

CALL FOR PAPERS
Special Issue of *Journal of Criminology*

Criminologies of Genocide: Past and Present

Guest Editors:

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The point of departure for this special issue is the continuing genocidal brutality of the Israeli state against the Palestinian people and their lands. This brutality, Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian writes, reveals a “convergence of violence and pleasure” exposing “with its monstrosity, the local and global ontological politics and dilemmas facing Genocide Studies today”.¹ This dilemma extends beyond Genocide Studies and impacts a range of disciplines, including criminology. Notwithstanding its emphasis on causes and patterns of crime, criminology has, with some exceptions,² left the crime of genocide largely unexamined. This is despite the fact that the crime of genocide in Gaza, ongoing apartheid, land dispossession and other abuses against Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and within Israel cut across many matters of widespread importance to criminology.

If, as Shalhoub-Kevorkian argues the violent horrors livestreamed from Gaza have made us witnesses to unspeakable criminality, then those of us working in criminology and related disciplines must reckon with the witnessing in our work. Over 71,000 Palestinians have been murdered since October 7, 2023, with more than 2,700 bloodlines entirely wiped out.³ Core to the crime of genocide is the planned destruction of a group and the removal of reproducibility.⁴ As such, Palestinian babies and children are not exempt from the genocidal violence; rather, that is a feature of the “Israeli necropenological global and local regime” and “Israeli expansionist greed”. Taking her stand against “the settler colonial assertion of turning the Palestinian body/flesh, geography, and economy into a death zone” and in centring “human life, dignity, integrity, and the futurity of our people” Shalhoub-Kevorkian invites other criminologists to follow suit, to challenge colonial definitions of genocide, and to re-centre the

¹ Shalhoub-Kevorkian, N. (2025). Five Pillars of Zionist Genocidal Apparatus: A Palestinian Problematization of Genocide Studies. *Journal of Genocide Research*, 1–13.

² See Agozino, B. (2019). Humanifesto of the decolonization of criminology and justice. *Decolonization of Criminology and Justice*, 1(1), 5-28; Collins, A., & Jamal, A. (2025). ‘Say no genocide’: discursive constructions of violence and identities around Gaza. *Acta Academica: Critical Views on Society, Culture and Politics*, 57(2), 123–141; Cunneen, C. (1999). Criminology, genocide and the forced removal of indigenous children from their families. *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, 32(2), 124-138; Savelsberg, J. (2009). Genocide, criminology, and Darfur. *Theoretical Criminology*, 13(4), 477-480; Savelsberg, Joachim J. (2010) *Crime and Human Rights: Criminology of Genocide and Atrocities*. Sage; Yacoubian Jr, G. S. (2000). The (in)significance of genocidal behaviour to the discipline of criminology. *Crime, law and social change*, 34(1), 7-19.

³ Israel accepts Gaza’s 70,000 death toll: A record of denialism, lies. (2026, Jan 30). *Al Jazeera*, retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/1/30/israel-accepts-gazas-70000-death-toll-a-record-of-denialism-lies> and Israel’s genocide wiped out over 2,700 families in Gaza. (2026, Jan 26). *Al Jazeera*, retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/video/newsfeed/2026/1/26/israels-genocide-wiped-out-over-2700-families-in-gaza>

⁴ Jones, A. (2024). *Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction* (4th ed.) Taylor & Francis Group

criminologies of genocide through situating this crime within its broader settler colonial context and the lived experiences of those peoples being killed.

The recent turn towards grappling with the role that criminology has played in the oppression of Indigenous peoples in settler-colonial contexts like Australia, Aotearoa and parts of the Pacific is a challenge that must also engage with the question of genocide. Recent histories of overt massacres and the Stolen Generation in so-called Australia demonstrate how the state intended the removal of First Nations peoples; whilst ongoing measures are less explicit, destruction remains a lived experience. Irene Watson⁵ has written about both the “attempted genocide” and the “continuing reality of genocide” for Aboriginal people who “struggle to reclaim a territory, which is free of its genocide”. The aim of this special issue of the *Journal of Criminology* is to break the ongoing relative silence among the criminological community on questions of genocide and the links this has to colonial violence, in Palestine and beyond.

We encourage critical, interdisciplinary, and intersectional approaches across related areas relevant to understanding colonialism and genocide. For instance, social work, international relations, law, geography, cultural and archival studies, health, and so forth. We also welcome analyses that relate to genocide from any part of the world and from the perspectives of Indigenous and/or First Nations scholars, as well as from scholars from the Global South(s).

Themes:

- Colonialism/settler colonialism and imperialism; state crime; colonial policing and penology
- Bla(c)k, Indigenous and/or First Nations, and global South(s) knowledges; perspectives on (in)justice and resistance
- Femicide; children, babies, and genocide; child protection/child removals; gender and youth (in)justice
- Ecocide; environmental crime and/or harm; green criminology; extraction/expropriation/theft, climate collapse
- Criminologies of public health and genocide; dis/ableist and anti-ableist critiques; disability (in)justice
- Intersectional critiques; race; gender; queer; dis/ableist and anti-ableist and eco-centric perspectives.
- Epistemicide; scholasticide; institutional censorship, responses to campus protests, and institutional links to the military industrial complex
- Teaching genocide in criminology; critiques of administrative/state-centred criminologies
- Media complicity; propaganda; genocide denialism
- States, corporations, and the symbiotic relations in the production of genocide
- Nomocide; critiques of international (criminal) law, the international legal system, and/or legal concepts;
- Intersections between genocide and war crimes, crimes against humanity, apartheid, and/or human rights

⁵ Watson, I. (2002). Buried Alive, *Law and Critique* 13, 253–269.

Length:

Between 6,000 and 8,000 words in length, including all elements (title page, abstract, notes, references, tables, biographical statement). Longer manuscripts (up to 10,000 words all-inclusive) may be allowed at the discretion of the Editors, subject to a clearly articulated justification for the word length.

Timeline:

Full Article	28 April 2026*
Peer Review	4 - 25 May 2026
Revisions	15 July 2026
Publication	December 2026

Due to the significance and urgency of criminological responses to genocide in the current political climate, the publication of this special issue is being fast-tracked. In order to ensure the publication process is completed on time, **these deadlines cannot be altered.**

Submission:

Please refer to the journal's [Submission Guidelines](#) and submit your manuscript in full online via [Sage Track](#). You can also email N4ADAC@outlook.com with any queries.

*We understand your time is valuable. Before writing your submission in full, please get in touch with a few sentences describing the scope of your intended contribution and the aligned theme. Our editors will then provide brief feedback before you proceed.