

Call for contributors: for an edited book on the theme *ECOLOGIES OF JUSTICE*

Submit summary of your contribution and author bio(s) to ecologiesofjustice@gmail.com by February 10, 2023

This book on the theme *ECOLOGIES OF JUSTICE* explores the intersections between prisons and jails, ecological sustainability, environmental justice, and communities impacted by crime and incarceration. A major goal of the book is to bring together diverse practices, theories and programs that make connections between ecological sustainability, environmental justice, prisons, and communities. The goal is to amplify and advance environmentally-based efforts to challenge extreme punishment and reduce the number of people incarcerated or under correctional control. To do this we plan to bring together diverse voices from inside and outside of prison walls — including researchers, practitioners, educators, designers, organizers, activists, program directors, staff, program participants, volunteers, artists, and more.

On one hand the book plans to explore the role of environmental programs and natural environments in creating more rehabilitative or restorative environments in existing spaces—for instance, through opportunities for staff and incarcerated people to connect with nature. Yet it also aims to explore how living ecologies can be an inspiration for rethinking how to approach crime and justice more broadly in the United States, including strategies to reduce the number of people under correctional control. This includes, for example, understanding and advancing the policies and practices that might rebuild the environments of communities that have disproportionately high incarceration rates—through green workforce development programs, access to environmental spaces and programs, investments in green infrastructure, and opportunities for local community ownership and stewardship of land. It also might consider the ways that living ecologies can inspire alternative conceptions or approaches to justice that are more relational, restorative, and community-centered—for example, in connection to restorative justice theories or practices.

Overall contributions could address one or several of the following themes (note other topics will be considered):

- Environmental education, food justice, ecological conservation, green jobs training/ workforce development or therapeutic horticulture in the context of prisons or reentry
- Tensions between reform and decarceration or abolition in ecological sustainability or environmental justice work
- Healing as it relates to nature, ecology, or the environment— especially holistic, first-person, or experiential discussions of healing (from program staff, survivors of violence or crime, and/or people with lived experience of incarceration)
- Approaches to developing partnerships, collaborations or allies for designing and implementing new programs, spaces, systems, services, or interventions
- Connections between personal transformations and systems-level transformations in the context of environmental programs, spaces, and activities
- Strategies to develop networks, organizations, or pipelines to support currently and formerly incarcerated leaders in environmental fields (for example: peer-to-peer education, organizational transformations, outreach, coalition building, or community organizing)
- Community based economic development, ecological sustainability, and environmental justice in places that are impacted by disproportionately high levels of policing, surveillance and incarceration, or places that are impacted by prison construction/ closure
- The potential role of living ecologies in conceptions or practices of justice
- The role of people-plant interactions (or multi-species encounters) in prisons, communities impacted by incarceration, or with survivors of crime

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We welcome contributions from individuals or groups, from both well-established and first-time authors. We especially welcome submissions from people directly impacted by crime and incarceration, or writing teams that include diverse perspectives. Creative and interdisciplinary contributions are encouraged, as are submissions that plan to include visuals such as photos, diagrams, or artwork. Although the focus is on a U.S. context, submissions from within or outside the U.S. that address to an international or comparative perspective are welcome.

We will consider three main types of contribution (although are happy to consider other kinds of contribution):

- **Research-based (4000-6000 words):** These contributions are historical, theoretical or empirical research studies that contribute to understanding issues related to environmental justice, sustainability, prisons and/or communities impacted by incarceration. Although these contributions should incorporate references to relevant academic sources, they should be written for more than a specialized academic audience. In particular, this means that there should be consistent connections to how some line of thinking or new finding is connected to possible courses of action. While research-based contributions may explain how findings advance an academic discipline, they will also clearly be framed around implications for present or future action, activism or practice.
- **Case studies of programs and practices (2000-4000 words):** These contributions will describe a specific practice, service, program or approach to environmental work in prisons or communities impacted by incarceration. Although case studies of single organizations are welcome, they should be written in a way that considers challenges or critiques, including how one particular case/program relates to other work in the field. Case studies that offer lessons (based on successes and/or failures) for future action, activism, or practice in other places are especially encouraged. These contributions may cite some academic research or program evaluation studies, but their main focus is on describing lessons, contexts, values, and logistics from a specific program, organization, collaboration, or site.
- **Notes from the field (1000 words or less):** These short contributions will highlight a specific insight, moment, perspective, or experience of taking action on ecological sustainability or environmental justice issues in the context of communities, incarceration or reentry. Notes from the field may be written primarily in the first person, and should focus on one specific lesson or insight.

To submit, please prepare a document with the following information: **(1) a 300-500 word summary/** abstract of what your contribution would cover, **(2) a brief 100-200 word bio** of each author that includes organizational affiliations. In your submission be sure to mention **what type of contribution** your chapter is (see above), and **if you would plan to include images, diagrams, or photos.** Email your submission to ecologiesofjustice@gmail.com by December 1. If you would like to *discuss your ideas before submitting* or have any questions, please write to Matt DelSesto at ecologiesofjustice@gmail.org