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The Routledge Handbook on Africana Criminologies - Call For Book Chapters

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The Routledge Handbook on Africana Criminologies

With Table of Contents – Working draft in progress

CALL FOR BOOK CHAPTERS

There is a huge gap in knowledge in criminology on people of African descent especially on the African continent. The existing texts are few and are inadequate especially because they lack the points of view of people of African descent and Indigenous people. Rather, they represent the views of tourist criminologists who try to bring what Stan Cohen dismissed as made-for-export criminology based on the same principles and policies that have failed to bring about social order in former colonizing societies. As a result, the few books by foreign experts that are relevant to criminology in Africa simply pass off police studies, prison research, and a history of courts as African criminology mainly from conventional perspectives that do not question the imperialist reason behind such policies. To produce a book that will have a long shelf life and have enduring relevance to people of African descent around the world, we have chosen to invite authors with critical perspectives to help us to fill this urgent gap in knowledge.

We have been invited by Routledge editors to edit an Africana Handbook of Criminology. We eagerly accept to do this because it is well known that criminology is thriving in Europe and settler-colonial locations while being neglected in Africa and while people of African descent remain marginalized in the discipline even in places where the discipline is booming. Agozino (2003) suggested that the neglect of criminology in Africa and the neglect of scholars of indigenous scholars by criminology might be linked with the fact that criminology was designed as a technology for the control of others in the service of imperialism. People of African descent and indigenous people having no ambition to colonize others, may be reluctant to develop the discipline of criminology. Moreover, establishment criminology remains hostile to critical indigenous scholars who challenge the imperialist reason that is central to criminology. Agozino concluded that the continuing exclusion of critical indigenous voices from criminology has resulted in the weakening of the discipline, not only in the former colonized territories and invasive settler-colonial locations but also in the metropole where the experimentation on the colonized has been extended to the poor in general. In conclusion, Agozino called for the decolonization of criminology through the teaching of anti-colonial struggles as part of criminology, the scholar-activist research on existing colonialist technologies for the control of others, and through the adoption of committed-objectivity as the methodology most suitable for the study of social injustice.

We propose to build on the decolonization paradigm by focusing this volume on people of African descent at home and abroad. The Africana focus will help criminologists to fill some gaps in existing knowledge by exploring the struggles and contributions of an under-represented group in the discipline. Africana Studies emerged in the 1960s following the revolutionary demands of students of

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African descent and their allies for funding and staffing in Black Studies instead of maintaining the monopoly exercised by white supremacy in the curriculum and staffing of predominantly white universities. The successful demand by the radical black students and their supporters opened the door for other interdisciplinary fields of study such as Women and Gender studies, Hispanic Studies, Asian American Studies, Jewish Studies, Labor Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Critical Whiteness Studies and Lesbian and Gay Studies to be established by top universities in addition to mainstream area studies. The growing field of Africana Studies is yet to take up teaching and research to match its scholar-activism in the area of criminal injustice and we believe that this edited volume may help to establish something called Africana Criminology that will be studied all over the world given the disparity of impacts from criminal justice wrongs on people of African descent. Cunneen and Tauri (2016) produced a ground-breaking text along these lines but with a focus on Indigenous Criminology. We believe that this proposed volume will be of value to all criminologists, policy makers and the general public who are interested in questions of race-class-gender articulation, disarticulation and rearticulation in societies structured in dominance all over the world as Stuart Hall (1980) theorized with evidence from apartheid South Africa and Thatcherite UK. Dastile has documented that the structuration of South Africa in race-class-gender dominance remains strong in a democratic South Africa, challenging the lovers of freedom to continue the struggle for decolonization and democratization as Mandela urged us.

In agreement with Martin Luther King Jr who said that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere, we expect that this book will be of interest to communities of interpretation within and outside Africa or globally because the issues covered in the book do not affect only people of African descent and indigenous communities. Contrary to assumptions that racism affects only black people, sexism affects only women and classism affects only poor workers separately, we hypothesize that one thing that the prison-industrial complex displays in every part of the world is that they are overpopulated with poor people. This is not because poor people are more crime prone than the richer who get richer but because the poor lack the means to free themselves even when they are innocent while the rich may get away with bloody murder, according to Jeffrey Reimann. Although indigenous people and people of African descent are over-represented in prisons and in deaths in custody, there is evidence that large numbers of poor whites are also affected by the imperialist logic that guides the criminal justice system. The book will convince anyone who still needs to be convinced that injustice against people of African descent and against Indigenous peoples is against the interests of humanity and so, all should join coalitions and alignments to oppose race-class-gender injustice in the interest of humanity. or else, racist imperialist patriarchal injustice would continue to haunt the world, according to Vivian Saleh-Hanna.

The proposed book is in five parts with invited chapters from eminent and emerging scholars in the field who have confirmed their commitment to the project. In the interest of democracy, we have decided to throw the project open to

interested communities of scholars who may wish to make contributions to some of the highlighted chapters that are not yet taken by other contributors or who may wish to frame their own topic within the theme of critical Africana perspectives of criminology.

Our time-line is to have draft chapters submitted to the editors by the end of June 2019. Review of the drafts by the editors will be completed in August 2019. Revisions by the authors will be expected to be completed by September 2019. The copy-editing will be completed in October 2019 and the final submission to the publishers will be in November 2019.

If you are interested in contributing to the Routledge Africana Handbook of Criminology, please contact the editors with your chosen topic, and an abstract of not more than 300 words. The editors can be contacted at the following email addresses:

Dr. Biko Agozino, agozino@vt.edu

Dr. Emmanuel C. Onyeozili, econyeozili@umes.edu

Dr. Nontyatyambo Dastile, dastinp@unisa.ac.za

Dr. Vivian Saleh-Hanna vhanna@umassd.edu

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