

# Journal of Prisoners on Prisons

*Journal of Prisoners on Prisons*  
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## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Journal of Prisoners on Prisons (JPP) is a prisoner written, academically oriented and peer reviewed, non-profit journal, based on the tradition of the penal press. It brings the knowledge produced by prison writers together with academic arguments to enlighten public discourse about the current state of carceral institutions. This is particularly important because with few exceptions, definitions of deviance and constructions of those participating in these defined acts are incompletely created by social scientists, media representatives, politicians and those in the legal community. These analyses most often promote self-serving interests, omit the voices of those most affected, and facilitate repressive and reactionary penal policies and practices. As a result, the JPP attempts to acknowledge the accounts, experiences, and criticisms of the criminalized by providing an educational forum that allows women and men to participate in the development of research that concerns them directly. In an age where 'crime' has become lucrative and exploitable, the JPP exists as an important alternate source of information that competes with popularly held stereotypes and misconceptions about those who are currently, or those who have in the past, faced the deprivation of liberty.

## HISTORY

The JPP grew out of presentations at the International Conference on Penal Abolition (ICOPA) III held in Montreal in 1987, where participants were concerned with the lack of prisoner representation. It subsequently emerged in 1988, and has since published over 20 issues featuring prison writers from many different countries who discuss a broad range of topics pertaining to imprisonment. Articles are used regularly in university courses, and are frequently reprinted in books and cited in academic works. Readership includes prisoners, former prisoners, activists, academics, and community and justice workers amongst many others. The editorial board that produces and manages the journal is composed of university professors, and current and former prisoners who voluntarily contribute time and effort. The JPP is funded through subscriptions and sales, and is not dependent on any outside sources. It is currently published through the [University of Ottawa Press](#) in a biannual format. Many past contributors have received awards for their writing (e.g. PEN) and also have gone on to publish books. [Writing as Resistance: The JPP Anthology 1988-2002](#) (Gaucher, Ed. 2002) won silver prize, for book of the year in Foreword Magazine's annual awards in 2002.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Prisoners and former prisoners are encouraged to submit papers, collaborative essays, discussions transcribed from tape, book reviews, and photo or graphic essays.
- 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.
- If interested in making a submission we appreciate the enclosure of a brief abstract, with clear and accurate contact details for the author.