

## Special Issue

# Between Criminalization and Care: Reimagining Social Work's Role in the Carceral State

### Message from the Guest Editor

The unique experiences of criminalized women at the intersection of the criminal legal system and social services must be focused on. These range from gender-specific forms of violence and abuse to the unique responsibilities and challenges of motherhood under state supervision. These obstacles are further amplified by systemic factors such as racism and are often exacerbated by social service systems, intensifying their marginalization and vulnerability. Despite social work's commitment to social justice, the discipline faces the critical task of scrutinizing the potential harm and unintended outcomes resulting from current interventions. This invites us to engage in reflective critique, aiming to align our methodologies and pedagogies more closely with the lived experiences of criminalized women. This Special Issue calls for contributions that dissect the complex relationship between criminalization and care. We welcome empirical research, critical theoretical examinations, and reflective practice narratives that can deepen our understanding of this pivotal issue.

---

### Guest Editor

Dr. Sandra Leotti

Division of Social Work, College of Health Sciences, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071, USA

---

### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (28 February 2025)



## Social Sciences

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 1.7  
CiteScore 3.1



[mdpi.com/si/183098](https://mdpi.com/si/183098)

*Social Sciences*  
Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[socsci@mdpi.com](mailto:socsci@mdpi.com)

[mdpi.com/journal/](https://mdpi.com/journal/)

[socsci](https://mdpi.com/journal/socsci)





# Social Sciences

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 1.7  
CiteScore 3.1



[mdpi.com/journal/  
socsci](https://mdpi.com/journal/socsci)



## About the Journal

### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

*Social Sciences* is an international open access peer-reviewed journal publishing the latest research across all disciplines of the social sciences including anthropology, criminology, economics, education, geography, history, law, linguistics, political science, psychology, social policy, social work, sociology and related areas. The journal is especially interested in interdisciplinary research, and aims to facilitate the interaction and communication between different social scientific disciplines. The journal welcomes conventional length articles as well as shorter Research Notes or short articles, as long as they meet the journal's standards of quality and originality.

---

### Editor-in-Chief

Emeritus Prof. Nigel Parton

School of Human and Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield,  
Huddersfield HD1 3DH, UK

---

### Author Benefits

#### Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

#### High visibility:

indexed within Scopus, ESCI (Web of Science), RePEc, and other databases.

#### Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary) / CiteScore - Q2 (General Social Sciences)