

The Future of Critical Criminology and Interdisciplinary Justice Studies in Canada  
Roundtable Discussion – Context and Guiding Questions

May 5, 2017  
17h45 – 19h00  
FSS 4004

After providing two distinct fora for critical criminologists and justice scholars for the past several years, the organizers of the *Critical Perspectives: Criminology and Social Justice* (Carleton University and University of Ottawa) and *Justice* series (University of Winnipeg) conferences held a first joint meeting in Winnipeg in May 2016. This year's edition taking place on 4-5 May 2017 entitled "Critical Criminology / Representing Justice" will build on this successful experience, bringing together Canadian and international scholars, undergraduate and graduate students, along with policy-makers, practitioners, non-profit and community groups, advocates, activists, artists, and others whose work is informed by the social sciences and humanities to discuss and reimagine meanings of justice.

Over the years, both conferences have shared the following objectives:

- To provide a space for critical scholars in criminology, justice studies, and related disciplines to present their research and debate the implications of their findings;
- To be inclusive by welcoming presentations by graduate and undergraduate students, along with speakers outside of academia; and
- To make scholarly work accessible to academics and non-academics alike by not charging registration fees to attend and/or present at the conference.

*Critical Perspectives* has also tried to advance bilingualism through promoting engagement between Anglophone and Francophone scholars, while the *Justice* series has established a peer-reviewed journal – the *Annual Review of Interdisciplinary Justice Research* – to showcase selected contributions from their conference. Both entities have also differed with respect to the place of keynote addresses in their fora (with the former having no more than one per day, while the latter has had a few keynotes per day) and the size of their conferences (with the former privileging a larger conference format with several concurrent sessions, while the later has preferred to organize more intimate gatherings with fewer concurrent sessions).

As *Justice* series conferences will continue to be organized at the University of Winnipeg on a regular basis (with the theme for their 2018 annual meeting to be announced during the closing roundtable), while remaining open to occasionally organizing joint conferences with other fora, those involved in the *Critical Perspectives* conferences wish roundtable participants to consider the following guiding questions:

- Is there interest from colleagues outside of Ottawa to host *Critical Perspectives* conferences in the future?
- If so, what would a national steering committee and a local organizing committee look like, what shared and distinct roles would they play, and what objectives would guide their collective work?

To further build and strengthen the community of critical criminologists and interdisciplinary justice scholars working in Canada and abroad, the convenors of this year's joint conference also wish to consider the following pertaining to both conferences:

- Is there an interest in establishing an association to support the work of critical criminologists and interdisciplinary justice scholars in Canada and, if so, what objectives, activities and governance structures would shape its work?
- What publication venue(s) – academic and non-academic – would be best positioned to accommodate the publication of selected Anglophone and/or Francophone conference contributions going forward?

We look forward to discussing the items outlined above with longstanding and new *Critical Perspectives* and *Justice* series participants alike during our closing business meeting, while working towards a vibrant future for critical criminological and interdisciplinary justice scholarship in Canada.