

# Special Issue

## Cultural Contours of Justice: Law and Crime Narratives in Popular Imagination

### Message from the Guest Editors

In our multi-mediated world, popular culture serves as a lens through which societies make sense of behaviors that disrupt social order; it forms a key part of wider discussions on whether criminals are 'mad or bad', 'born or made'. Beyond criminal motivations, popular culture also sheds light on dominant societal beliefs about appropriate responses to crime, the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, and which victims are deemed deserving of our sympathy. This Special Issue seeks to examine how crime is depicted across various platforms of popular culture (including newspapers, film, television, podcasts, video games, comic books, literature, and social media) and how these representations influence public perceptions, legal frameworks, and cultural norms regarding criminality, victimhood, and law enforcement. We invite contributions from various disciplines, including law, criminology, sociology, psychology, media, and cultural studies, among others.

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### Guest Editors

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

15 April 2026



# Laws

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## About the Journal

### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

*Laws* is an international, open access journal featuring rigorous scholarship on critical developments in governance, courts, agencies, and social order. Analysis and synthesis, theory and practice, and empirical and doctrinal work have appeared in the journal; contributions that bridge these traditional boundaries are particularly welcome. The social sciences and humanities generate insights both from and for the legal system. While theory grounds *Laws* in a timeless dialogue shaped by traditions of inquiry, legal practice ensures that scholars are addressing pressing problems. Both normative and positive scholarship can aid policymakers, judges, and agency officials. *Laws* brings together the work of theorists and practitioners, and a diverse range of empirical researchers, to promote the progress of foundational legal norms.

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### Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Patricia Easteal

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