

Special Issue

Research on the Implications of Financial Sanctions for Justice Policy

Message from the Guest Editors

As many countries move to limit or reduce the size of prison populations or to develop more adaptable punishment policies, noncustodial sanctions have taken a more prominent role in punishment policy. As a result, financial sanctions, including fines and restitution, are more prevalent now than ever before. In some cases, though such sanctions may serve as a viable alternative to more overtly punitive sanctions such as incarceration, emerging research has shown that they may also increase disparities based on wealth or socioeconomic status. Other financial penalties such as supervision fees are used to generate revenue or to offset the costs of administering the justice system. Finally, there is a high degree of variability in how and why financial sanctions are levied, both within and between local- and national-level jurisdictions. In this issue, we seek to explore new empirical research related to these issues, with an emphasis on better understanding the justice, social, and economic impacts on people, places, and communities.

Guest Editors

Dr. Jordan Hyatt

Department of Criminology and Justice Studies, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

Dr. Nathan Link

Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ 08102, USA

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 March 2022)



Social Sciences

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 1.7
CiteScore 3.1



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

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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

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