

## EMOTIONS, CRIME AND JUSTICE

The return of emotions to debates about crime and criminal justice has been a striking development of recent decades across many jurisdictions. This has been registered in the return of shame to justice procedures, a heightened focus on victims and their emotional needs, fear of crime as a major preoccupation of citizens and politicians, and highly emotionalised public discourses on crime and justice. But how can we best make sense of these developments? Do we need to create 'emotionally intelligent' justice systems, or are we messing recklessly with the rational foundations of liberal criminal justice?

This volume brings together leading criminologists and sociologists from across the world in a much needed conversation about how to re-calibrate reason and emotion in crime and justice today. The contributions range from the micro-analysis of emotions in violent encounters, to the paradoxes and tensions that arise from the emotionalisation of criminal justice in the public sphere. They explore the emotional labour of workers in police and penal institutions, the justice experiences of victims and offenders, and the role of vengeance, forgiveness and regret in the aftermath of violence and conflict resolution. The result is a set of original essays which offer a fresh and timely perspective on problems of crime and justice in contemporary liberal democracies.

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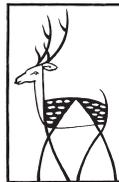
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# Emotions, Crime and Justice

Edited by  
Susanne Karstedt, Ian Loader  
and  
Heather Strang

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## *Preface to the Paperback Edition*

When this volume was first published, it entered a small but flourishing field of inquiry into emotions, crime and justice. Since then it has expanded into new areas as scholars from history, philosophy or genocide studies started to analyse their subjects through the lens of emotions. The emotional paradigm has invigorated historical studies of violence as well as philosophical inquiries into the essence of justice such as Martha Nussbaum's 'Political Emotions'. The emotional turn promoted in this book has reshaped the understanding of phenomena ranging from mass atrocities and terrorism to the mechanisms of justice in everyday life, as well as raising awareness for the justice needs and interests of victims of crime.

The fundamental questions that are addressed in this volume, however, still loom large. How can we make sense of the paradoxes and tensions that arise from the emotionalisation of criminal justice in the public sphere? Do we need to create 'emotionally intelligent' justice systems? Are we endangering the rational foundations of liberal criminal justice? This set of original essays offers insights into the problems of crime and justice in contemporary societies that are as foundational as they are timely.

As the field of emotion studies in criminology expands, there is increasing demand for such foundational texts for teaching and learning. This volume has been highly recommended by reviewers as such a text for students and researchers entering the field. The editors are therefore delighted to present a paperback edition, and we are grateful to Hart Publishing for offering the opportunity. We hope that it will encourage ever more students and researchers from all disciplines to engage with a fascinating field of inquiry into crime, justice and human nature.



## *Acknowledgements*

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