

About the Authors

Abigail Kelly is a third year John Jay student currently obtaining both her Bachelors and Masters in Forensic Psychology with plans to graduate next May. Her professional aspiration is to become a licensed counselor and provide therapeutic services to youth within the criminal justice system.

Ana Melara Larin is a graduating senior majoring in Criminal Justice and double minoring in Juvenile Justice and Prison Reentry at San Francisco State University. Her publication is titled “The History of Bullets Against Children”. Melara Larin wrote about the history of mass school shootings, illegal firearms and their impact on youth as a way to advocate for better protections to be set in place to prevent mass school shootings. Her goal is to have readers comprehend that there is a need to protect our children from firearms that land in the wrong hands but that it doesn’t mean the removal of one of our Constitutional rights. Also to bring focus to the common underlying factor that triggers these tragic events which is untreated mental illness.

Aqsa Ahmed is a Political Science student at John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a strong interest in law, justice, and helping others. She enjoys learning about ways to improve the legal system and is especially interested in issues like gun violence prevention. Outside of school, she cares about personal growth and supporting people in making positive changes in their lives. She plans to attend law school in the future and hopes to use what they learn to create a positive impact in their community.

Bella Neri is a graduating senior majoring in Criminal Justice with a minor in Political Science at San Francisco State University. Their publication is titled “Unfair Treatment in Women’s Prisons.” They wrote this piece to shed light on the often-overlooked injustices incarcerated women face within the prison system. Neri’s paper explores the systemic factors that contribute to the mistreatment of incarcerated women, with a focus on how gender dynamics and social structures shape their experiences. Their goal is to raise awareness of the systemic issues within women’s prisons, as well as advocate for the creation of an independent organization that ensures incarcerated women can safely report abuse without fear of retaliation.

Danielle Key is a mixed-race Black woman and undergraduate student at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She is dedicated to revolution and the Black radical tradition, envisioning a world without prisons and police—a world rooted in collective care. She rejects systems built on and sustained by oppression, centering her work in transformative justice, Afrocentrism, intersectionality, transnationalism, and decolonization. Her research interests include Black feminist abolition, the sociology of mental health, stigma, and identity formation. Danielle’s scholarship challenges carceral logic and uplifts the lived experiences of those most marginalized, with a commitment to building liberated futures through radical thought and action.

Efren Corona is a third-year student majoring in Criminal Justice at San Francisco State University, and a 7 year Army veteran. His publication explores the exploitation that targets economic migrants. Corona wrote this with a deep commitment to immigrant rights, human rights, and public defense so people can have a better understanding on how wide the issue has gotten. As someone working toward going to law school and becoming a public defender, he aims to advocate for those most often ignored or silenced by the legal system. His broader mission is rooted in civil outreach and standing alongside the downtrodden. Through his work, Corona hopes to contribute to a more just, compassionate, and equitable society.

Eli Lehrer is a returned student and graduating senior majoring in Criminal Justice Studies at SFSU, and their publication “Fostering Harm On Campus: The Shortcomings of Carceral Responses to Sexual Harm Within Institutes of Higher Education” is the culmination of over a decade of work towards their BA. Lehrer choses to focus on harm fostered by IHEs (Institutions of Higher Education) because they believe institutions unwilling to understand themselves as part of this problem will not succeed in their attempts to resolve it. This paper is an invitation, and a request - protect us by upholding campus missions to *educate* students rather than seeking to control us.

Elizabeth Silverio is a graduating senior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, majoring in Human Services & Community Justice with a double minor in Writing & Rhetoric and Counseling. As a first generation Mexican American student she utilized reading and writing to learn about her history, using her intersectional identity, and developing her voice for advocacy. Outside an

academic setting, Elizabeth enjoys engaging in activities for self care such as listening to music, journaling, and spending time with friends and family fostering community. Elizabeth hopes to learn more about the world, supporting others through advocacy, and being present in the moment.

Esmeralda Garcia-Sanchez is a graduating senior majoring in Criminal Justice Studies and Cell & Molecular Biology, with a minor in Chemistry. While her long-term goal is to work in forensic science to help exonerate the innocent through post-conviction casework, their paper, “Presumed Innocent, Punished Anyway: How Bail, Pretrial Detention, and Plea Deals Perpetuate Injustice” examines how pretrial practices function as mechanisms that disproportionately punish the poor and marginalized. Garcia-Sanchez was driven to write this after learning about the story of Kalief Browder, an African American man whose tragic experience being held at Riker’s Island for allegedly stealing a backpack left him with irreparable harm. This case, like many others, showed her that these aren’t rare failures but patterns, and act as a reflection of a system that demands an entire post-conviction industry just to mitigate its harm.

Eszter Winkelmayr is a graduating senior majoring in Criminal Justice Studies at San Francisco State University. This is their second publication in the *Annual Review of Criminal Justice Studies*, and it is titled “HOW DOES THE PRIVATIZATION OF PRISONS AFFECT THE CARCERAL STATE?” This paper is an incredibly personal work, a culmination of three years of laborious research, synthesis, and revisions, all of which have been in the interest of unmasking the true benefactors of our country’s prisons and shining a light on the lives of Americans experiencing the prison system.

Florian Gries is a critical criminologist studying criminology, psychology, interdisciplinary studies, gender studies and economics at John Jay College in New York City. She specializes in state crimes, police misconduct, war crimes, Palestine, the influence of colonial and neo-colonial structures and the capitalist mode of economy on crime and society, prison abolition and alternatives to the current system. For the future, she aims to get into a critical psychology PhD. program in order to bring the knowledge of psychology into critical criminology, creating interdisciplinary knowledge beyond the limitations of the narrow approach of singular academic fields.

Gabriel Singer is a graduating senior majoring in Criminal Justice with a minor in Prison Reentry Studies at San Francisco State University. His publication is titled “The Inmate Bill of Rights and the California Model Can Transform Prison Rehabilitation”. He wrote this to provide insight into two different eras of rehabilitation in the California prison system known as California Department of Corrections (CDCR). Singer wanted to show that rehabilitation cannot happen without incarcerated people having both rights and rehabilitative programs. His goal is for readers to understand that integrating the Inmate Bill of Rights with the California Model could create a more effective prison system that reduces recidivism and supports the successful reintegration of incarcerated individuals into society.

Hansly Garden Mauricio is a Forensic Psychology undergraduate student at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Her academic interests include corrections, mental health, and the role of discrimination within the criminal justice system. This is her first publication, and she plans to continue exploring topics related to the impacts of incarceration. She hopes to pursue a career as a clinical psychologist working in forensic-related settings.

Izzy Taveras is a Colombian-Dominican first-year at John Jay College Criminal Justice. Taveras is a Criminal Justice major and ¡Adelante! scholar pursuing their Spanish Legal Translation and Interpretation Certificate. “Separation Over Immigration in the Latino Community” was inspired by the large turnout of Latinos who voted for Trump in the 2024 election, which they witnessed firsthand in their personal life. Their paper argues that this paradox occurred due to established immigrants trying to assimilate into the American Dream and avoid the increasingly hostile views of immigrants in the United States. Taveras hopes to use this paper as a foundation to contribute to crimmigration and criminology studies in the future.

Jasmine Kimbrough is a third year student currently studying Criminal Justice and Psychology. Her paper is titled, "How Your Time Behind Bars Defines You: The Stigmatization of Incarcerated Individuals," to address the stigma incarcerated people experience during reentry and factors that can exacerbate attitudes towards them. Many ideas surrounding people formerly incarcerated have been so normalized in society we don't even realize how harmful our perceptions may be. With her publication, Kimbrough wishes to educate people on this stigma and ways we can shift away from negative stereotypes. This can

allow for reentry into society to be much more welcoming, allowing bigger opportunities to open up for people adjusting to a new lifestyle.

Joran Sylvester is a 4th year Forensic Science major and 2nd year criminology minor, who aspires to be a Forensic Scientist, and a shoe designer. Joran wants to take what he's learned in school, and his personal experience to make the world a safe place, whether it's from using the sciences for justice, or to make fashion more sustainable. He is based in Brooklyn, New York and is deep with his Caribbean roots. Being a first-born son in the USA and a first-generation Trinidadian-St. Vincentian descendant, he incorporates both sides of his culture into everything he does. He's embraced the music, the culture, and the fashion to make it his own.

Julianne R. Cervantes is a student in the Criminal Justice Studies program at San Francisco State University. Their work explores the impacts of parental incarceration, a focus on how it affects children, families, and communities of color. Cervantes is especially interested in how systemic inequality contributes to the cycles of disadvantages, and they aim to advocate for restorative justice and family-centered reforms. Through their writing, Cervantes hopes to contribute to meaningful changes in both policy and practice.

Kaya Leidigh is an Argentine student double majoring in Criminology and Forensic Psychology and minoring in Counseling. They also work as a Peer Success Coach at John Jay College, helping students accomplish academic success. They have a passion for justice, from LGBTQ+ rights to international politics, and hope to pursue the Human Rights MA at John Jay. Their curious nature also leads to an interest in research, hoping to continue their investigations in the future.

Kayleen Rivera is a 21-year-old Puerto Rican writer, born and raised on the Lower East Side of New York City. A current student at John Jay College, she aspires to be an agent of change in a country that calls itself the land of the free, though true freedom remains elusive. Proud of her Latin roots, she honors her culture and the ancestors who fought for justice and equality. Through creative writing, her passion, she uses her voice to reflect today's realities and inspire others. Her work challenges readers to speak out, think critically, and embrace the power of words.

Lujain Alghadban is a graduating senior majoring in Criminology at John Jay College. Her paper, “Art as a Rehabilitation Tool: Exploring the Role of Creative Programs in Supporting Offenders Mental Health and Reducing Recidivism,” addresses the issues of the penal system in the United States and proposes the implementation of creative arts programming as an alternative to punish individuals who are incarcerated. She wrote this paper because of her passion for art and prison reform. She believes that individuals who are incarcerated can be rehabilitated through the use of creative arts programming and that they deserve a second chance to redefine themselves as human beings.

Kim Lonzo is a senior in the CUNY Graduate Center’s CUNY BA program. Designing his own unique degree program that intertwines sociology, psychology and dispute resolution, Kim hopes to attend law school and work with underserved communities as a legal advocate. Kim, a student veteran, attends John Jay College as his CUNY home college, serves on several committees as a member of the student council and works on campus as a mentor with the CUNY Urban Male Initiative. He is currently a Thomas K. Smith Fellow.

Marissa Frias is a first generation, Puerto-Rican/Italian, Forensic Psychology major graduating this Spring 2025. Her inspiration for this paper came from her Forensic Linguistics class taught by Tim McCormack in Fall 2023, where for their final paper, students were to choose an area in linguistics covered in class to investigate further- one of the topics being language barriers. In one of the unit’s readings a quote from Judge Donna Carr ignited a new sense of advocacy for limited English proficient (LEP) defendants of the American criminal justice system in Marissa; “In a criminal proceeding, rights are conveyed in words. Words have meaning. If the words have no meaning to a defendant, then such a defendant has no rights. A trial without rights is . . . a sham” (Judge Donna Carr, 2001). She hopes to continue research in this area, and dedicates her first publication to professor McCormack, who has always shown her empathy and inspired her love for linguistics. Outside of her studies, Marissa is the founder and second-term president of John Jay’s Forensic Psychology Association. Marissa would like to recognize her family and friends, her Forensic Linguistics class, Maria Newell and the entire ARCJS team for their support in enhancing this work.

Marissa S. Singh is an undergraduate student at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, majoring in English and minoring in Law. Originally from Jamaica, Queens, she is a first-generation college student, who is passionate about advocating for children and families impacted by systemic failures in the child welfare system. Her academic work often focuses on social justice, legal reform, and storytelling that gives power to underrepresented voices. She hopes to pursue a legal career that combines research, advocacy, and policy change to protect vulnerable populations and create more accountable institutions.

Michelle Thakore is in her junior year at John Jay. She is currently completing both her Bachelor and Masters of Arts in Forensic Psychology through John Jay's BA/MA Program, as well as obtaining a certification in Advanced Victimology Studies. Upon graduation, which appears to be in May of 2026, Michelle plans to engage in the academia part of the field, with a focus in research on psychopathy and personality disorders. Her work in this journal was focused primarily on exploring the relationship between media representation of crime and race.

Nikki Yip is a Sociology major at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. "Parallels of Vigilantism and Justice in the Realm of Fiction" explores the intersection of digital storytelling and real-world societal issues, focusing on the depiction of political, social, and legal systems within the realm of fiction. More specifically, this paper examines a widely popular fantasy action RPG that has garnered global attention not only for its expansive world and gameplay but also for its intricate storytelling and lore. Through this narrative lens, the paper investigates how the game mirrors real-world dynamics and uses these parallels to critique and challenge existing societal structures and issues.

Parsva A. Shah is a dedicated advocate for human rights and environmental policy. He has worked to assist wrongfully convicted individuals, advocate for the rights of those on death row, and champion the rights of undocumented migrants. He has presented at multiple conferences on topics ranging from anti-immigrant rhetoric to climate policy. Parsva will now represent New York City at the United Nations Sustainable Pathways Fellowship. Inspired by his mentor, human rights activist Dr. Jodie Roure, and passionate about law and ethics, he aims to drive impactful change through political advocacy.

Riley Quinn is a sophomore majoring in Criminal Justice and Psychology at San Francisco State University. Their publication, titled “Solitary Confinement: Perpetuation of a Carceral Society,” aims to confront the innate unethicalness of solitary confinement as a correctional measure. Quinn wanted to build upon this topic through an analysis on the physiological tolls and the reasoning for why it is still in use to date. By drawing upon these characteristics, they hope to inform more people about the deadly nature of the punishment and help them understand why its abolishment should be prioritized. Through knowledge people can understand how to reform a system that previously remained mystified, which is exactly what this paper aims to do: demystify the bare bones of the prison structure and help contextualize what waits for people on the other side of those prison walls.

Tessa Olivieri is a graduating senior at San Francisco State University, majoring in psychology with a minor in criminal justice. Their publication is titled "The Inhumane Practices of the American Women's Prison: Intersectionality, White Supremacy, and Trauma". Olivieri wrote this to introduce issues within the penitentiary and criminal justice system, specifically for female-identifying inmates. The trauma and hardships inflicted upon inmates before, during, and after incarceration are profound. They are subject to psychological and physiological changes that require extensive care and effort to mend. As recidivism rates increase, prisons instill more mental and physical damage and create a loop of release and reentry. Her goal is for people to understand what truly occurs behind the prison walls, to notice the stigma and discrepancy that humans can feel toward the prison population, and to find empathy and an urgency to support present and past inmates.