

Eye for Eye: A Dramatic Investigation of Incarceration and Justice in American Society

This research guide includes information about books, USC article databases, and websites of interest to anyone investigating the issues raised by this event.

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Imagining America

2008 Imagining America Conference: "Layers of Place, Movements of People: Public Engagement in a Diverse America" October 2-4, 2008 Los Angeles, California Hosted by the Center for Diversity and Democracy, University of Southern California

For more information, please go to the [Imagining America](#) page.

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Research Guide for Eye for Eye: A Dramatic Investigation

This research guide is designed to support the October 2nd, 2008, Visions and Voices event, ***Eye for Eye: A Dramatic Investigation of Incarceration and Justice in American Society***.

Eye for Eye includes an open rehearsal and subsequent performance by the Cornerstone Theater Company, a collaborative and community-based theater ensemble, of ***For All Time***, a work in progress, and the newest play in their five-part Justice Cycle. Developed collaboratively with members of the community, ***For All Time*** explores themes of incarceration, retribution and justice in U.S. society.

Following the evening performance, USC professor Ruth Wilson Gilmore moderates a discussion with Cornerstone members and people affected by the California prison system.

These events coincide with Imagining America's national conference, held October 2-4 at USC's Davidson Conference Center. Imagining America is a national consortium of colleges and universities committed to public scholarship in the arts and humanities and to the civic engagement of both scholars and universities.

For more information or to register, please visit www.imaginingamerica.org. ***Eye for Eye*** is organized by Ruth Wilson Gilmore (Geography and American Studies and Ethnicity) and George Sanchez (History and American Studies and Ethnicity) in conjunction with USC's [Center for Diversity and Democracy](#) and the [Imagining America](#) conference.

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Research Help

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Book Search

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Search Terms

When searching for books, experiment with using various keywords combined with AND, as in:

prisons and women
incarceration and minorities and California
racism and criminal justice and penal

Try to use synonyms and related concepts in your searching.

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Featured Books



The Real Cost of Prisons Comix - Lois Ahrens, editor. Written by Ellen Miller-Mack, Craig Gilmore, Lois Ahrens, Susan Willmarth, and Kevin Pyle; illustrated by Kevin Pyle, Sabrina Jones and Susan Willmarth; introduction by Craig Gilmore and Ruth Wilson Gilmore.

Call Number: On Order

ISBN: 1604860340

PM Press, 2008

These comix—Prison Town: Paying the Price; Prisoners of the War on Drugs; and Prisoners of a Hard Life: Women and Their Children—provide stories and thoroughly researched and documented statistical information.



Golden Gulag - Ruth Wilson Gilmore.

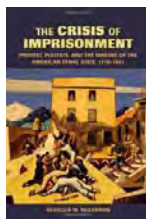
Call Number: Doheny: HV9475.C2G73 2007

ISBN: 0520242017

Berkeley : University of California Press, 2007

Since 1980--and despite steadily falling crime rates--the number of people in U.S. prisons has increased more than 450%, and California stands at the forefront of this trend. This book provides the first detailed explanation for that buildup, examining the role of political and economic forces in creating this prison boom. Gilmore shows the ways in which defeats of radical struggles, weakening of labor, and shifting patterns of capital investment have helped

spur prison growth.



The Crisis of Imprisonment: Protest, Politics, and the Making of the American Penal State, 1776-1941 - McLennan, Rebecca

Call Number: HC79.I55L834 2008

ISBN: 0521537835

New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008

In the Age of Jackson, private enterprise set up shop in the American penal system. Working with state government, contractors in the North and the South put over half a million imprisoned people to hard labor for private gain by 1900. This book details this system of penal servitude: how it came into being,

how it worked, how the popular campaigns for its abolition were ultimately victorious, and how it shaped and continues to haunt the American penal system.

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More Selected Books -- Available from USC Libraries

Gonnerman, Jennifer. *Life on the Outside. The Prison Odyssey of Elaine Bartlett*. New York NY: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2004. For over two years, journalist Gonnerman shadowed newly released prisoner Elaine Bartlett, providing an intimate glimpse into the many difficulties associated with attempting to reassimilate into a society that is ill-prepared and often unwilling to assist ex-convicts. [Doheny: HV9468.B28G66 2004](#)

Gottschalk, Marie. *The Prison and the Gallows. The Politics of Mass Incarceration in America*. Cambridge NY: Cambridge University Press, 2006. This book examines the development of four key movements that have mediated the unprecedented rise in the carceral state in the U.S.—the victims' movement, the women's movement, the prisoners' rights movement, and opponents of the death penalty—to investigate the roles that particular social movements and interest groups have played in forging punitive penal policies. [Doheny: HV9471.G67 2006](#)

Harcourt, Bernard. *Against Prediction. Profiling, Policing, and Punishing in an Actuarial Age*. Chicago IL: University of Chicago Press, 2007. From routine security checks at airports to the use of risk assessment in sentencing, the employment of actuarial methods in law enforcement is increasing. While many see these methods as a cost-effective way to fight crime, this book challenges a growing reliance on them, arguing that such tools may actually increase the overall amount of crime in society and distort our ideas of just punishment. [Doheny: HV7936.R3H37 2007](#)

Jacobson, Michael. *Downsizing Prisons. How to Reduce Crime and End Mass Incarceration*. New York NY: New York University Press, 2005. In this book, Jacobsen, who oversaw the country's largest city jail system, examines changes in the legal system since 1975 that have led to a spectacular rise in the general prison population, including mandatory minimum sentencing, parole agencies intent on sending people back to prison, three-strike laws, and for-profit prisons, arguing that mass incarceration will neither reduce crime nor create more public safety. [Doheny: HV9471.J317 2005](#)

Magnani, Laura & Harmon Wray. *Beyond Prisons. A New Interfaith Paradigm for Our Failed Prison System*. Minneapolis MN: Fortress Press, 2006. This strong indictment of the current prison system traces its history and features, and develops a new paradigm of criminal justice based on restorative justice and reconciliation. [Doheny: HV9950.M24 2006](#)

Miller, Jerome. *Last One Over the Wall. The Massachusetts Experiment in Closing Reform Schools*. Columbus OH: Ohio State University Press, 1998. This book is an analytical and autobiographical account of Miller's tenure as head of the Massachusetts juvenile justice system, during which he undertook one of the most daring and drastic steps in recent juvenile justice history—closing reformatories and returning offenders to community supervision and treatment by private schools and youth agencies. [Doheny: HV9105.M4M54 1998](#)

Rodriguez, Dylan. *Forced Passages. Imprisoned Radical Intellectuals and the U.S. Prison Regime*. Minneapolis MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2006. While the dramatic rise of America's prison system has devastated lives and communities, it has also transformed prisons into primary sites of radical political discourse and resistance, as prisons have become home to a growing number of writers, activists, poets, educators, and other intellectuals. Engaging with a wide range of texts and focusing on the conditions under which imprisoned intellectuals live and work, Rodríguez argues that the cultural production of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Angela Davis, Leonard Peltier, George Jackson, José Solis Jordan, Ramsey Muniz, Viet Mike Ngo, and Marilyn Buck should be understood as a social and intellectual movement in and of itself. [Doheny: HV9466.R63 2006](#)

Talvi, Silja. *Women Behind Bars. The Crisis of Women in the U.S. Prison System*. Emeryville, CA: Seal Press, 2007. Even as they increase dramatically, there has been little public discussion about the rise in the number of women prisoners. This book investigates why American girls and women are being locked up at such unprecedented rates, weaving together interviews with inmates, correctional officers, and administrators to provide readers a glimpse into the impact incarceration has on our society. [Doheny: HV9471.&35 2007](#)

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Article Quick Search

The following sources are being searched:

- [Alternative Press Index](#) 
- [America: History and Life](#) 
- [CQ Researcher](#) 
- [Ethnic Newswatch™](#) 
- [GenderWatch™](#) 
- [JSTOR](#) 
- [ProQuest Research Library Complete](#) 

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Subject Area Databases

Selected Resources by Subject page

-- Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities

Some subject areas to browse include:

[African American Studies](#)
[American Studies and Ethnicity History--US & Canada](#)
[Political Science](#)
[Sociology](#)
[Criminal Justice](#)
[Urban and Regional Planning](#)
[Data and Statistics](#)
[Chicano and Latino Studies](#)
[Asian American Studies](#)
[Native American Studies](#)
[Ethnic Studies](#)
[Gender Studies/GLBT Studies](#)
[Geography](#)
[Government Information](#)

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Other Databases

JSTOR A growing full text collection of core social science, humanities, and science journals. Some backfiles date back to the early 1800s. Fields covered include: anthropology, ecology, economics,

Recommended Databases and Sample Articles

Suggested keywords: *prison, imprisonment, incarceration, mass imprisonment, California, penal system, gender, minorities, rac** (includes all terms that begin with the stem rac-, such as race, racism, racist), *criminal justice, privatization*, and more. Be sure to experiment with related terms and synonyms.

The following is a sampling of articles found in some recommended databases using search terms such as:

california and incarceration
prisons and race and california

[Alternative Press Index](#) Indexes journals covering cultural, economic, political, and social change

- Dannenberg, J. (2003). "Bloated prison budget fuels California's degenerative incarceration spiral." *Prison Legal News* 14 (11):1-4.
- Carbone-Lopez, K., and Kruttschnitt, C. (2003). "Assessing the racial climate in women's institutions in the context of penal reform." *Women and Criminal Justice* 15 (1): 55-79.

[CQ Researcher](#) Provides in-depth reports covering major issues, written and researched by seasoned journalists

- Katel, P. (2007). Prison reform. *CQ Researcher* 17, 289-312.
- Marshall, P. (2002). Three-strikes laws. *CQ Researcher* 12, 417-432.

[ProQuest Historical Newspapers](#) Provides access to full text and page images of major historical newspapers, including the following. [Choose from a wealth of historical newspapers under the "Databases" drop-down menu.](#)

- Los Angeles Sentinel, 1934-2005 -- major African American newspaper
- Los Angeles Times, 1881-1986 -- key mainstream newspaper

[ProQuest Interdisciplinary Dissertations and Theses](#) Provides full text access for dissertations written from 1996 on. [Choose Interdisciplinary Dissertations and Theses under "Databases."](#)

- Trammell, R. (2007). "Accounts of violence and social control: organized violence and negotiated order in California prisons." Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, 178 pages.
- Blue, E. van. (2004). "Hard time in the New Deal: racial formation and the cultures of punishment in Texas and California in the 1930s." Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, 492 pages.

[Ethnic Newswatch](#) Provides access to full text from newspapers, magazines, and journals from a diversity of viewpoints not seen in the mainstream media. [Choose Interdisciplinary--Ethnic Newswatch under "Databases."](#)

- Smith, E., and Hattery, A. (2008). "Incarceration: a tool for racial segregation and labor exploitation." *Race, Gender & Class* 15 (1/2): 79+ (19 pages).

[Genderwatch](#) Provides full text access to publications that focus on the impact of gender across a broad spectrum of subject areas. [Choose Interdisciplinary--Genderwatch under "Databases."](#)

- Chandler, C. (2003). "Death and dying in America: the prison industrial complex's impact on women's health." *Berkeley Women's Law Journal* 18: 40+.
- Kizziah, M. (2001). "Women in California prisons." California Commission on the status

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education, finance, mathematics, philosophy, political science, sociology, literature, biology

LexisNexis Provides full text access to news, business, financial, legal, medical, government, and domestic and international newspaper resources

Policy File Includes information addressing virtually all aspects of public policy, including abstracts and full text

ProQuest Research Library Key multidisciplinary database providing fulltext access to magazine and newspaper articles, scholarly journal articles, reports, and dissertations, as well as citations

Wilson Omnifile Key multidisciplinary database providing citations and full text, book reviews, and more

Web of Science Multidisciplinary database that includes Social Science Citation Index and Arts & Humanities Citation Index

WorldCat Contains over 32 millions records of articles, books, and other resources from libraries around the world

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of women. Reports, hearings, recommendations. Sacramento: April 30, 2001.

America: History and Life The definitive index of articles and other literature covering the history and culture of the US and Canada, from the 15th century to the present

- Rios, V. (2006). "The hyper-criminalization of Black and Latino male youth in the era of mass incarceration." *A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society* 8 (2): 40-54.
- Gilmore, R. (1998-1999). "Globalisation and US prison growth: from military Keynesianism to post-Keynesian militarism." *Race & Class* 40 (2-3): 171-188.

Left Index Indexes over 150 journals focused on the political, social, economic, and cultural issues of the Left

- Loury, G. (2007). "Why are so many Americans in prison?: race and the transformation of criminal justice." *Boston Review* 32 (4).
- Herbert, S., and Brown, E. (2006). "Conceptions of space and crime in the punitive neoliberal city." *Antipode* 38 (4): 755-777.

History Resource Center Provides access to full text articles and primary sources concerning US history

- "Hotel California: prisons and punishment." *The Economist* (US). Feb. 26, 2005. 374 (8415): 27.
- "Packing them in: California's prisons." *The Economist* (US). Aug. 12, 2006. 380 (8490): 23

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Websites

Cornerstone Theater Company: From 1986-1991, this ensemble worked in rural communities, creating musical productions involving interaction between classic plays and American communities (such as Aeschylus's ancient rituals on a modern Native American reservation). Since relocating to LA in 1992 to begin their urban residency work, Cornerstone has developed community-based projects involving communities of faith, LA neighborhoods and workplaces, and "communities that share culture and language, age, birthday, and transportation."

Center for Diversity and Democracy: Affiliated with USC's Department of American Studies and Ethnicity, the CDD works with students, faculty, and community partners to strengthen a diverse set of voices within the university, while enabling "a wide variety of community members and organizations to engage the university as equal partners towards equity and social justice."

Real Cost of Prisons Project: This site, dedicated to increasing the organizing capacity of prison/justice activists working to end mass incarceration, has excellent resource lists and a blog.

Critical Resistance: Critical Resistance is a leading prison activist organization whose recent conference (Sept 26-8) was the year's major gathering of prison activists and analysts. The CR-10 Publications Collective also edits *Abolition Now: Ten Years of Strategy and Struggle Against the Prison Industrial Complex*.

ACLU of Southern California: This organization's Jails Project focuses on the LA County Jail system and what can be done to fix it.

Youth For Justice: This site is run by LA's leading advocates for youth justice, the Youth Justice Coalition.

Homies Unidos: This organization works on deportations and gang issues in Pico Union & Central America.

A New Way of Life Reentry Project: This project helps women and girls break the cycle of entrapment in the criminal justice system and lead healthy and satisfying lives.

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