

THE JUSTICE COLLABORATORY

October 26, 2020

The pandemic has not slowed down The Justice Collaboratory, in fact, our mission to find meaningful solutions for communities across America feels even more important than ever after a summer of protests and demands for change to the way we view policing.

To that end, this month we hosted an event with experts, advocates, and academics from across the country to answer the question of what a reimagined public safety system should look like and what are the challenges to achieving it. A report for this convening will come out soon.

In addition, we recently created a new Policing, Law, and Policy clinic for YLS students. We will also begin a new research study looking into the idea of "Community Vitality" - a theory that expands the definition of public safety beyond lack of crime to equitable access to resources including, education, healthcare, housing, and jobs.

Amidst this call to action, we have spent a great deal of time strategizing and redefining how the Justice Collaboratory can better help communities through increased access to our research and information. A new, more intuitive website will debut later this year. Additionally, more robust social media outreach, now including a [LinkedIn](#) page, is available for you to engage with right now.

New Faces At The JC



Jorge Camacho is a Clinical Lecturer in Law and the new Policing, Law, and Policy Director of the Justice Collaboratory. Prior to joining the JC, Jorge served as Senior Counsel at the New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and as Senior Counsel in the Legal Counsel Division of the New York City Office of the Corporation Counsel. Jorge holds a J.D. from Yale Law School.

Dwayne Betts is the Director of The Million Book Project. For more than 20 years, he has used his poetry and essays to explore the world of prison and the effects of violence and incarceration on American society. The author of a memoir and three collections of poetry, his latest collection of poetry, *Felon*, explores the post-incarceration experience and lingering consequences of a criminal record. In 2019, Betts won the National Magazine Award in the Essays and Criticism category for his New York Times Magazine essay that chronicles his journey from prison to becoming a licensed attorney. He is a 2018 Guggenheim Fellow and a 2018 Emerson Fellow at New America and holds a J.D. from Yale Law School.



Tess Wheelwright is the project manager for The Million Book Project. Previously, she was the Director of the Cornell Prison Education Program, an associate-degree granting liberal arts program engaging 200+ students inside four New York state prisons. Tess also taught writing courses for the program, as well as on Cornell's main campus, where she received her MFA.

Project Updates

Community Vitality Survey

The JC is excited to announce the Community Vitality Survey, a research initiative that involves partnering with the New Haven, CT, and Yonkers, NY police departments. Our goal is to investigate communities' public safety needs, local demand for police services, and trust and confidence in local police. We also seek to identify areas of overlap between the preferences of police officers and residents regarding the safety, wellness, and vitality of local communities. This project will involve interviews and a series of surveys, currently being developed by our team.

Procedural Justice for Prosecutors

The JC has partnered with the [Association of Prosecuting Attorneys](#) and [LaGratta Consulting](#) to develop and test a first-of-its-kind pilot to help prosecutors improve trust-building with, and maintain the humanity of, the individuals they are prosecuting.

Prior reforms, including evidence-based decision-making and alternatives to jail, have been successful at improving public safety while broadly reducing the harms that individuals may encounter in the criminal justice system. While these reforms have made progress on these outcomes, a crucial step to achieving a just and trusted legal system is to ensure individuals treated fairly and with dignity and respect as they move through the criminal justice system.

This new project will expand upon the work of Professor Tom Tyler and the JC to effect cultural transformation in prosecutors' offices with a lens towards procedural justice. Project staff will conduct a national solicitation in the coming weeks to select one pilot prosecutor's office. The goal will be to work with the pilot office to conduct an assessment and implementation plan for improving trust-building between system participants and staff of all ranks at the prosecutor's office. Justice Collaboratory researchers will collect and use data to track the project's impact.

The project, which launched in Fall 2020, is being funded by the [Chan Zuckerberg Initiative](#).

The Million Book Project



Launched in July, The Million Book Project recognizes that literature is the beginning of freedom. And that as Harold Bloom has written, books are necessary because "we cannot know enough people profoundly enough; that we need to know ourselves better; that we require knowledge, not just of self and others, but of the way things are." With this understanding, the project's central goal is to curate a 500-book Freedom Library and place it in prison libraries, housing units, and spaces dedicated to corrections staff and administrators in prisons in every state in the country and Puerto Rico.

The Million Book Project was made possible by generous funding from the [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#).

The public is welcome to help develop the Freedom Library list by taking a survey asking what reading has meant in your life. Please click the button below to be taken to our survey.

[Million Book Project Survey](#)

SMGI

Our Social Media Governance Initiative is busy working on creating the pro-social movement for our digital space. By pro-social we mean strategies that enhance compliance, cooperation, and engagement without resorting to punitive governance. If you want to learn more about the movement email us at smgi@yale.edu.

You can also follow our tweets at #SMGI #socialmediagovernance.

Research

In April 2020, we launched a research network to provide thought leadership in the field of social media governance. Currently, we are undertaking research about how to measure civility and bring civility to our digital space. We are also working on papers to publish in a special issue on Social Media Governance in the [Yale Journal of Law and Technology](#).

Outreach

We will host a fall series of #Tea@2 virtual sessions about social media governance. The first session is about the [Impact of Technology on Trust](#), and our speaker will be Paolo Parigi. It will be held this **Wednesday, October 28 at 2 PM** (EDT). The public is invited to attend.

Please RSVP in advance [here](#).

Collab In Action Blog

Check out our latest post "[Making Facebook Oversight Board Pro-Social](#)" from our Director of SMGI, [Farzaneh Badiei](#).

Outside Contributors

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have a social media/Internet-related, or criminal justice reform piece and would like to publish it on our Collab in Action blog. Ideas can be sent to justice.collaboratory@yale.edu.

JC Members In The News

The latest news clips featuring JC faculty members and research staff:

[Think racial segregation is over? Here's how the police still enforce it](#)
Professor Monica Bell talks to *The Washington Post* about her work and ways in which policing helps perpetuate residential segregation.

[The Dystopian Police State the Trump Administration Wants](#)

Professor Phil Goff writes a *New York Times* commentary about possible changes to policing included in draft recommendations from a Trump-appointed policing commission.

[Kamala Harris, Mass Incarceration and Me](#)

Million Book Project Director, Reginald Dwayne Betts writes for the *New York Times Magazine* about his personal experiences with mass incarceration and Sen. Kamala Harris's history as a public prosecutor.

[The Complicated Role Of Black Leaders In Shaping The Criminal Justice System](#)

Professor James Forman Jr. speaks with NPR's Code Switch about Sen. Kamala Harris's past as a prosecutor and his book *Locking Up Our Own* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux).

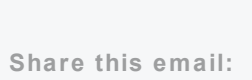
[Can Politics Handle Police Reform in 2020? An Expert Roundtable](#)

Professor Tracey Meares participated in a police reform roundtable for Politico including panelists Tracie Keese from the Center for Policing Equity and Arthur Rizer from R Street Institute.

[What works to reduce police brutality](#)

Professors Tom Tyler and Phillip Atiba Goff's research is cited in this article in the October issue of the American Psychological Association's monthly magazine *Monitor on Psychology*.

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