
**EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA 2012:
SUBMISSION FOR CURRENT ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Date

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About the Journal

Current Issues in Criminal Justice (CICJ) is produced by the Institute of Criminology. Since 2010, it has been published in association with the Publications Unit of Sydney Law School. It is one of two major peer review journals publishing criminology scholarship in Australia, with three issues published a year since its inception 22 years ago, in 1989. CICJ is preceded by the Proceedings of the Institute of Criminology, which were produced annually from 1967. Contributors to CICJ include academics, researchers and professionals, who provide expert analysis of the many aspects of criminal justice. The Journal covers national and international issues, and has subscribers from multiple nations and disciplines. The journal features 'Contemporary Comments' which facilitate timely and cutting edge debate in crime and justice, as well as book reviews. It is distinguished from other criminology journals in its critical focus, engagement with criminal justice professionals, commitment to publishing qualitative research and interdisciplinary content. In 2010 CICJ obtained a new distribution model through Sydney University Press which enables online purchase of the journal. Articles are also available for download online through Informit, EBSCO and HeinOnline. Special issues of CICJ have been sponsored by key criminal justice institutions.

Proposed Rank

A: Papers published in CICJ are of very high quality reflecting the journal's rigorous editorial standards. Publishing in CICJ enhances the author's standing, showing they have real engagement with the global research community and make a meaningful contribution to significant and pressing criminal justice problems. CICJ has a low acceptance rate and an editorial board which includes a strong proportion of well known researchers from leading national and international institutions.

Argument for change of status

- The vast majority of papers in CICJ are of a very high quality
- Authors' have a real engagement with the global research community and an evidence-based contribution to problems of current and emerging significance in the field of criminology and criminal justice
- One third of authors are international and more than 60% of articles engage with issues beyond Australia
- The acceptance rates in CICJ are low
- Articles undergo a stringent double blind review process
- The editorial board includes a high proportion of leading researchers from top institutions internationally
- CICJ is of a similar quality to ANZJOC, which currently has an A rating
- Longevity and consistency: 3 issues of CICJ have been published each year since 1989, the journal is preceded by the annual Proceedings of the Institute of Criminology (since 1967)
- Recent positive changes in the method of publishing: now produced in association with the Publications Unit, Faculty of Law, University of Sydney
- New distribution model through Sydney University Press with online purchase now available
- Articles are available for download online through Informit, EBSCO and HeinOnline
- Consistency of editor: eminent lawyer and criminologist Professor Duncan Chappell editor of all regular issues of CICJ since July 2007
- Special issues of the journal are periodically published, with leading scholars in the field invited to contribute articles on contemporary issues in criminal justice and appropriate international editors invited by editorial board
- Support and engagement with criminal justice institutions: e.g. issue 22(2) *Beyond Prison: Women, Incarceration and Justice?*, sponsored by Corrective Services NSW.

- Greater oversight provided by the Institute's Advisory Committee which includes The Honourable Justice V Bell, High Court of Australia and The Honourable J Spigelman, AC, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

Area of research

The key areas of research in CICJ are:

- Criminal justice system
- Critical and theoretical legal studies and criminology
- Interdisciplinary and qualitative studies of law and criminology
- Policy relevant comment and articles
- Socio-legal research, including empirical legal studies

Peer review process

Number of referees for each paper: 3

Review process: double blind

Authors are not invited to write a rejoinder

Acceptance rate:

2008: 40%

2009: 53%

2010: 40%

Manuscripts are subjected to a two stage review process. All submissions are initially considered by the issue's editor/s to determine whether they have appropriate content for the journal and are of a sufficiently high standard for publication. Authors are notified of this decision. Manuscripts are then subject to three double blind reviews from experts in Australia and overseas. The results of the reviews are consolidated by the editor and feedback is provided to the author via a letter from the editor detailing the outcome of the review, a synthesis of the reviewers' major comments and the text of the reviews. This process provides a high level of scrutiny to articles submitted to CICJ and assures that only those of a high quality are published.

Editorial Board

CICJ is produced by the Institute of Criminology in association with the University of Sydney's Faculty of Law Publications Unit. Professor Mark Findlay and Associate Professor Gail Mason, based at the University of Sydney, are the journal's Executive Editors and are responsible for making all final editorial decisions. Professor Duncan Chappell, eminent lawyer and criminologist, Chair of the CEPS International Advisory Board, Adjunct Professor Sydney Law School and former member of the Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal, has been the editor of all regular issues of CICJ since July 2007. Editors for special editions of CICJ are appointed by the executive editors in consultation with the editorial board.

The editorial board is comprised of national and international leaders in the field of criminology based at leading research institutions. They regularly advise the executive and issue editors on manuscripts, undertaking refereeing and assisting the academic editors in commissioning reports from global leaders. The board includes international experts: Professor Dorothy Chunn, Simon Fraser University, Canada; Professor Scott Poynting, Manchester Metropolitan University, England; Professor Martin Schwartz, Ohio University, United States of America; Professor Phil Scraton, Queen's University, Belfast, Ireland; Professor Elizabeth Stanko, Royal Holloway University of London, England; Professor Philip Stenning, Keele University, England; and Associate Professor Julia Tolmie, University of Auckland, New Zealand. National experts on the board include professors from the University of Sydney, University of New South Wales, Flinders University, James Cook University, University of Tasmania, University of Wollongong, University of South Australia, University of Western Sydney and Monash University.

Quality of work

Papers published in CICJ are of a very high quality, enhancing the authors' standing, showing their strong engagement with the global research community and contribution to problems of international significance in the criminology field. This results from the rigorous peer review and editorial process (explained above), and CICJ's innovative special issues. Special issues of the journal are annually published, with leading authors in the field invited to contribute articles on contemporary international and Australian issues in criminal justice. These articles are also subject to the rigorous peer review process. In 2008-2010, three special issues of CICJ were published:

Issue	Title	Field	Editors
(2010) 22(2)	Beyond Prison: Women, Incarceration and Justice?	Women in the criminal justice system	Associate Professor Gail Mason and Professor Julie Stubbs (Australia)
(2009) 21(1)	Bail in Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada	Bail	Dr Anthea Hucklesby (England) and Professor Rick Sarre (Australia)
(2008) 20(1)	The Criminalisation and Punishment of Children and Young People	Juvenile justice	Professor Phil Scraton (Ireland)

Evidence of engagement with the global research community

CICJ focuses on contemporary criminal justice issues which are faced internationally. In the past three years the journal has engaged closely with the global research community, evidenced by a marked increase in articles contributed by international authors: **30%** in 2008-2010, compared to 8.1% in 2005-2007. These authors are from Canada, England, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand, Singapore and the United States of America.

The extent of the international focus of CICJ is additionally evidenced by authors' focus on international or pan-jurisdictional topics. In 2008 and 2010, more than 60% of papers engaged with issues beyond the Australian jurisdiction.

	Australian Author/ Australian Jurisdiction	Australian Author/ International or pan- Jurisdiction	International Author/ Australia or Single Jurisdiction	International Author/ International or pan- Jurisdiction
2010	31.6%	42.1%	15.8%	10.5%
2009	60.9%	17.4%	13%	8.7%
2008	36.8%	15.8%	23.7%	23.7%
2007	63.2%	26.3%	5.25%	5.25%
2006	50%	45.5%		4.5%
2005	42.9%	47.6%	4.75%	4.75%

Leading international researchers in the field regularly contribute to the journal, including Professor Anthony Doob (University of Toronto), Professor Henry Giroux (McMaster University), Professor Kelly Hannah-Moffat (University of Toronto), Professor Shad Maruna (Queen's University, Belfast) Professor Phil Scraton (Queens University Belfast), Professor Bryan A. Stevenson (New York University) and Professor Stanley Yeo (National University of Singapore).

Comparative assessment

CICJ is on AG/S (Attorney-General's Information Service) with 5443 instances of copies made of articles in November 2010; as well as on Australian Public Affairs Full Text where 4286 instances of copies were made of articles in November 2010.

The Institute of Criminology is about to complete the 2 year process to have CICJ included on the Social Sciences Citation Index, accessed via Thomsen Reuters' Web of Science. We have met all requirements and expect to be accepted in July 2011.

CICJ is of a similar quality to the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology, which currently has an A rating.

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