



Call for Papers:

CIJS Annual Conference: Corrupting Justice, May 11-13, 2026, University of Winnipeg

Theme: *Corrupting Justice* will offer a venue for scholars in the social sciences, humanities and beyond to examine intersections between law, justice, crime, and corruption. This focus on corruption invites participants to think critically about justice and injustice within the policies and practices that comprise the criminal justice system, including courts and the legal process, policing, punishment, and within scholarly discourses that frame our understandings of these issues. Legal processes may be corrupted through the actions or inactions of institutional actors, resulting in systemic biases, miscarriages of justice, and public disrepute. Corruption in policing plays out through individual and institutionalized forms of bias and misconduct. Moreover, the criminal courts and law enforcement are responsible for regulating and policing corruption itself, which begs critical questions about oversight and the effectiveness of institutional responses to corruption. Punishment and carceral control may also be investigated through a lens of corruption. Corporate influence is a key modality for corruption in all of these realms. Corruption is represented through media and culture, offering opportunities for advocacy and public awareness, as well as reflection and engagement. Legislative and regulatory remedies for the corruption of corporate crime, organized crime, and drug trafficking are often inadequate, and require critical assessment by interdisciplinary scholars. Academic work, especially in the realm of criminology, can also be corrupted by state influence or corporate monies. Relatedly, many of the theories and methods, and much of the history of academic inquiry into crime and justice, has been corrupted by unacknowledged colonial frameworks and assumptions. Decolonial approaches are needed to fully realize the potential of our research and activism against corruption.

All of this necessitates critical and interdisciplinary theoretical and empirical research on corruption as it relates to contemporary issues of (in)justice. Corrupting justice offers an open and inclusive forum for scholarly dialogue on these issues.

Corrupting Justice will be organized around nine subthemes: 1) The corrupt nature of courts and policing; 2) Criminalizing marginalized communities as corruption; 3) Corrupting the environment; 4) The corruption of war; 5) Culture and the representation of corruption and justice; 6) The corruption of corporate crime; 7) Criminology as colonial corruption; 8) Organized crime, drug trade and corruption; and 9) Corruption and politics. We invite proposals that interrogate these subthemes as well as works that engage more broadly with the critical study of law, crime, order and social justice.



We welcome submissions that offer novel and creative takes on corruption and justice. This may include scholarly submissions representing legal, socio-legal, criminological, feminist, philosophical, and historical takes on corruption and justice. Artistic, creative, and photographic views of these topics and reflections and applied works from professionals, community activists and others involved on the frontlines of justice work are also welcome. *Corrupting Justice* aims to showcase work from scholars of multiple disciplinary backgrounds, as well as community groups, justice professionals and researchers, activists, and anyone who wishes to partake in a scholarly exchange about justice and corruption.

We are organizing several keynote speakers, roundtables, thematic sessions, and presentations by leading and emerging scholars, community activists, jurists, and practitioners. Finalized keynote speakers and topics will be announced at www.cijs.ca when confirmed, along with other conference details.

The *Annual Review of Interdisciplinary Justice Research* (IJR) will publish a thematic issue on the conference theme. A separate call for written submissions will be circulated following *Corrupting Justice* inviting conference participants to submit research articles and shorter research notes for consideration. The *IJR* is a double-blind peer-reviewed journal that publishes works from across the disciplines on issues in justice. More information about the journal—along with downloadable past issues—can be found on our website: <https://www.cijs.ca/ijr>

Location and Accommodations:

The conference will be held at the main campus of the University of Winnipeg, in downtown Winnipeg (515 Portage Avenue). Nearby hotels include The Downtown Winnipeg Holiday Inn (360 Colony Street, steps from campus) and the Alt Hotel (310 Donald Street, 850 meters from campus).

Submission Procedures:

Proposals for papers, panels, or other submission types may be submitted, **no later than March 31, 2026**. Proposals should be sent by e-mail to: CIJS@uwinnipeg.ca

All proposals must include:

- mailing address, email, phone number, and affiliation for each participant
- a title and abstract of not more than 500 words for full sessions
- a title and abstract of not more than 250 words for individual paper presentations

Please contact Steven Kohm for further information: s.kohm@uwinnipeg.ca

We look forward to seeing you at *Corrupting Justice* at the University of Winnipeg in May 2026!