



Save the Date!

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 eight subthemes: 1) The corrupt nature of courts and policing; 2) Criminalizing marginalized communities as corruption; 3) Corrupting the environment & corruption of war; 4) Culture and the representation of corruption and justice; 5) The corruption of corporate crime; 6) Criminology as colonial corruption; 7) Organized crime, drug trade and corruption; and 8) Corruption and politics.

Inquiries and proposals for individual paper presentations, panels, and other forms of participation may be sent to: CIJS@uwinnipeg.ca. **Submission Deadline: March 31, 2026.** Conference information and a detailed call for papers will be circulated in January 2026, and posted on our website: www.CIJS.ca