategically influence the production's audience metrics. We argue that instead of a spontaneous outpouring of fan discontent, in question is a semi-coordinated crusade weaponizing digital platforms to reinforce and reproduce social and cultural hierarchies, threatening the possibilities for media to reflect a society based in equity.

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“Popular Constructions of Canada in Crime Films”

Steven Kohm, Kaitlin Henley

The past year has been marked by aggressive rhetoric and imperial-colonial threats from Canada’s closest neighbour. Calls by President Donald Trump for Canada to become the 51st state have prompted serious national reflection about our economic dependence on the United States. Indeed, Canada has long lamented American influence over many aspects of our society – including the powerful influence of Hollywood over popular culture. Moreover, Hollywood’s cultural dominance has worked in tandem with American Criminology to shape popular sensibilities about crime and justice in Canada. Arguably this represents an ideological form of imperialism, where assumptions about the causes of crime in Canada are rooted in American popular and scholarly discourse.

Our project, which has been unfolding over several years, has sought to counter the ideological imperialism of Hollywood by interrogating Canadian cinematic representations of crime and justice over the past century. To date, we have analyzed Canadian cop films, prison and corrections films, law and courtroom films, and criminology films. In this paper, we examine the way Canada itself is constructed or imagined through crime films. We focus particular attention on crime films that draw from and, we argue, help to shape regional cultural and criminological differences in Canada, using films set in Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Toronto as examples. Using the conceptual framework of Popular Criminology, we argue that scholarly and popular criminological discourses can generate ideas about Canada that stand in contrast to the ideological imperialism of Hollywood and American mainstream criminology.

12:30–1:30PM Lunch – Sponsored by CIJS (3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall)

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1:30AM-2:45PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANEL 7.1: Critical Criminology in Canada: Development, Challenges, and Prospect

3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall

Chairs : Bryan Hogeveen, UAlberta; Ping Lam Ip,
UAlberta; Andrew Woolford, UAlberta

Critical criminologists have long warned about the impacts of neoliberalism on the field of criminology, such as the proliferation of academic programs and research that align with governments' agenda of social control and punishment. However, over the last decade or so, critical criminologists have been facing a new set of challenges in addition to this threat. The global resurgence of far-right ideologies has made racism, sexism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, and other forms of social injustice even more overt and far-reaching. There has been a worldwide backlash against ideas and practices related to equity, diversity, and inclusion, especially research and teaching that are labelled as "woke" or "activist." Governments and institutions have begun steering away from their prior commitments to building a more just society, as well as censoring and suppressing scholarly activities that address social inequalities and injustice.

What have critical criminologists in Canada done in face of these challenges? What legacies has Canadian critical criminology left in the studies of crime, delinquency, social harm, and social injustice? How can the next generation of critical criminologists build upon such legacies and move forward in an era in which space for alternative criminological perspectives seems to be shrinking? The aim of this session is to gather insights into the development of critical criminology in Canada and offer a platform to discuss its prospect. Potential topics may include the changing theoretical compositions of "critical" criminology, state-of-the-art empirical research guided by critical perspectives, methodological

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advancements in critical criminology, and the challenges critical criminologists face when teaching and doing research. The session welcomes submissions from scholars and graduate students who are working in any critical theoretical traditions, including but not limited to Marxism, feminism(s), post-modernism, critical race theory, intersectionality, abolitionism, green criminology, and Indigenous criminology.

“Critical Criminology in Canada: A Historical Reassessment”

Walter DeKeseredy

“The dangers and delights of teaching critical criminology”

Amanda Nelund

“Distraction Device: Interrogating the Disursive Strategies Legitimizing Police Militarization in Canada”

Tandeep Sidhu

“The Development of Canadian Critical Criminological Research since the early 2000s: A Scoping Review”

Ping Lamp Ip, Bryan Hogeveen, Andrew Woolford

ROUNDTABLE : How Community Safety Hosts practice Wâhkôhtowin - Tensions and challenges creating safety for all in carceral contexts

2M70, 2nd Floor, Manitoba Hall

Chair : Julie Chamberlain, UWinnipeg

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Participants:

Dan Waycik, PCS

Mary Burton, Zoongizi Ode

Julie Chamberlain, University of Winnipeg

Christine Mayor, University of Manitoba

Madrin Macgillivray, University of Winnipeg

3:00–3:50 Featured Speaker

3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall

Introduction : Kevin Walby, University of Winnipeg

Dr. Allyn Walker

“Corrupting knowledge: the weaponization of anti-trans moral panic against critical scholars”

Anti-transgender sentiment has dramatically escalated across Canada and the United States since 2019. This talk examines how the present climate of increasing anti-trans attitudes functions to silence and endanger researchers working on critical criminological issues. Drawing on my own experience being targeted by hate campaigns following the publication of my research on child sexual abuse prevention, I analyze how bad-faith actors exploit public anxieties about child safety to target queer and trans scholars, effectively corrupting the production and dissemination of knowledge that could prevent violence. This presentation will document patterns of coordinated harassment campaigns that misrepresent research findings, manufacture outrage through decontextualization, and intensify moral panic to justify threats and

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◦ abuse. Critically, I examine how criminal-legal system actors have failed to intervene (and even aided) this harassment, and how we must shift our focus to protect one another against harms.

3:50PM-4:00PM CLOSING REMARKS

3C00, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall

Kevin Walby, Katharina Maier,

Steven Kohm, Kelly Gorkoff

4:00PM POST-CONFERENCE SOCIAL EVENT

with food, drink, and lively post-conference conversation (cash bar)

King Cob Market Pub, 580 Ellice Ave.

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