



Call for Papers:

***Transforming Justice: A Joint National Conference of Critical Perspectives:
Criminology and Social Justice and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Justice Studies,
May 14th to 16th, 2025***

The departments of Sociology and Philosophy at the University of Victoria (UVic) and the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies' (CAEFS) Centre for Research into the Processes & Outcomes of Incarceration (CRPOI), in collaboration with the Critical Perspectives: Criminology and Social Justice national committee and the University of Winnipeg's Centre for Interdisciplinary Justice Studies (CIJS), are hosting a conference titled ***Transforming Justice, May 14th to 16th, 2025***, at the University of Victoria. This conference is also the launching event for CRPOI, and we invite all attendees to learn more about this national network [here](#).

Registration is free, and attendance is open to everyone. We particularly welcome participation from people with lived experience of criminalization and incarceration, students, faculty, advocates, activists, community-based practitioners, and other interested community members.

Transforming Justice is the **14th National Conference on Critical Perspectives in Criminology and Social Justice**. We invite proposals for individual papers, thematic panels, artistic or creative and visual submissions that address the theme described below, as well as proposals that engage more broadly with the critical study of law, crime, order, and social justice.

Theme: *Transforming Justice* will offer a venue for critical dialogue about transforming conceptions of justice and how justice is upheld and undermined under current systems in Canada. Scholars who study the Canadian legal and prison system argue that present practices create and sustain inequalities, as reflected by the large numbers of Indigenous, Black, gender diverse, disabled, socio-economically marginalized, and other oppressed peoples behind bars. *Transforming Justice* will create space for those working across academic and community settings to exchange ideas and weave diverse understandings of how practices of justice might be transformed across law, policing, sentencing, incarceration, politics, and community organizing.

Carrying forward teachings from diverse Indigenous legal traditions, the conference theme welcomes attendees and presenters to think about justice as something that not only exists in formal criminal justice contexts but in embodied and relational ways within

communities. In considering justice as something that we are collectively responsible for, the conference will welcome dialogue about the tensions, opportunities, and barriers that exist when thinking of justice as both a formal state-based apparatus and a principle upheld across social networks and contexts, which in turn shape current understandings and experiences of justice and punishment in Canada.

Subthemes: Given this expansive view of what justice might look like, participants in *Transforming Justice* are encouraged to consider the following subthemes:

(i) Artistic Interventions. This theme welcomes reflections on how art and creativity - broadly understood - can be used to make sense of injustice, build community, and take part in “freedom dreaming” toward justice [1]. We know that art can often be expressive in ways that more traditional academic contributions cannot and welcome submissions that push back against academic colonialism and epistemic violence;

(ii) Legal Support and Advocacy. This theme welcomes submissions focused on knowledge sharing and legal strategies for promoting criminalized and incarcerated peoples’ rights, as well as working against the mass incarceration of Indigenous Peoples, discrimination and abuse against trans and Two-Spirit people and disabled people in prisons, and the use of solitary confinement, to name a few;

(iii) Building Solidarity Through Education and Research. This theme welcomes submissions that consider the role of education and research in upholding specific normative understandings of justice and in confronting and disrupting these ideals toward transformation, especially through education and community-engaged research conducted alongside incarcerated people. Education and research in this theme are understood both in terms of formal systems and structures, as well as the informal ways that people and communities can mobilize knowledge against harm, oppression and injustice;

(iv) Lived Experience. This theme welcomes submissions that center the lived experiences of people impacted by criminalization. This sub-theme understands lived experience and expertise as including but expanding beyond incarceration and parole. Methodological and axiological implications of centering lived experience within formal research structures are also welcomed;

(v) Indigenous Sovereignty and Resurgence. This theme welcomes submissions that take seriously the role that Indigenous communities have had in the ongoing fight for justice in Canada, the living histories of colonial harms in our current carceral system, and the creative, multifaceted, land-based, ceremonial, sacred and governance-led practices of justice led by Indigenous communities across Canada.

Since we are welcoming a wide range of presentation formats, we ask all prospective participants to be as clear as possible about the nature of their submission. For example, we welcome scholarly, artistic, creative, or visual submissions representing legal, socio-legal, criminological, feminist, philosophical, or historical perspectives on transforming justice. *Transforming Justice* aims to showcase work from scholars from multiple disciplinary backgrounds, people with lived experience of criminalization and incarceration, advocates, activists, practitioners, and anyone who wishes to partake in an exchange on transforming justice.

We are organizing several keynote speakers, roundtables, thematic sessions, and presentations by leading scholars, community leaders, activists, and jurists. Finalized keynote speakers and topics will be announced at <https://crpoi.ca/critical-perspectives-2025/> 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 research papers and other creative submissions will be circulated following *Transforming Justice*, inviting conference participants to submit academic, artistic, cinematic, or other visual contributions 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 the website: <https://www.cijjs.ca/ijr>

Location and Accommodations: The conference will be held in-person at the University of Victoria (3800 Finnerty Rd) from May 14 – 16, 2025. We have secured conference rates at two hotels in downtown Victoria. It is recommended you book as early as possible to ensure you receive a room at the conference rate as it is a particularly busy season in Victoria. Hotel information:

- [The Best Western Plus Carlton Plaza Hotel](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.62063.html?groupId=D66YQ3K7). Use this link to book your stay: https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.62063.html?groupId=D66YQ3K7
- [Chateau Victoria Hotel & Suites](#). To book, please call 1-800-663-5891 and say that you are a part of the **UVic Transforming Justice Conference**. Please note that you must book your stay by April 13, 2025 by 5:00 p.m. PST in order to secure the conference rate.
- [University of Victoria Residence Visitor Accommodation](#). Please email transformingjustice2025@gmail.com if you would like to stay on campus and our conference coordinator, Patrick Falle, will help you book a room!

COVID Information: Please consult the University of Victoria website for current COVID-related information and protocols: www.uvic.ca

Submission Procedures:

Proposals for papers, panels, or other submission types may be submitted in French or English, no later than March 1, 2025. Proposals should be submitted via Google Forms using this link: <https://forms.gle/samuVe7yL9TEbspr5>. We especially welcome presenters with lived experience of the justice system, emerging scholars, and presentations speaking directly to conference themes. In refereeing submissions, we will also prioritize having a diversity of voices, perspectives, and presentation types on the program. So we may give a lower priority to submissions whose authors are already represented on the program. We are also committed to ensuring a safe environment for criminalized people to engage in the conference, and we ask presenters to use non-stigmatizing language and uphold the humanity of incarcerated and criminalized people.

More information about this mandate can be found in our Guiding Principles below. We will notify all authors with accepted presentations by April 1, 2025. The official program and registration details will be released soon after at <https://crpoi.ca/critical-perspectives-2025>.

Note: We will be providing simultaneous French/English translation at the conference.

All proposals must include:

- email and affiliation for each participant, including any students, early career researchers, and experts with lived experience of incarceration on the authorship team.
- a title and abstract of not more than 500 words for workshop, panel, and roundtable submissions, which should include the session title and short individual abstracts
- a title and abstract of not more than 250 words for individual presentations

Head to the conference website for more information! <https://crpoi.ca/critical-perspectives-2025/>

Critical Perspectives/Perspectives Critique Guiding Principles

Striving to reduce and ultimately end the use and harms of criminalization;

Preserving and promoting a critical criminological perspective while allowing for healthy, respectful, and productive exchange between those who define themselves as more radical and/or abolitionist and those who are concerned with trying to reform the criminal legal system to make it more humane;

Making the conference open to and inclusive of wider communities, especially those with lived experience of criminalization and those who experience various dimensions of marginalization such as race, gender identity, poverty, sexuality, disability;

Cherishing lived experience as a form of knowledge as well as means of producing scientific/academic knowledges and providing a platform for these types of knowledges to be shared in a respectful environment;

Being conscious of power relations in how the conference is conducted. Acknowledging that all knowledge production and dissemination is political and carries with it inequalities and oppressions. We request all participants be cognizant of this and intentional in their presentations, comments and all other forms of exchanges with those present;

Keeping the conference open, inclusive, and free of registration fees;

Promoting access and participation for graduate students;

Maintaining a bilingual event and providing translation as much as financially possible;

Maintaining diversity and a broad geographical representation on the national committee and at the conference;

Preserving and promoting collaboration between the national committee and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Justice Studies at the University of Winnipeg and its Justice series;

Working towards publishing some of the proceedings;

Increasing the visibility of critical criminology across the country and internationally.

**We look forward to seeing you at *Transforming Justice* at the University of Victoria in
May 2025!**

[1]. Robin Kelley. (2003). *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination*. Beacon Press.