

Spring 1996

## Recent Books

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Recent Books, 86 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 1161 (1995-1996)

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

## CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY: A SURVEY OF RECENT BOOKS

JULIET M. CASPER\*

### CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

LEONARD WEINGLASS, *RACE FOR JUSTICE: MUMIA ABU-JAMAL'S FIGHT AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY* (MONROE, ME: COMMON COURAGE PRESS, 1995) 272 pp.

On August 17, 1996, Mumia Abu-Jamal is scheduled to die. Convicted of first degree murder, Abu-Jamal insists that he is innocent, and his team of attorneys have found evidence to support his claim. Leonard Weinglass, chief counsel for the defense, chronicles Abu-Jamal's fight to leave death row by publishing the legal documents submitted to the Pennsylvania court and by providing background information about the crime, Abu-Jamal, and Judge Albert F. Sabo.

PUNISHMENT AND THE DEATH PENALTY: THE CURRENT DEBATE (ROBERT M. BAIRD & STUART E. ROSENBAUM EDS.) (AMHERST, NY: PROMETHEUS BOOKS, 1995) 258 pp.

The editors have gathered together eighteen essays that discuss the justification for punishment and or capital punishment. The punishment of the innocent and erroneous convictions, the crusade for and against the death penalty, and the arbitrary application of capital punishment are some of the issues covered in this work. Contrasting theories and views are presented.

---

\* Electronic Services Reference Librarian, Indiana University School of Law Library. B.A. 1989 Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame; J.D. 1992, Indiana University—Bloomington; M.L.S. 1993, Indiana University—Bloomington.

**CHILD ABUSE—UNITED STATES—PREVENTION**

LELA B. COSTIN ET AL, *THE POLITICS OF CHILD ABUSE IN AMERICA* (NY: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1996) 194 pp.

Child abuse is no longer viewed as just a problem of the poor, thanks to the media. But, media attention has focused on sensational conduct and the big social spectacle trials. Such attention has done little to sensitize the public to the real problem that exists. The authors, all social workers, demonstrate that the public child welfare system, with insufficient funding and coordination, is failing to remedy the problem. They advocate a public safety approach to the issue and introduce the concept of a Children's Authority, a local entity that would oversee child welfare investigation, enforcement, placement services, prevention and education, family support services, and research and development.

**CRIME IN MASS MEDIA—UNITED STATES**

CULTURAL CRIMINOLOGY (JEFF FERRELL & CLINTON R. SANDERS EDS.) (BOSTON: NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1995) 365 pp.

This work "explores the common ground between cultural and criminal practices in contemporary social life." The first part of the work discusses the role of the media in portraying culture and crime with essays on random drug violence, serial killers, and surveillance. The second part focuses on subculture, style, and crime. Neo-Nazi skinheads, gangs, bikers, and taggers make up some of the subcultures discussed. The editors believe that theories of criminology must consider the role of the media, language, symbolism, and style.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE, ADMINISTRATION OF—PHILOSOPHY**

ALEKSANDAR FATIC, *PUNISHMENT AND RESTORATIVE CRIME-HANDLING: A SOCIAL THEORY OF TRUST* (ALDERSHOT, ENGLAND: AVEBURY, 1995) 281 pp.

Despite the debates and arguments, the theories and concepts, a single moral problem surrounding punishment still exists: how to justify the deliberate infliction of pain and

deprivation which is inherent in any punishment. Tackling this moral dilemma, Fatic divides his work into three parts: theories, politics, and realities. He proposes a restorative crime-handling theory with trust as the central characteristic of the justice system. There is no distinction between criminal and civil law under his system.

#### CRIMINALS—UNITED STATES—CASE STUDIES

F. MARK S. FLEISHER, *BEGGARS AND THIEVES: LIVES OF URBAN STREET CRIMINALS* (MADISON: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PRESS, 1995) 332 PP.

Fleisher's goal in this book is to describe the human dimensions of criminals, specifically the social and cultural processes that lead street people to crime and keep them in a cycle of criminal activity. By employing participant-observation methods, he has been able to collect real data from real people on the street. Drug dealers, cocaine and heroin addicts, alcoholics, gang members, burglars and beggars are just some of the Seattle street people interviewed. Fleisher discovers that all of the street people he encountered came from dysfunctional families, and that jail or prison was often viewed as a welcomed break from life on the street. Prevention, in the form of child protection from parental abuse, is Fleisher's solution to street crime.

#### CRIMINOLOGY—PHILOSOPHY

CRIME AND PUBLIC POLICY: PUTTING A THEORY TO WORK (HUGH D. BARLOW ED.) (BOULDER, CO: WESTVIEW PRESS, 1995) 301 PP.

Consisting of fifteen original essays by twenty-two authors, this work unites theory with policy. The social scientist authors have been asked to practically apply their theories and knowledge, so graduate students can evaluate what works in reality. The essays discuss such topics as neighborhood-based networks, behavioral strategies, shaming, repressive crime control, white collar crimes, and organized crime.

**DEVIANT BEHAVIOR**

CHARLES R. TITTLE, *CONTROL BALANCE: TOWARD A GENERAL THEORY OF DEVIANCE* (BOULDER, CO: WESTVIEW PRESS, 1995) 321 pp.

One simple theory cannot adequately explain or predict criminal or deviant behavior. Tittle integrates a number of theories in the creation of his control balance theory. His theory relies upon a control ratio which takes into account a variety of variables, such as social class, power, and the centrality of control.

**HABEAS CORPUS—UNITED STATES—STATES—STATISTICS**

ROGER A. HANSON AND HENRY W.K. DALEY, *FEDERAL HABEAS CORPUS REVIEW: CHALLENGING STATE COURT CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS* (WASHINGTON, D.C.: U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS, 1995) 34 pp.

This report examines the habeas corpus petitions filed in eighteen federal district courts located in Alabama, California, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Petitions from these nine states comprise about half of the total petitions filed each year. The statistics compiled include the number and type of issues raised in the petition, the most serious offense and the sentence imposed at conviction, the manner of disposition, reasons for dismissal of habeas corpus issues, and the length of time for the review process.

**HOMICIDE—MASSACHUSETTS—BOSTON**

GEORGE LARDNER, JR., *THE STALKING OF KRISTIN: A FATHER INVESTIGATES THE MURDER OF HIS DAUGHTER* (NY: ATLANTIC MONTHLY PRESS, 1995) 340 pp.

In May of 1992 twenty-four year old Kristin Lardner was shot three times in the head by an ex-boyfriend, against whom she had obtained a restraining order. This book, written by her father, chronicles the events surrounding her murder and critiques the criminal justice system that continues to fail victims of stalking and domestic abuse. The book expands upon a Pulitzer Prize winning article Lardner wrote for the *Washington Post*.

**JUVENILE DELINQUENCY—UNITED STATES**

**YOUNG BLOOD: JUVENILE JUSTICE AND THE DEATH PENALTY** (SHIRLEY DICKS, ED.) (AMHERST, NY: PROMETHEUS BOOKS, 1995) 295 PP.

The editor, whose son is currently on death row in Tennessee, has gathered together writings by death row inmates, family members, journalists, criminologists, and legal experts. The writings focus on the effects of juvenile crime on victims, perpetrators, and families. While case studies and case profiles dominate the work, the editor does provide some suggestions for the prevention of youth violence, including a discussion of a number of programs currently in existence.

**OFFENSES AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENT—UNITED STATES**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME AND CRIMINALITY: THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES** (SALLY M. EDWARDS ET AL. EDS) (NEW YORK: GARLAND, 1996) 274 PP.

The research in the area of environmental crimes is scant, despite the increased media exposure and police attention to such crimes. This work brings together eleven essays which represent the leading research in the field. A broad historical overview of the problem is followed by an analysis of the effectiveness of the EPA's Office of Criminal Investigation, a case study of a specific environmental crimes problem, and a handful of philosophical and theoretical essays.

**JOHN F. COONEY ET AL, ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES DESKBOOK** (WASHINGTON, D.C.: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE, 1996) 415 PP.

Seven attorneys from the Washington, D.C., law firm Venable, Baetjer, Howard, and Civiletti have compiled a "how to" guide for attorneys handling environmental crimes cases. Criminal environmental law combines the history-driven criminal law with the technically complex environmental law. The first sixty pages of this book consist of a discussion of the basic concepts, the historical development, the knowledge element, investigation of an environmental crime, and the ramifications of a conviction. The rest of the book reprints statutes, policy documents, and sample forms and pleadings.

**PRISON PSYCHOLOGY**

ROBERT JOHNSON, *HARD TIME: UNDERSTANDING AND REFORMING THE PRISON* (BELMONT, CA: WADSWORTH, 2ND ED., 1996) 316 pp.

The first edition of this book was published in 1987. Written for use in criminal justice, sociology, and psychology courses, the second edition updates the statistical information and includes the latest research on prisons. The author also develops more fully the coping, criminality, and correction concepts discussed in the first edition. First person accounts of prison life are emphasized. While pain seems to be the central feature of prison life, the author believes prisons can be decent, humane institutions, and he offers a reform proposal.

**PRISONS—UNITED STATES—OVERCROWDING**

WAYNE N. WELSH, *COUNTIES IN COURT: JAIL OVERCROWDING AND COURT-ORDERED REFORM* (PHILADELPHIA: TEMPLE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1995) 265 pp.

Criminal justice is primarily a local affair, but in 1993, "forty states had a least one state prison under a court order or consent decree to limit population or improve general conditions of confinement." Unanticipated and often unwanted intervention by courts has resulted in massive organizational change on the local level where jails are administered. With little money to operate, jails are being asked to provide the same confinement conditions ordered in the better funded state and federal prisons. Welsh presents a five stage model for the evaluation of court-ordered jail reform.