Special Issue Editors

Shoshana Pollack, PhD – Professor, Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University
Christine Mayor – Doctoral Candidate, Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University

Focus of the Special Issue

Walls to Bridges (W2B) is a university-based program that brings incarcerated and campus-enrolled students to study together in correctional settings for semester-long classes. The concept of ‘walls to bridges’ reflects the efforts to build connections between those who are incarcerated and those who are not, to develop partnerships between the commonly separated systems of post-secondary education and correctional institutions, and to provide routes to education for those who have experienced barriers to access. Central to the work of W2B is the honouring of multiple forms of knowing, including experiential knowledge as a site from which political and scholarly exploration can emerge. The values guiding W2B are:

- Building bridges and solidarity with those who are incarcerated and/or criminalized and those who are not;
- Fostering integrative learning, involving the whole self – mind, spirit, body and emotions;
- Valuing the wisdom that comes from lived experience, as well as other sources of learning and knowledge; and
- Creating collaborative spaces where critical analysis, dialogue, and self-reflection can open up new insights and dismantle preconceptions.

For this special issue of the Journal of Prisoners on Prisons, we encourage contributions from incarcerated and formerly incarcerated alumni of W2B classes. In the spirit of collaborative learning, we also invite W2B instructors or campus-based student alumni to co-author with current W2B inside students or alumni. Topics of exploration may include, but are not limited to:

- The impact of taking W2B classes on self, community, prison or university;
- Reflections on the role of collaborative learning in W2B classrooms;
- Critical examination of W2B pedagogy (i.e. circle work, experiential learning, prison classroom, peer learning, use of the arts, etc.);
- Alumni groups (i.e. W2B collectives);
- Leadership of criminalized/imprisoned students/alumni (i.e. educational supports, facilitators of W2B workshops, teaching assistants, collectives, etc);
- Indigenous ways of knowing and the W2B experience; or
- Critical reflections on W2B final ceremonies and projects.

Paper Formats

This special issue welcomes contributions from a wide range of scholarly work including:

- Theoretical, critical and analytical essays;
- Scholarly research articles based on quantitative, qualitative, arts-based and/or mixed-methods research;
- Book reviews;
- Artistic content – photo or graphic essays, digital art, etc.;
- Interviews or discussions transcribed from tape; or
- Commentaries.

Submission Guidelines

All contributions must follow the journal’s submission guidelines (see http://www.jpp.org/submissions.html)

- The Journal will not publish any subject matter that advocates hatred, sexism, racism, violence or that supports the death penalty.
- The Journal does not publish material that usually focuses on the writer’s own legal case, although the use of the writer’s personal experiences as an illustration of a broader topic is encouraged.
- The Journal does not usually publish fiction and does not generally publish poetry. Illustrations, drawings and paintings may be submitted as potential cover art.
- Articles should be no longer than 20 pages typed and double-spaced or legibly handwritten. Electronic submissions are gratefully received.
- Writers may elect to write anonymously or under a pseudonym.
- For references cited in an article, writers should attempt to provide the necessary bibliographic information. Refer to the references cited in past issues for examples.
- Editors look for developed pieces that address topics substantially. Manuscripts go through a preliminary reading and then are sent to review by the Editorial Board. Those that are of suitable interest are returned to the author with comments or suggestions. Editors work with writers on composition and form, and where necessary may help the author with referencing and bibliographic information, not readily available in prisons. Selected articles are returned to authors for their approval before publication. Papers not selected are returned with comments from the editor. Revised papers may be resubmitted.
- Please submit biographical and contact information, to be published alongside articles unless otherwise indicated.

Important Dates

Notice of intent to submit paper with abstract: 1 April 2020
Invitation from issue editors to submit paper: 1 May 2020
Submissions by authors: 1 October 2020
Editorial decision and reviewer comments to authors: 1 December 2020
Revised manuscripts: 1 March 2021
Publication date: 2021-2022

Submissions

Via email to spollack@wlu.ca or by mail to the address below:

Shoshana Pollack, PhD
Faculty of Social Work
Wilfrid Laurier University
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
N2H 3W8