

Special Issue

Sport, Physical Activity, Young People, and the Criminal Justice System: Perspectives on Prevention and Diversion

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue aims to feature cross- and interdisciplinary scholarship which adds to our understanding of how sport and physical activity can/may be used to support young people vulnerable to or already engaged in the criminal justice system, with a specific focus on strategies developed with preventative or diversionary intent. For the purposes of this Special Issue, we broadly conceive prevention as an intentional provision which addresses re-offending and focuses on individuals who may have had some prior contact with criminal justice services, while diversion comprises intentional provision which acts to steer young people away from deeper penetration into the criminal justice system (Wilson et al., 2018; Tilley and Sidebottom, 2017; Harris and Seal, 2016). We particularly welcome contributions from early career researchers and/or practitioners operating within initiatives which use sport and physical activity to prevent and/or divert youth crime. In addition, we encourage empirical papers that showcase collaboration between academics and youth-focused delivery organisations or capture the perspectives and voices of young people.

Guest Editors

Dr. Haydn Morgan

Dr. Conor Murray

Dr. Brendan Coyle

Dr. Peter Harris

Dr. Richard Hester

Prof. Dr. Andrew Parker

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 October 2025)



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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Youth is an international and peer-reviewed journal covering a broad range of topics that all influence persons lumped into the category of youth. The numerous issues of interest to the research community involving youth include mental health, education, sociology, economics, employment, cultural studies, civic engagement, and other social perspectives of youth and young adulthood.

Our goal is to work together with the global research community whose interest and scholarship speak to providing evidence that will support and enhance the lives of youth and the systems that affect their lives. We are interested in working with graduate students, scholars, scientists, and research centers who share this interest.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Todd Michael Franke

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