

Criminal Justice Review

Call for Papers for 2022 Special Issue

COVID-19 AND TRUST IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Special Issue Editors: Amber Horning Ruf and Joselyne Chenane Nkogo

The COVID-19 pandemic shaped the public's trust in authority, such as the police, corrections and the government. While pandemics are not common, they cause significant mortality, social and economic disruption, widespread fear, and panic (Potter, 2001). In national emergencies, the public's distrust of the government and law enforcement can increase, which can elevate fear (Smallman, 2015). During the swine flu outbreak, half of American adults felt that the federal government, corporations, or both were involved in at least one conspiracy to cover up health information (Painter, 2014). In a study about a pandemic in New York City, Fuller et al. (2007) conducted focus groups with different ethnic communities about whether they would trust their government to furnish necessary survival staples and to maintain civil order. Their level of trust and feelings of preparedness varied greatly, with black communities having the least trust in government and in law enforcement to maintain order in their neighborhoods. Dong and Bouey (2020) found that the rate of mental distress during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease in China was exacerbated by the government's initial downplaying of its severity, which also negatively impacted public trust in the government. This response eroded public trust. There is variation in the trust of authority by race and ethnicity within countries. By country there is probably even greater variation because of existing community relationships between the public and the government and police that dictate the public's trust in authorities during a crisis.

Research is needed to understand how COVID-19 has impacted or exacerbated feelings of mistrust of criminal justice systems. Although there is some preliminary work in this area (e.g., Jones, 2020; Nix, Ivanov, & Pickett, 2020), we need to understand the repercussions that the COVID-19 pandemic in order to create constructive policies to repair broken trust or to shed light on existing broken systems. The pandemic helped to put a spotlight on existing problems, such as police misconduct, excessive use of force against minority communities, and other social justice issues and public health issues in correctional institutions.

Contributions are invited to engage with the following questions:

- How has the fear of COVID-19 impacted the public's trust in police, corrections or courts?
- How has the fear of COVID-19 impacted the public's trust in the government?
- How has COVID-19 illuminated mistrust of CJ systems?
- How has COVID-19 put a spotlight on social justice issues?
- How has COVID-19 put strains on disenfranchised populations and how does this intersect with CJ systems?

To encourage inquiry in this area, the Editors of Criminal Justice Review seek studies that examine how COVID-19 impacted and highlighted trust in criminal justice systems and the government. Accepted papers will appear in a special issue to be published in 2023. Accepted papers will be published ahead of print in OnlineFirst.

Submissions

- This special issue is now open for submissions. The submission deadline for abstracts is June 1st, 2022. All abstracts must be emailed to the guest editors at joselyne_nkogo@uml.edu and amber_ruf@uml.edu.

For questions about this call for papers, please contact the Special Guest Editors, below.
JOSELYNE CHENANE NKOGO AND AMBER HORNING RUF University of Massachusetts,
Lowell, School of Criminology and Justice joselyne_nkogo@uml.edu amber_ruf@uml.edu

Criminal Justice Review

Editor:

Joshua Hinkle

Georgia State University

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

jhinkle@gsu.edu