



# Volume 4, Issue 1

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## ABOUT TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE JOURNAL

The *Transformative Justice Journal (TJJ)*, founded in 2012, is an online, open-source, peer-reviewed scholar-activist, anti-authoritarian, subversive, and critical penal abolition journal dedicated to promoting transformative justice. TJJ is organized and edited by a radical critical grass-roots collective of activist-scholars, community organizers, and current and former prisoners from around the world. TJJ was influenced out of conversations at the International Conference on Penal Abolition ICOPA in 2010. As a scholar-activist journal, TJJ was developed out of scholarly and community dialogues around promoting a decolonizing and anarchist criminology social justice penal abolition community-based alternatives to both the retributive, punitive, and utilitarian justice models used by most colonial criminal justice systems, which victimize offenders and re-victimize survivors of offenses, while promoting profits over people and corporate interests over community interests. The current punitive criminal justice system takes control, responsibility, healing, and accountability away from victims and offenders and instead gives them a powerless and victimizing experience. Transformative justice, a decolonizing and anti-oppression approach, however, views conflict not from the lens of the criminal justice system, but from the community; as such, those involved in the conflict are seen as individuals rather than victims or offenders. Moreover, transformative justice works to dismantle oppression by systems of domination, such as racism, sexism, homophobia, ageism, elitism, statism, classism, transphobia, ecocide, speciesism, and ableism within all domestic, interpersonal, global, and community conflicts that foster theories such as, but not limited to eugenics, capitalism, and colonialism. In short, transformative justice is restorative justice plus social justice. Transformative justice expands the social justice model, which challenges and identifies injustices, in order to create organized processes of addressing and ending those injustices and providing space and place for marginalized voices. Transformative justice also builds off the principles of, anarchism, decolonizing, prison abolition, healing justice, Quakerism, liberation, revolutionary social justice resistance movements, First Nations in Canada, and restorative justice in order to dismantle oppression, repression, suppression, and domination.

## LOCATION

The Transformative Justice Journal is located in the Department of Criminal Justice at Salt Lake Community College.

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### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Please read these guidelines and then send your article, essay, review, research notes, interviews, reflections, poems, art, event summary, etc. to: [transformativejusticejournal@gmail.com](mailto:transformativejusticejournal@gmail.com)

#### **Value and Uniqueness of TJJ**

- The Transformative Justice Journal was influenced in 2010 by discussions at the International Conference on Penal Abolition (ICOPA).
- The *Transformative Justice Journal* publishes rigorously peer-reviewed scholar-activist work of the highest quality.
- The *Transformative Justice Journal* provides the utmost respect and care during the review process.
- The *Transformative Justice Journal* is a free-to-access electronic journal.
- The *Transformative Justice Journal* charges no fees for publication.
- The *Transformative Justice Journal* supports and encourages submissions that are excluded from mainstream journals, such as, but not limited to use photographic, video, MP3, art, poems, raps, and new media work.
- The *Transformative Justice Journal* is organized and edited by a radical critical grass-roots collective of activist-scholars, community organizers, and current and former prisoners from around the world.

## We Seek

- **Incarcerated writings and art** – of any length
- **Research articles and essays** – 2,000 to 10,000 words
- **Student final papers** – no more than 10,000 words
- **Course/class summaries** – no more than 2,000 words
- **Research notes** – no more than 2,000 words
- **Commentary** – no more than 2,000 words
- **Tactic and strategy analysis** – no more than 10,000 words
- **Academic development** – no more than 10,000 words
- **Lecture/presentation summaries** – no more than 2,000 words
- **Conference/panel summaries** – no more than 2,000 words
- **Events/protests/resistances summaries** – no more than 2,000 words
- **Action alert summaries** – no more than 2,000 words
- **Film, book, art, and media reviews** – no more than 3,000 words
- **Interviews and dialogues** – between 1,000 to 10,000 words
- **Poems and rap** – no more than 10,000 words

## Style

- All submissions should have appropriate references and citations. Manuscripts should be single line spacing, 12-point font and conform to the [American Psychological Association](#) (APA) style format.
- Submissions must be sent in Microsoft Word format. Submissions in other software formats will not be reviewed.
- Authors should remove all self-identification from their submissions, but all submissions must be accompanied by a title page with author(s) name and affiliation, name of type of submission (e.g., article, review, conference summary, etc.), contact information including e-mail, postal address, and phone number.
- Authors must include an abstract of no more than 150 words that briefly describes the manuscript's contents.

## Review Process

- Upon acceptance for review, the Transformative Justice Journal editors will send manuscripts, under a double-peer reviewed process, to no less than two, and generally three reviewers. Reviewers provide their recommendations to the editor, who makes the final decision to accept the manuscript.
- The Transformative Justice Journal holds to the utmost respect, love, and care when reviewing manuscripts. Each review we assure is constructive, positive, and hopefully useful to the author. We strongly welcome first time authors, students, nontraditional students, activists, youth, community organizers, prisoners, politicians, and teachers.

## Submissions will be assigned to one of the four following categories:

1. Accept without revisions
  2. Accept with editorial revisions
  3. Revise and resubmit for peer review
  4. Reject
- Every effort will be made to inform authors of the editor's decision within 100 days of receipt of a manuscript. Authors, whose manuscripts are accepted for publication, will be asked to submit a brief biography that includes their institutional or organizational affiliations and their research interests. The

Transformative Justice Journal only publishes original materials. Please do not submit manuscripts that are under review or previously published elsewhere.

### **Copyright, Republishing, and Royalties**

- All Work published by the Journal is copyrighted by the Transformative Justice Journal.
- Replication of Contributor's Submitted Work may be assessed a reasonable fee for the administration and facilitation to other presses. Such fee shall be determined at the discretion of the Transformative Justice Journal.
- Royalties: Contributor agrees and acknowledges that no royalty, payment, or other compensation will be provided by the Transformative Justice Journal in exchange for or resulting from the publication of the Submitted Work.

### **Publication Dates**

- TJJ uses a rolling submission process, allowing authors to submit at any time during the year without time restraints or quota of articles in an issue. Rolling submission, the most current scholarly method of accepting publications, allows for more timely publications and current scholarship to enter the public sphere in a more timely fashion, rather than conforming to traditional academic print journal guidelines.
- We are pleased to accept your submissions at any time and will move quickly through the review process to ensure timeliness.
- For submission, please submit to: [transformativejusticejournal@gmail.com](mailto:transformativejusticejournal@gmail.com)



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## **Fascism is on the Rise**

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## **Fascism is on the Rise**

Sean Swain

Fascism is on the rise, I think. Certainly, in the U.S. and perhaps around the world. If real life was a Pink Floyd movie, the hammers would be on the march. But the truth is, fascism has never been far below the surface in American political culture. The U.S. has always flirted with fascism. The so-called founding fathers always stressed the importance of an informed and engaged body politic in order to maintain freedom. They knew that stupid, lazy, apathetic people could never stay free for long. Well, their idea of “free.” Freedom is hard work; particularly in a world that rails against it. And so we take those precepts from those austere, famous dead guys and we look at the current state of affairs of the American people. News flash: Americans are lazy, stupid, and apathetic. We’re embarrassingly lazy, stupid, and apathetic.

First, lazy. Yeah, there’s the cultural value of hard work, but nobody really knows what that is anymore. Americans have had everything handed to them. Even where things are bad, that desperation is still much better than everywhere else.

We’re stupid. Americans elected a president who suggested drinking bleach in a pandemic and tried to use a Sharpie marker to change the course of a hurricane. And that fuckin’ moron almost got re-elected. You could randomly pick a name out of a phone book and find someone more qualified to exercise power.

And that brings us to apathetic. Americans don’t care. We have a history of not caring. We don’t want to know.



And people who don't want to know are not only ignorant but are ignorant about being ignorant. That is, apathetic people don't even grasp how much they don't know.

That, I think, is the greatest fault, and the biggest reason the U.S. has always flirted with fascism. We don't want to see how the proverbial sausage gets made. We don't want to know. We just want everything fixed. That goes for government too. We don't want politicians telling us what they're doing and why. We just want cheap gas when they're done. We want to continue chewing our cheeseburgers with our mouths open and not worry about how that dead cow got to our plates.

Representative republics are not the place for folks who don't want to know and don't care. This kind of so-called democracy requires active involvement and engagement. Living in this kind of political system and avoiding direct engagement is like driving in the Daytona 500 without your hands on the wheel. "Yeah, I'm not really into steering... I'm gonna mash my foot down on the gas pedal; when the race is over, tell me where I placed."

So, we have a lazy, stupid, and apathetic population that wants things done for them without requiring their active involvement. They want a government that handles their affairs and runs things. Fascism. And to this point, Adolf Hitler's critique of representative government bears repeating, because his critique resonates with the majority of the voting public. Hitler said the problem with this kind of government is that the people who get elected make decisions about situations they know nothing about. A dentist gets elected, for example, and doesn't just vote on bills about dental hygiene; he votes on bills about bridge construction. An engineer in another district gets elected and doesn't just vote on bridge construction bills, but also on bills about dental hygiene. As a consequence, you have government being directed largely by people who are operating outside their fields of expertise, and the government lists and blunders along. Hitler pointed out that a dictatorship is far more efficient. And that's true. One guy calls all the shots. The buck stops with him. The problem of course is not with the efficiency of fascism. It's the most efficient form of hierarchical government. The problem is what you're efficient AT. The invasions of Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and France were very efficient. So was the system of death camps. It was very efficient. Fascist dictators typically prove to be very capable. You can't really argue otherwise. What's scary is WHAT they're capable of doing. But this is the kind of contemplation typically lost on American voters. Americans want someone capable and efficient... like Franco... Pinochet... Mussolini... Hitler...

John Kennedy's dad was the ambassador to Britain during World War II. Joe Kennedy actively endorsed the U.S. entering the war... on the side of Germany. Aviator Charles Lindbergh was a big fan of Hitler and traveled to Germany to meet him. So did Walt Disney. Yeah, Walt Disney—the guy whose major cartoon icon, Mickey Mouse, first appeared as a character in black-face. Disney clearly drew his "evil witches" to duplicate the "Jewish hags" who ate children, often the justification for pogroms across Europe. So, if Walt and his buddy Adolf had their way, it WOULD be a small world after all... And let's not forget Hitler apologist Henry Ford. Ford loved Hitler and spent his own money publishing *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, anti-Jewish propaganda describing rabbis sacrificing human babies on pentagrams as part of a plot to take over the world.

There's nothing more American than the Kennedys... Charles Lindbergh... Walt Disney... Henry Ford. Nothing more American than Fascism. It seems quite appropriate that in this era, Antifa is singled out and labeled a terrorist group. To be anti-fascist these days is to be a terrorist. It used to be that all those American soldiers storming the beach at Normandy were hailed as heroes. Now they're reinvented as terrorists... Anti-fascists... *Saving Private Ryan* (Spielberg, 1998) Tom Hanks...

It takes a lot of lazy, stupid, and apathetic people for fascism and its "alternative facts" to flourish. A year after neo-fascists attempted a coup to install Trump as dictator-in-chief, we have "alternative" narratives for that. Fascism is on the rise. The hammers are on the march. Opposing them makes you a terrorist.

If what I just said is terrorism, make the most of it.

## References

Spielberg, S. (Director). Hanks, T. (Actor). (1998). *Saving Private Ryan* [Motion picture]. North America: DreamWorks Pictures.



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## **The Impact of the Justice System of Families**

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## **The Impact of the Justice System of Families**

Iris Doppler

My article is about how the prison system affects family and friends. It is a view onto a system that is rotting from the inside, built on the suffering of incarcerated people, their families and also taxpayers. This system creates even more crime inside and outside the walls of each prison because of the way they treat our fellow men. And how attempts are made to stop families from fighting for their lives to wear them out and to shut them up. There is no easy and no quick solution but to remain silent will not help; it never has. A divided society will have a hard time to change a system, so it is up to each individual to make his contribution, no matter in what form.

The system is sick, broken and it stinks! The deprivation of liberty itself should be the punishment (as it is in many countries), and it would be enough! But they don't leave it at that, they make it even harder and push us as families and the prisoners to our limits emotionally, mentally, and often financially. I am tired of seeing how they treat our brothers, sisters, parents, friends, or acquaintances once they are imprisoned. It starts with "little" things that many don't consider important, but they are to the people who have to live in there! The everyday aggravations seem to be intentional to keep us all busy and distracted from the "big" things like thousands of innocent convicts, violation of human rights, enslavement, and exploitation! When people are busy getting through daily life, they don't have the time and energy to change or fight a system. They keep us in line and hope that we give up. I am tired of watching prisoners and their families suffer! I'm tired of the

billions of dollars being spent at the expense of prisoners and their families and none of it being returned to society in any meaningful way. I am tired of it taking months for them to get their self-paid shoes, winter coats or eyeglasses because no one considers it important to provide them with the bare minimum. They throw new tablets on the market every few years, but we have to pay for it. Old mp3 players which often have thousands of songs saved (that's a lot of money spent, 1 song is between \$0.99 and \$ 2.99) don't work anymore? Well, your bad luck. The kiosks and phones don't work, well it hardly cares anyone! But the fact that mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, wives, and husbands depend on this kind of communication doesn't matter to the system and thus the politicians, WE and our LO don't matter! When I hear one more time if you can't do the time, don't do the crime then I throw up! I am not talking about guilt or innocence of individuals, but about humane conditions in prisons, for all, without exception! There are human rights, there are prisoners' rights and people look the other way. Politicians look away because they don't want to stand in the way of the billion dollar companies. Money makes the world go 'round. They should be ashamed of it! I'm tired of watching innocent people spend decades behind bars because they can't afford a lawyer! What kind of world is this we live in? People often only care about these things when it affects them personally, but then my friend it is too late because the system already ate you up. All prisons are overcrowded and instead of releasing thousands because of Covid, the numbers are increasing. There is not enough space for those who are already there! Every overcrowding creates tension, people live like animals in a cage. There is hardly any recreation time, hardly any yard time and little where our loved ones can get rid of their frustration and the tension. And don't even get me started on training or education.

There are different issues, and I don't know where to start to be honest. With the juvenile offenders who get life. They are being robbed of any chance to improve, develop, and become a productive member of society. With the old ones who are 70, 80 or older and are barely able to cope with prison life but are not released to be free for at least a few more years to be with their families? Of old half-blind or frail men and women who depend on the mercy and help of other prisoners in order not to starve, die of thirst or die in their own filth? With the terminally ill who are not allowed to die in the presence of their family? With the people who suffer for decades on death row? The mentally ill who have neither medication nor therapy, nor are in prisons which are equipped for their needs, but are simply thrown into general population where they may be a danger to themselves or others? With people who spend years in solitary confinement and lose themselves and never find themselves again? With the abuse that takes place behind bars in every way imaginable? With people who sleep in the dirt on the floor because there is no space? They don't even have a mattress but at best a blanket? Or with 6 showers, 3 sinks, 3 urinals and 2 toilets for over 60 men? Or with insufficient calories for adults? With dirt, mold, and vermin in the food? Dirty, contaminated water?

With innocent convicted persons? People who have committed no crime and no one cares? Or lawyers who take thousands of dollars from families and do nothing at all? About the ignorance of judges, prosecutors, and politicians? Or let's talk about re-entry into society? How "easy" it is to rent an apartment, find a job, get insurance, graduate from school. Humans who are homeless after prison sometimes commit crimes again because society does not care? We should all stop fighting each other once and for all. We should support each other as best we can, because at the end of the day we all have a loved one who suffers under this system! Being hateful, separated and giving each other a hard time will not bring any of these men and women home or change anything! I'm not saying that we all have to love or like each other, by any means! But we should fight together for justice, for humane prison conditions, for more control of prisons, for the release of innocent people and for the rights of our loved ones! I can march with you for the right cause without liking you! It has nothing to do with sympathy but to do the right thing as a society, as an individual as a human being!




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**First Timer in Prison**

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**First Timer in Prison**

Mandlenkosi Cronk

When the guards woke me up at 4:30 a.m. for transfer, my prison sentence becomes a reality. I wasn't sure what to expect. Pulling into Dodge I felt my stomach turn. The first thing I noticed was the intimidating Bar & Wire Fence. At 25 years old, I never thought I would be going to the penitentiary.

I am a father, a son, a brother, and a grandson, but sometimes this is non-existent when my green uniform goes on, and I'm forced to use my d o c number. My dreams are to own a shoe store, create generational wealth, my own real estate properties, and make my family proud. My hobbies include fishing, going to parks with my daughter, swimming traveling investing, going on nature walks with family, watching movies and going on bike rides. These are all activities I look forward to when I am released. I am at the beginning of my journey in the prison system. Covid has caused movement too slow, and at Dodge it has closed some necessary appointments. I am unsure of how much of the prison population has been vaccinated, but there has been a slowdown. There was an outbreak in early May where everyone was put into quarantine status which shut down recreation, library visits, one close cell phone in person appointments, and dental appointments. They are starting to offer the vaccine more than when I arrived at May, but many are still refusing. They have been changing the restrictions if you are vaccinated, such as shorter quarantine times in and out.

It is still pretty packed up from the state. The shutdowns last year and early this year, where there were the transports coming in and out. In person it is great because they haven't seen their loved ones in a year, besides on video visit which isn't the same.

I have been on Unit 17, the "dungeon," for twelve weeks, and I just staff today, so I'll be leaving soon. In the basement of Dodge there are three-man cells, which makes for tight quarters. Many people leave here to the barracks after a few days, which makes a new cell a frequent occurrence. Connectivity that keep me busy are non-fiction books on topics I'm interested in learning about such as marketing, business, psychology, history and culture, help and biographies, writing letters to friends and family, working out to stay fit, and visiting. I get to learn about Wisconsin statutes, criminal codes, and laws.

In Dodge we are locked up in our cells all day. We get rec four times a week right now for one hour each time. We get a phone call twice a week. I look forward to being transferred to the next institution where I will have more freedom. I view this time as an opportunity to add value to myself through education and programming.

Some advice I would give others who are incarcerated is start planning for your release now. Make a list of your goals, a list of your strengths, a list of skills and character traits that you need to improve, develop strong principles, and stay focused on going home and accomplishing your dreams. Utilize each day to work towards your goals and add value to yourself. Take it day by day and all. I believe writing can change the world because one has the ability to reach people through writing and inform readers. Writing can touch people's hearts by helping people relate. Readers of writing are required to pause their life and quietly focus on the words in front of them which is very powerful in and of itself. Readers are also invited to step into the writer's world, which they can inspire people. I hope this entry finds you healthy, positive spirit, as well as living life to the fullest, and me you be at peace.