

Letter from the Chair of SFSU'S Criminal Justice Studies Department

Welcome to the fourth volume of the *Annual Review of Criminal Justice Studies* (ARCJS). ARCJS is a student-led, peer-reviewed journal publishing critical analyses of law, crime, and justice systems and their connections to broader social, political, and economic structures. Housed in the Department of Criminal Justice Studies at San Francisco State University, ARCJS demonstrates our commitment to building a collaborative and inclusive scholarly community, as reflected in the partnership with John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

This is my first year as Chair, and engaging with the work in this volume has been one of the most interesting and rewarding experiences so far. Before stepping into this role, I already knew ARCJS well from sharing an office with one of its faculty advisors, Dr. Albert de la Tierra. I saw up close how much time goes into bringing each volume to life. There were countless Zoom meetings, detailed feedback on drafts, and many conversations with students as they worked through their ideas. The journal simply would not come together without that level of commitment.

The work featured in this volume reflects the depth of student scholarship and its potential to reimagine more just and thoughtful approaches to justice. I have learned so much from reading these insightful contributions. The volume brings together a diverse range of work, from historical analyses and poems to rigorous methodological approaches and narratives grounded in lived experience. As someone born and raised in Sweden, a country long known for more welfarist approaches to crime, I found the historical analyses in this volume particularly compelling. As Swedish penal policy shifts toward more punitive approaches, including longer sentences and expanded reliance on incarceration, this work illuminates how Sweden may be repeating shifts previously seen in the United States. This underscores the need to critically engage with and learn from the past.

This volume is a testament to the strength, creativity, and critical insight of our students. I would like to thank everyone who made this volume possible. I look forward to seeing how ARCJS continues to grow and amplify student voices in the years ahead.

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