

The British Journal of Community Justice (BJCJ)
Call for Papers: ‘Community, Restorative, and Transitional Justice in Latin America’

[The British Journal of Community Justice](#), an interdisciplinary, open-access and peer-reviewed journal, invites submissions for a special issue on ‘Community, Restorative, and Transitional Justice in Latin America’. This special issue is in collaboration with the [International Sociological Association](#) (ISA) Research Committee No 48 ([RC48](#)).

The framework of ‘justice from below’ and ‘citizen-led delivery of justice’ are often used to explore perspectives where victims are addressed as subjects with their own agency and organisational capability in temporal and normative aspects. From a traditional perspective, community justice seeks to integrate communities, governmental institutions, and law enforcement agencies as an alternative response to, or for the prevention of, criminal behaviour. Recent initiatives in community justice include community crime prevention, community policing, community defence, community prosecution, community courts, restorative justice sanctioning systems, and mechanisms of transitional justice ‘from below’. These approaches share a mutual core, in that they address community-level needs and citizen-led outcomes by focusing on short and long-term problem solving, restoring victims and communities, and effectively reintegrating people with convictions back into society.

Recent research established that nearly half of Latin American countries rank among the nations with the highest impunity scores in the world. It suggests that criminal justice systems lack the resources to prosecute and try crimes effectively in a context of widespread crime and violence (Szepesi-Colmenares, 2019; Solar and Pérez, 2022). Nevertheless, Latin America has a long tradition of initiatives and mechanisms with the aim of justice delivery addressing communitarian approaches. The cases of indigenous judicial systems in Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, tribunals of justice in Brazil, grassroots groups of community justice in Mexico, penal mediation or victim-offender mediation in Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, and Costa Rica, reparative agreements in Chile, and transitional justice processes in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, are some contemporary examples.

In short, it is a hope that community-based and citizen-led justice initiatives can open new possibilities to improve the quality and effectiveness of justice delivery for this continent.

In this special issue, we seek manuscripts that examine how community, restorative, and transitional justice developments in Latin America are contributing holistically to the shape of this academic and intellectual field as well as policy and practice. Possible contributions topics could include but are not limited to:

- Original conceptual articles focusing on community, restorative, or transitional justice theoretical frameworks addressing the case of Latin America;
- Empirical studies, including those of community-based research findings, citizen-led policymaking or the implementation of community, restorative, or transitional justice processes and initiatives;
- Analyses of community justice institutions, restorative or transitional justice initiatives ‘from below’, or citizen-led ‘peer-to-peer’ policy transfer, as well as evaluations of significant developments in community, restorative, or transitional justice practices in Latin America;
- Debates about the public role of social movements, victims, grassroots activism, and citizen-led projects in the development of community, restorative, and transitional justice mechanisms and initiatives;
- Critical reviews of recently published research on any aspect of community, restorative, or transitional justice addressing the case of Latin America;
- Interviews with community-based or citizen-led justice actors, professionals, activists, or policymakers working in Latin America.

We are hoping to curate a set of papers from scholars in various parts of the world working on topics related to community, restorative, or transitional justice in Latin America, privileging contributions from scholars from the Global South in an early career stage. Contributions from both researchers, practitioners and policymakers are encouraged.

If you are interested in proposing a paper for inclusion in this special issue on 'Community, Restorative, and Transitional Justice in Latin America', please send the following information to Camilo Tamayo Gomez (Special Issue Editor) on or before the end of day on **June 01, 2023** (c.a.tamayogomez@hud.ac.uk) and bjcj@mmu.ac.uk

Your name.

Details of your institutional affiliation (if applicable).

Link to your online profile, website, etc. with a list of your publications (if available).

A title and 250-350 word abstract for your proposed paper contribution (proposals should connect to the themes identified above and also have a strong normative/critical/argumentative element).

Please note that the submissions are refereed and subject to editorial review. Depending on time constraints, we also hope to allow authors of accepted papers the chance to read and engage with the other accepted papers prior to publication, to create a real dialogue within this special issue. We will be selecting only a small number of papers for inclusion in this special issue.

Our timetable for publishing this special issue on 'Community, Restorative, and Transitional Justice in Latin America' is:

Deadline for abstracts and expressions of interest in writing for the special issue:

01 June 2023

Deadline for submissions:

31 October 2023

Publication:

January 2024

Please note that papers should be no longer than 7,000 words (including references but excluding the abstract).

We are looking forward to receiving your submissions!

Kind regards,

Camilo Tamayo Gomez | Special Issue Editor

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Kevin Wong | Co-Editor

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The British Journal of Community Justice

Established in 2002, The British Journal of Community Justice has since published ground-breaking and lively articles which have stimulated policy and practice debates on community justice covering: policing, prisons, probation, youth justice, community safety, restorative justice, victims, and crime prevention.



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