

Wrongful Convictions & Systemic Racism

A Resource Guide with links to resources related to wrongful convictions and the impact of systemic racism and discrimination on the justice systems in settler colonial contexts such as Canada, the United States, and other countries around the world.



Wrong Way by Lacza, Courtesy of Canva



Tundra of Baffin Island, Nunavut by Ryerson Clark, Courtesy of Canva

Acknowledgements

This project is a collaboration between the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

All resources in this document were compiled in collaboration by:

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Autumn Colours in Southern Alberta by wwing, courtesy of Canva

Introduction

Wrongful convictions are failures of the justice system, and result in the wrongfully convicted being deprived of their rights and freedoms, as well as carrying the “stain” of being labeled a “criminal” which can have long term effects in terms of work, childcare and traveling. A wrongful conviction is a form of injustice with powerful and lasting impacts on individuals, families, and communities. Systemic discrimination and racism play a significant role in wrongful convictions, with a higher proportion of racialized persons seeing their convictions overturned upon appeal (<https://innocenceproject.org/race-and-wrongful-conviction/>).

This resource guide has been created in collaboration with the Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. We are not responsible for the content of external links. Inclusion of material in this resource guide does not necessarily represent an endorsement of the views expressed. Material is presented in the language in which it was originally produced.

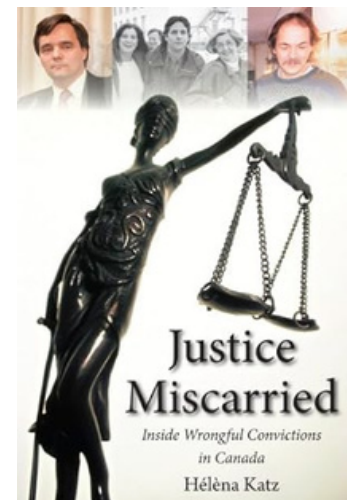
Books

Wrongful Convictions in Canada

JUSTICE MISCARRIED: INSIDE WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS IN CANADA

Former bank manager Ronald Dalton never got to watch his three young children grow up. In 1989 he was convicted for a crime that never happened. His wife, Brenda, was later ruled to have choked to death on breakfast cereal not strangled as a pathologist had initially claimed. Dalton's daughter, Alison, was in kindergarten when he was charged with second-degree murder in 1988. He attended her high school graduation on June 26, 2000, two days after his conviction was finally overturned.

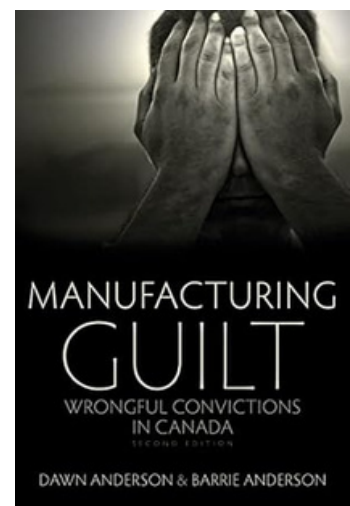
Katz, Hélène, Michael Carroll, and Nicole Chaplin. *Justice miscarried: inside wrongful convictions in Canada*. Dundurn Press, 2011



MANUFACTURING GUILT, (2ND ED): WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS IN CANADA

The authors demonstrate that the same factors at play in the criminalization of the powerless and marginalized are found in cases of wrongful conviction. Contrary to popular belief, wrongful convictions are not due simply to "unintended errors," but rather are too often the result of the deliberate actions of those working in the criminal justice system.

Anderson, Dawn and Barrie Anderson. *Manufacturing Guilt: Wrongful Convictions in Canada*. Fernwood, 2009.



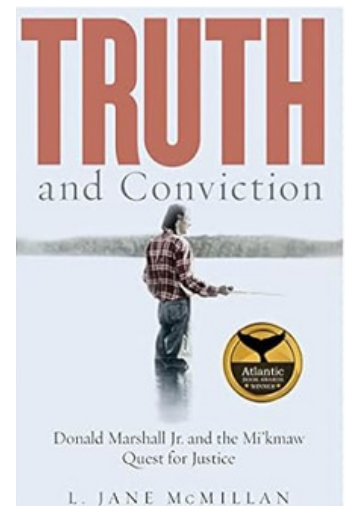


Wrongful Convictions in Canada

TRUTH AND CONVICTION

Jane McMillan – Marshall's former partner, an acclaimed anthropologist, and an original defendant in the Supreme Court's *Marshall* decision – tells the story of how Marshall's life-long battle against injustice permeated Canadian legal consciousness and revitalized Indigenous law. Marshall died in 2009, but his legacy lives on. Mi'kmaq continue to assert their rights and build justice programs grounded in customary laws and practices, key steps in the path to self-determination and reconciliation.

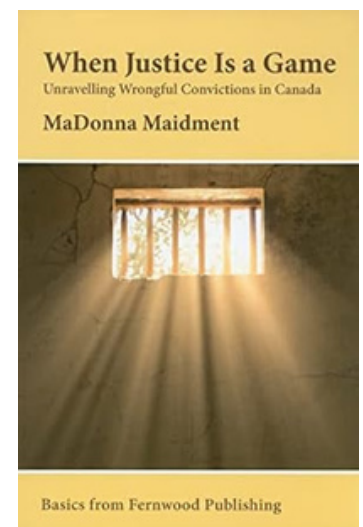
McMillan, L. Jane. *Truth and conviction: Donald Marshall Jr. and the Mi'kmaq quest for justice*. UBC Press, 2018.

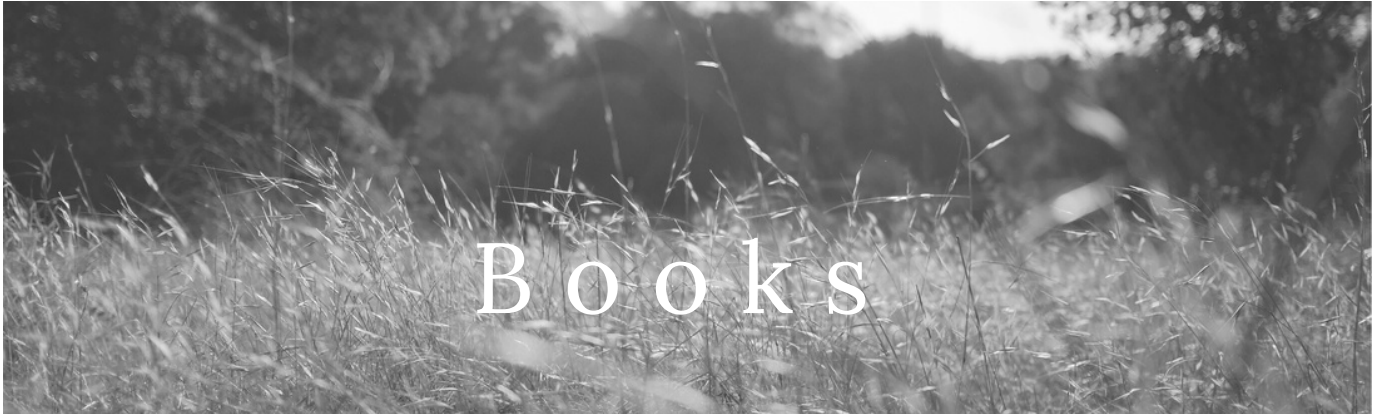


WHEN JUSTICE IS A GAME: UNRAVELING WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS IN CANADA

All too often the police do not get the right person. Wrongful convictions are framed as mistakes or failures of the justice system. However, many of the wrongfully convicted are from among the poor and visible minority groups. The law then becomes an ideological mask relieving us of the responsibility of engaging with the real issues that underscore wrongful convictions. MaDonna Maidment illustrates how the desire to get a conviction and paint the police and the courts in a positive light often means that false evidence and court decisions based on prejudice and racism lead to innocent people being convicted.

Maidment, MaDonna. *When justice is a game: unravelling wrongful convictions in Canada*. Fernwood, 2009.



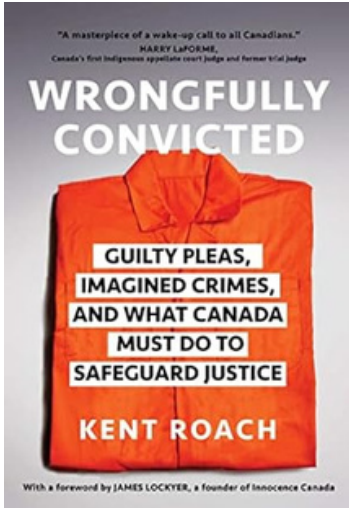


Wrongful Convictions in Canada

WRONGFULLY CONVICTED: GUILTY PLEAS, IMAGINED CRIMES, AND WHAT CANADA MUST DO TO SAFEGUARD JUSTICE

This original and eye-opening book makes a compelling case for change that governments have so far lacked the courage to implement. Canadians would benefit from better legislative regulation of police and forensic experts and the creation of a permanent and independent federal commission investigate wrongful convictions and their multiple causes. But do we have the political will?

Roach, Kent. *Wrongfully convicted: Guilty Pleas, Imagined Crimes, and What Canada Must do to Safeguard Justice*. Simon and Schuster Canada, 2023.

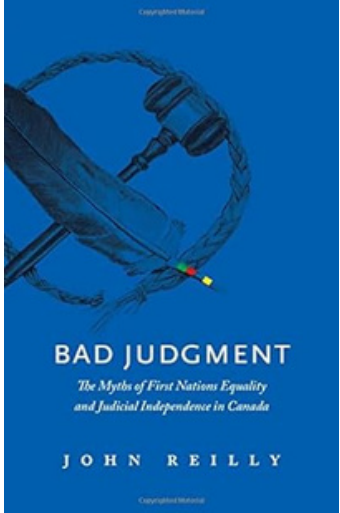


Injustice within the Criminal Justice and Prison Systems

BAD JUDGEMENT: THE MYTH OF FIRST NATIONS EQUALITY AND JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE IN CANADA

Judge John Reilly, now retired, was the youngest judge ever appointed to the Provincial Court of Alberta. For most of his 33 years on the bench he was the circuit judge for the Stoney Indian Reserve at Morley, Alberta. *Bad Judgment* details Reilly's battle with the Canadian justice system and the difficulties he faced trying to adapt Eurocentric Canadian law for the benefit of First Nations people across the country.

Reilly, John. *Bad judgment: the Myth of First Nations Equality and Judicial Independence in Canada*. Rocky Mountain Books, 2019.



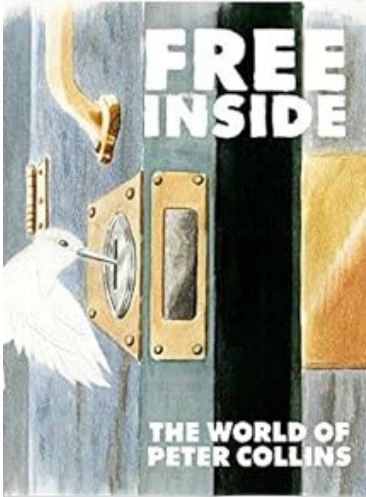


Injustice within the Criminal Justice and Prison Systems

FREE INSIDE: THE LIFE AND WORKS OF PETER COLLINS

'Free Inside' is a portfolio art and writing by the late Canadian activist and prisoner Peter Collins, who spent 32 years behind bars for killing a police officer during a botched robbery. Collins was the kind of man you'd expect to find in prison - and he still didn't belong there. Among his cartoons, paintings and articles are heartfelt words from friends, comrades and those who knew him best. 'Free Inside' is a condemnation of the Canadian prison system and an invaluable perspective on notions of justice, "rehabilitation", political activism, and hope. It is an imperfect record of the life and work of a courageous, compassionate man who deserved better from the world.

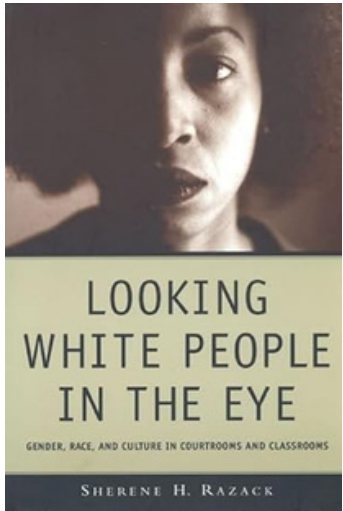
Peter. *Free Inside: The Life and Work of Peter Collins*. Ad Astra, 2018.



LOOKING WHITE PEOPLE IN THE EYE: GENDER, RACE, AND CULTURE IN COURTROOMS AND CLASSROOMS

Sherene Razack explores what happens when whites look at non-whites, and in particular at non-white women. Most studies examining this encounter between dominant and subordinate groups focus on how it occurs in films, books, and popular culture. In contrast, Razack addresses how non-white women are viewed, and how they must respond, in classrooms and courtrooms.

Razack, Sherene. *Looking White People in the Eye: Gender, Race, and Culture in Courtrooms and classrooms*. University of Toronto Press, 2008.



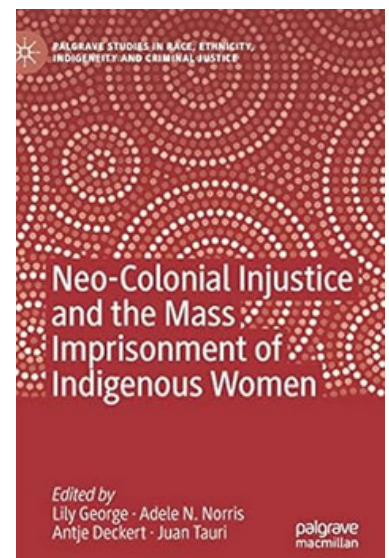
Books

Injustice within the Criminal Justice and Prison Systems

NEO-COLONIAL INJUSTICE AND THE MASS IMPRISONMENT OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN

This book closes a gap in decolonizing intersectional and comparative research by addressing issues around the mass incarceration of Indigenous women in the US, Australia, Canada, and Aotearoa New Zealand. This edited collection seeks to add to the criminological discourse by increasing public awareness of the social problem of disproportionate incarceration rates. It illuminates how settler-colonial societies continue to deny many Indigenous peoples the life relatively free from state interference which most citizens enjoy.

George, Lily, Adele N. Norris, Antje Deckert and Juan Tauri, editors. *Neo-colonial Injustice and the Mass Imprisonment of Indigenous Women*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2021.



RACIALIZATION, CRIME, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN CANADA

Race still matters in Canada, and in the context of crime and criminal justice, it matters a lot. In this book, the authors focus on the ways in which racial minority groups are criminalized, as well as the ways in which the Canadian criminal justice system is racialized. Employing an intersectional analysis, Chan and Chunn explore how the connection between race and crime is further affected by class, gender, and other social relations.

Chan, Wendy and Dorothy E. Chunn. *Racialization, Crime, and Criminal Justice in Canada*. University of Toronto Press, 2014.



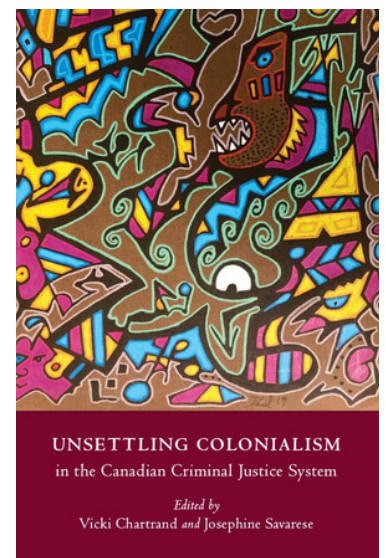
Books

Injustice within the Criminal Justice and Prison Systems

UNSETTLING COLONIALISM IN THE CANADIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

This book argues that Canada's criminal justice system continues to reinforce colonial power structures. Through mechanisms of surveillance, segregation, and containment, Canadian law enforcement deprives Indigenous peoples of economic stability, social inclusion, and political agency. Examining both overt and more insidious racist practices, contributors reveal the ongoing reinforcement of white-settler privilege and domination in Canada.

Chartrand, Vicki, and Josephine Savarese. *Unsettling Colonialism in the Canadian Criminal Justice System*. University of Chicago Press, 2022.



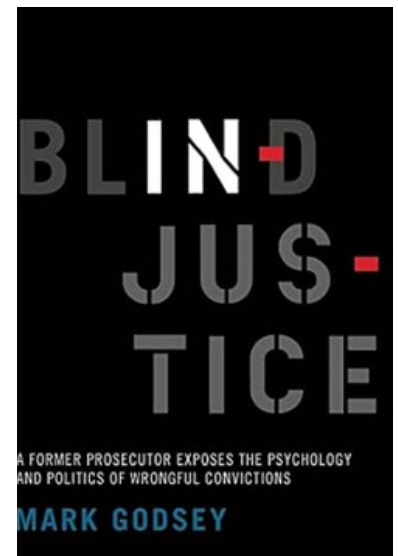
Books

Wrongful Convictions in the United States

BLIND INJUSTICE: A FORMER PROSECUTOR EXPOSES THE PSYCHOLOGY AND POLITICS OF WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS

In this unprecedented view from the trenches, prosecutor turned champion for the innocent Mark Godsey takes us inside the frailties of the human mind as they unfold in real-world wrongful convictions. Drawing upon both psychological research and shocking--yet true--stories from his own career, Godsey shares how innate psychological flaws and the "tough on crime" political environment can cause investigations to go awry, leading to the conviction of innocent people. He not only sheds light on unintentional yet routine injustices but also recommends structural and procedural changes to restore justice to the criminal justice system.

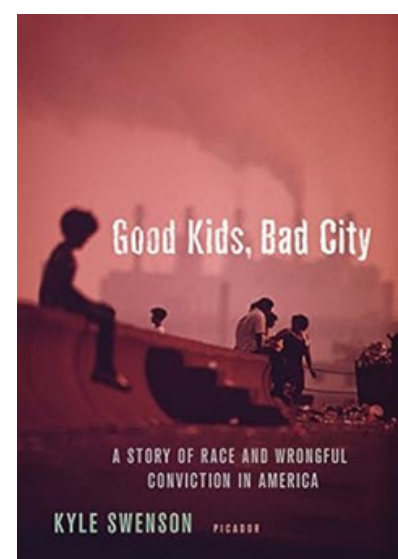
Godsey, Mark. *Blind Injustice: A Former Prosecutor Expose the Psychology and Politics of Wrongful Conviction*. University of California Press, 2019.



GOOD KIDS, BAD CITY: A STORY OF RACE AND WRONGFUL CONVICTION IN AMERICA

In the early 1970s, three African-American men—Wiley Bridgeman, Kwame Ajamu, and Rickey Jackson—were accused and convicted of the brutal robbery and murder of a man outside of a convenience store in Cleveland, Ohio. The prosecution's case, which resulted in a combined 106 years in prison for the three men, rested on the more-than-questionable testimony of a pre-teen, Ed Vernon. The actual murderer was never found. Almost four decades later, Vernon recanted his testimony, and Wiley, Kwame, and Rickey were released. But while their exoneration may have ended one of American history's most disgraceful miscarriages of justice, the corruption and decay of the city responsible for their imprisonment remain on trial.

Swenson, Kyle. *Good Kids, Bad City: A Story of Race and Wrongful Conviction in America*. Picador, 2019.



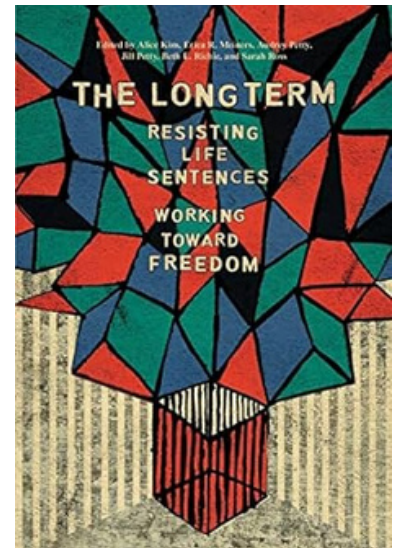
Books

Wrongful Convictions in the United States

THE LONG TERM: RESISTING LIFE SENTENCES WORKING TOWARD FREEDOM

Long Term Offenders, or LTOs, is the state's term for those it condemns to effective death by imprisonment. Often serving sentences of sixty to eighty years, LTOs bear the brunt of the bipartisan embrace of mass incarceration heralded by the "tough on crime" agenda of the 1990s and 2000s. Like the rest of the United States' prison population--the world's highest per capita--they are disproportionately poor and non-white. *The Long Term* brings these often silenced voices to light, offering a powerful indictment of the prison-industrial complex from activists, scholars, and those directly surviving and resisting these sentences.

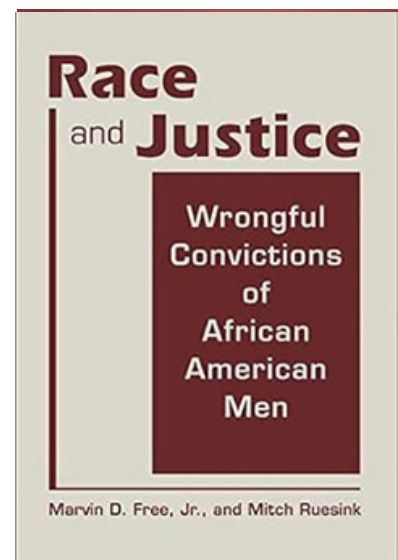
Kim, Alice, Erica Meiners, Jill Petty, Audrey Petty, Beth E. Richie, and Sarah Ross, editors. *The Long Term: Resisting Life Sentences Working Toward Freedom*. Haymarket Books, 2018.



RACE AND JUSTICE: WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN

Race still matters in Canada, and in the context of crime and criminal justice, it matters a lot. In this book, the authors focus on the ways in which racial minority groups are criminalized, as well as the ways in which the Canadian criminal justice system is racialized. Employing an intersectional analysis, Chan and Chunn explore how the connection between race and crime is further affected by class, gender, and other social relations.

Chan, Wendy and Dorothy E. Chunn. *Racialization, Crime, and Criminal Justice in Canada*. University of Toronto Press, 2014.



Books

Wrongful Convictions in the United States

THE TORTURE MACHINE: RACISM AND POLICE VIOLENCE IN CHICAGO

The Torture Machine takes the reader from the 1969 murders of Black Panther Party chairman Fred Hampton and Panther Mark Clark—and the historic, thirteen-years of litigation that followed—through the dogged pursuit of commander Jon Burge, the leader of a torture ring within the CPD that used barbaric methods, including electric shock, to elicit false confessions from suspects.

Taylor, Flint. *The Torture Machine: Racism and Police Violence in Chicago*. Haymarket Books, 2020.

"Flint Taylor's powerful new book... is a must read!"

—BRYAN STEVENSON



THE
TORTURE
MACHINE
Racism and Police Violence in Chicago
FLINT TAYLOR

UNSPEAKABLE ACTS, ORDINARY PEOPLE: THE DYNAMICS OF TORTURE

Unspeakable Acts, Ordinary People is a riveting book that exposes the potential in each of us for acting unspeakably. John Conroy sits down with torturers from several nations and comes to understand their motivations. His compelling narrative has the tension of a novel. He takes us into a Chicago police station, two villages in the West Bank, and a secret British interrogation center in Northern Ireland, and in the process we are exposed to the experience of the victim, the rationalizations of the torturer, and the seeming indifference of the bystander.

Conroy, John. *Unspeakable Acts, Ordinary People: the Dynamics of Torture*. Knopf, 2000.

"Gripping... audacious... troubling." *The Chicago Tribune*

UNSPEAKABLE ACTS,
ORDINARY PEOPLE

THE DYNAMICS OF TORTURE
An Examination of the Practice of Torture
in Three Democracies

JOHN CONROY

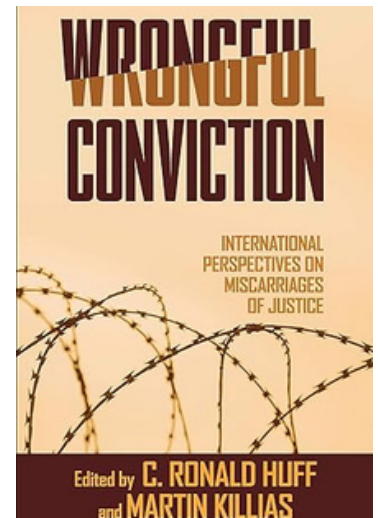
Books

Wrongful Convictions in the United States

WRONGFUL CONVICTION: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON MISCARRIAGES OF JUSTICE

This is a collection of essays that analyse cases of injustice across an array of legal systems. Differences in court procedure are explained as the contributors ask what role the respective criminal justice systems play in preventing or generating wrongful convictions.

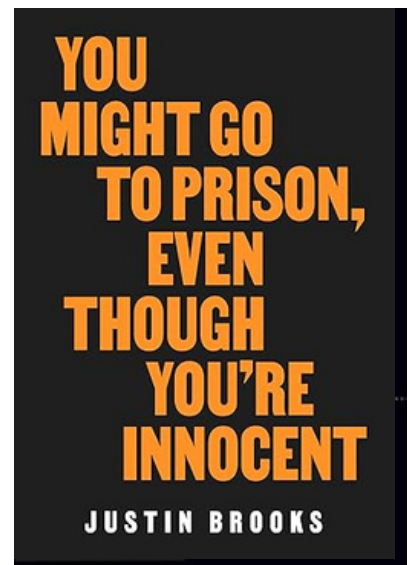
Huff, C. Ronald and Martin Killias, eds. *Wrongful Conviction: International Perspectives on Miscarriages of Justice*. Temple University Press, 2010.



YOU MIGHT GO TO PRISON, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE INNOCENT

Putting readers at the defense table, this book forces us to consider how any of us might be swept up in the system, whether we hired a bad lawyer, bear a slight resemblance to someone else in the world, or are not good with awkward silence. The stories of Brooks's cases and clients paint the picture of a broken justice system, one where innocence is no protection from incarceration or even the death penalty. Simultaneously relatable and disturbing, *You Might Go to Prison, Even Though You're Innocent* is essential reading for anyone who wants to better understand how injustice is served by our system.

Brooks, Justin. *You Might go to Prison, Even Though You're Innocent*. University of California Press, 2023.





Organizations

A number of organizations have been established in Canada, the United States, and elsewhere in order to bring attention to the issue of wrongful conviction, and to provide support to the wrongfully convicted.

Canada

Criminal Conviction Review Group (CCRG)

<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/ccr-rc/index.html>

Innocence Canada

<https://www.innocencecanada.com/>

Innocence McGill

<https://www.mcgill.ca/innocence/>

The Canadian Registry of Wrongful Convictions

<https://www.wrongfulconvictions.ca/>





Organizations

United States of America

Blum Legal Clinic Center on Wrongful Convictions: Stories of Women Exonerees

<https://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/wrongfulconvictions/womensproject/exonerations/>

Chicago Torture Justice Centre

<https://www.chicagotorturejustice.org/history>

Innocence Project

<https://innocenceproject.org/>

<https://innocenceproject.org/race-and-wrongful-conviction/>

The Innocence Network

<https://www.innocencenetwork.org/>

The National Registry of Exonerations

<https://www.law.umich.edu/special/exoneration/Pages/about.aspx>



An Impossible Crime Part 1 (Criminal)

<https://thisiscriminal.com/episode-208-an-impossible-crime-2-24-2023>

An Impossible Crime Part 2 (Criminal)

<https://thisiscriminal.com/episode-209-an-impossible-crime-part-2-3-3-2023>

Leonard: Political Prisoner (Man Bites Dog Films)

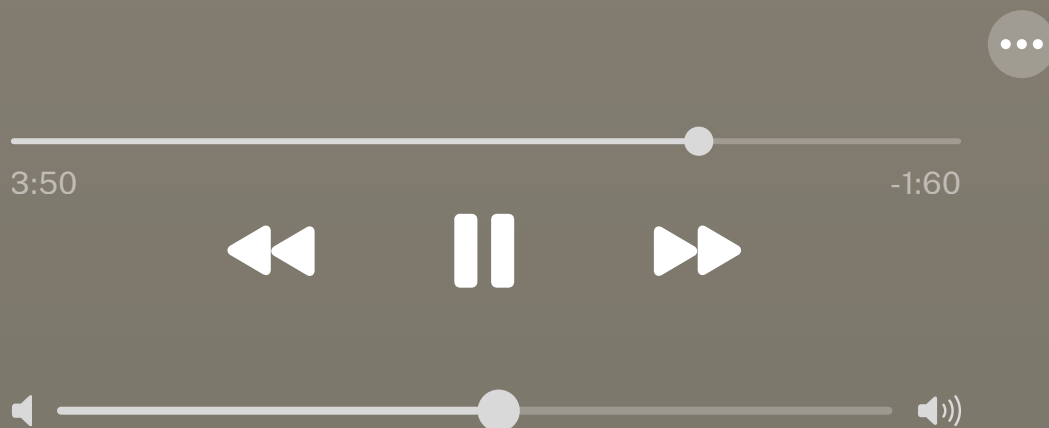
<https://leonard.buzzsprout.com/>

**Jason Flom with Allan Woodhouse and Brian Anderson
(Wrongful Conviction #252)**

<https://lavaforgood.com/podcast/252-jason-flom-with-allan-woodhouse-and-brian-anderson/>

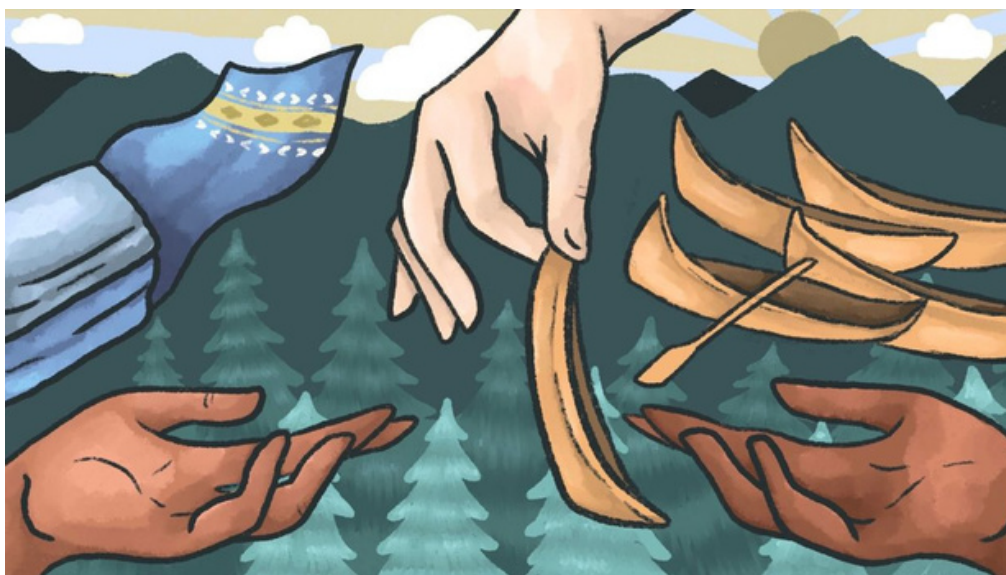
Podcasts & Documentaries

Several documentaries, podcasts and short news stories have been produced about individuals in Canada and United States who have been wrongfully convicted, or who are widely considered to have been wrongfully convicted, but who remain imprisoned.



Media Reports

Many media outlets have produced stories about the issue of wrongful conviction or profiles of people who have been wrongfully committed.



THIS IMAGE BY ARTIST MO BUTTERFLY IS MEANT TO REPRESENT THE POTLATCH BAN AND OTHER HISTORICAL WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS UNDER THE INDIAN ACT. RETRIEVED FROM APTN NEWS.

Martens, Kathleen. “New Registry Shows Indigenous Peoples Largely Shut Out of Wrongful Conviction Cases.” Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, February 24, 2023.

<https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/wrongful-convictions-registry-indigenous-peoples-prison-innocence/>

Fraser, David. “Publication d’un registre des erreurs judiciaires au Canada”. La Presse, February 20th, 2023.

<https://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/justice-et-faits-divers/2023-02-20/initiative-de-l-universite-de-toronto/publication-d-un-registre-des-erreurs-judiciaires-au-canada.php>

Mills, Steve. “Daniel Taylor Was Innocent. He Spent Decades in Prison Trying to Fix the State’s Mistake” ProPublica: Investigative Journalism in the Public Interest. May 25, 2022.

<https://www.propublica.org/article/wrongful-conviction-murder-chicago-police-daniel-taylor>



Teresa Crawford/AP Photo

Bethune, Brian. “The scary truth about Canada’s wrongful convictions.” Macleans, April 17, 2023.

<https://macleans.ca/culture/wrongful-convictions-legal-system-courts/>

Media Reports

Searle, Tyler. “We Have to Claim Our Own Freedom’: Rallying Cry for Action on Cases of Wrongful Conviction.” *Winnipeg Free Press*, July 19, 2023.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2023/07/19/we-have-to-claim-our-own-freedom-rallying-cry-for-action-on-cases-of-wrongful-conviction>



MIKAELA MACKENZIE / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

INNOCENCE CANADA LAWYER JEROME KENNEDY (LEFT), BRIAN ANDERSON, AND ALLAN (A.J) WOODHOUSE, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ON WEDNESDAY JULY 19, 2023.

Ackerman, Spencer and Zach Stafford. “Victims of Chicago Police Savagery Hope Reparations Fund is ‘Beacon’ for World”. *The Guardian*, May 7, 2015.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/may/07/chicago-police-brutality-reparations>

Redden, Molly. “Why Is It So Hard for Wrongfully Convicted Women to Get Justice?” *Mother Jones*, July/August 2015.

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/08/wrongfully-convicted-women-exonerations-innocence-project/>



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN

ARTICLES & ACADEMIC PAPERS

A number of dissertations, papers and articles that examine this issue from a variety of different perspectives have been published. Here is a selection:

Anti-Colonial Penal Abolitionism: Prairies Context
<https://uottawa.scholarsportal.info/ottawa/index.php/jpp/article/view/6280>

Karrie Auger, Danielle Bird, Cory Cardinal, Megan Gnanasihmany, Serenity Joo, Molly Swain, Nancy Van Styvendale, and Belinda Wandering Spirit. "Anti-Colonial Penal Abolitionism: Prairies Context." *Journal of Prisoners on Prisons*. Vol. 30, no. 2, April 3, 2022, pp. 10-34.

Briarpatch: The Prison Abolition Issue
<https://briarpatchmagazine.com/issues/view/september-october-2021>

Briarpatch Magazine. Vol. 50, no. 5, September/October, 2021.

Condamnations injustifiées au Canada
<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/fr/article/condamnations-injustifiees>

Makin, Kirk. "Condamnations injustifiées au Canada." *L'Encyclopédie canadienne*. March 6, 2015.

"In the name of social justice": the wrongful conviction network in Canada
<https://bac-lac.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1033019273>

Dies, Amanda. *"In the Name of Social Justice": the wrongful conviction network in Canada*. 2008. Montréal: Concordia University

Institutional racism in Australian justice systems linked to the deaths of 151 Indigenous women, study finds
<https://nit.com.au/31-05-2023/6179/institutional-racism-in-australian-justice-systems-linked-to-the-deaths-of-151-indigenous-women-study-finds>

Torre, Giovanni. "Institutional Racism in Australian Justice Systems Linked to the Deaths of 151 Indigenous Women, Study Finds." *National Indigenous Times*, May 31, 2023.

The Intersection of Wrongful Convictions and Gender in Cases Where Women Were Sentenced to Death or Life in Prison Without Parole
<https://repository.law.umich.edu/mjgl/vol27/iss2/4/>

Lang, Connor F. "The Intersection of Wrongful Convictions and Gender in Cases Where Women Were Sentenced to Death or Life in Prison Without Parole." *Michigan Journal of Gender & Law*. Vol. 27, no. 4, 2020.

L'erreur judiciaire : une démonstration difficile
<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108823533>

Laramée, Yanick. *L'erreur judiciaire : une démonstration difficile*. 2004. Montréal: Université de Montréal.

ARTICLES & ACADEMIC PAPERS

The Silent Injustice in Wrongful Convictions in Canada: Is Race a Factor in Convicting the Innocent
<https://www.collectionscanada.ca/obj/thesescanada/vol2/002/MR88612.PDF>

Anderson, Andrea S. *The Silent Injustice in Wrongful Convictions in Canada: Is Race a Factor in Convicting the Innocent*. 2011. Toronto: York University.

Societal perceptions in wrongful convictions.
<https://ir.library.ontariotechu.ca/handle/10155/257>

Blandisi, Isabella. *Societal Perceptions in Wrongful Convictions*. 2012. Oshawa: Ontario Tech University.

Violence on Violence: The Racism-Policing Loop in Prince George, B.
<https://yellowheadinstitute.org/2023/09/13/racism-policing-loop>

McGuire, Michaela. "Violence on Violence: The Racism-Policing Loop in Prince George, B.C." Yellowhead Institute. 14 September 2023.

Wrongful convictions : a review and assessment of miscarriage of justice in Canada
<https://open.library.ubc.ca/soa/cIRcle/collections/ubctheses/24/items/1.0071226?o=0>

David, Lisa. *Wrongful Convictions: A Review and Assessment of Miscarriage of Justice in Canada*. 2010. Vancouver : University of British Columbia.

Penal nationalism in the settler colony: On the construction and maintenance of 'national whiteness' in settler Canada.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/14624745211023455>

Evans, J. (2021). "Penal Nationalism in the Settler Colony: On the Construction and Maintenance of 'National Whiteness' in Settler Canada." *Punishment & Society*, Vol. 23, no. 4, 2021, pgs. 515–535.

Wrongful Convictions in Canada
<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/wrongful-convictions>

Makin, Kirk. "Wrongful Convictions in Canada." *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. March 6, 2015.



Intergovernmental Publications

Government agencies and non-governmental organizations conduct research and publish reports on the issue of wrongful conviction, some of which focus on role played by systemic racism.

An Indigenous Abolitionist Study Guide.
Toronto Abolitionist Convergence, 2020.

<https://yellowheadinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/indigenous-abolitionist-study-guide.pdf>

Canada's Proposed Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission in Bill C-40: "A Good Start". The Canadian Registry of Wrongful Convictions, 2023.

<https://www.datocms-assets.com/75199/1676742444-bill-c-40-report-final.pdf>

Roach, Kent. *Canada Has a Guilty Plea Wrongful Conviction Problem: The First Report from The Canadian Registry of Wrongful Convictions.* The Canadian Registry of Wrongful Convictions, 2023.

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Government agencies and non-governmental organizations conduct research and publish reports on the issue of wrongful conviction, some of which focus on role played by systemic racism.

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Intergovernmental Publications

Government agencies and non-governmental organizations conduct research and publish reports on the issue of wrongful conviction, some of which focus on role played by systemic racism.

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Wrongful Convictions in Canada
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Exhibitions

A variety of in-gallery and online exhibitions have been created to bring attention to the issue of wrongful conviction, or which feature works created by the wrongfully convicted.

“Bonded by Innocence, Together in Freedom” Exhibition (Georgia Innocence Project)

<https://www.georgiainnocenceproject.org/general/bonded-by-innocence-together-in-freedom-exhibition/>

Gary Tyler: We are the Willing

(Library Street Collective)
<https://lscgallery.com/exhibitions/we-are-the-willing>

He Was Wrongfully Imprisoned for 41 Years. Now He Has His First Solo Exhibition

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/gary-tyler-wrongfully-imprisoned-41-years-first-solo-exhibition-180982641/>

Sherrill Roland: do without, do within (Tanya Bonakdar Gallery of Los Angeles)

<https://www.tanyabonakdargallery.com/exhibitions/702-sherrill-roland-do-without-do-within-tanya-bonakdar-gallery-los-angeles/>

A wrongful conviction leads to deeply personal art about the ‘broken criminal justice system’ (L.A. Times)

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2023-04-19/a-wrongful-conviction-leads-to-deeply-personal-art-addressing-the-broken-criminal-justice-system>



The art featured in this event poster is titled “Hummingbird” (2015), and is an unfinished painting by Peter Collins, that he was working on in the final days of his life.

Peter Collins was a Canadian artist and activist who was sentenced to life in prison at the age of 22. During his time various prisons around Kingston, Ontario, Peter was an ardent activist for those living with HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C in prisons. He was a tireless advocate for reform calling attention to systemic racism and injustice, both inside and outside the prison environment, through his artwork and writings.

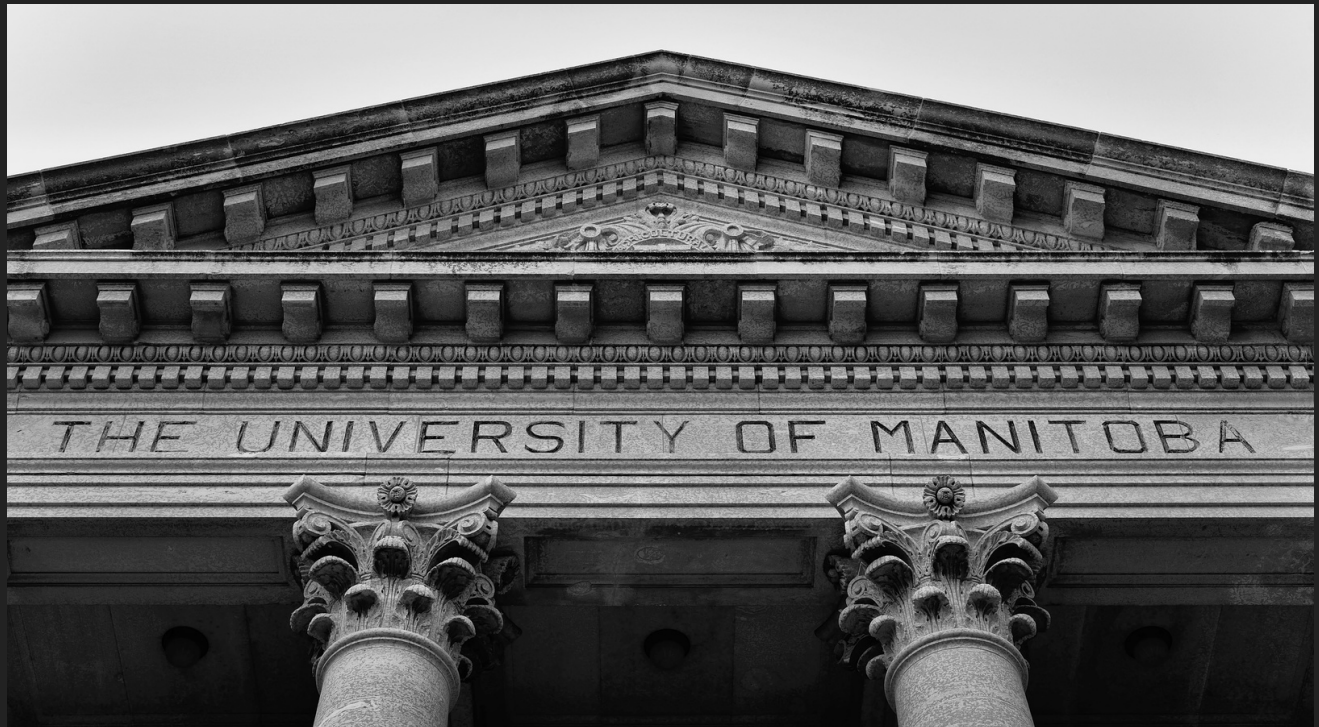
Denied compassionate leave to spend the end of his life with friends and family, Peter died in prison at the age of 53. For more about Peter and his art, please see "Lockdown Galleries: Art and Voice of Peter Collins."

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Agriculture Building by Ian Chris Graham, Courtesy of Canva

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