



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS – REVUE *CRIMINOLOGIE*

Thematic issue, Spring 2021 : Image and Justice

The Spring 2021 thematic issue will be edited by Rémi Boivin, a professor at the School of Criminology (Université de Montréal) and Annie Gendron, a researcher at the École Nationale de Police du Québec (the provincial police academy).

About thirty years ago, a new form of evidence began appearing in criminal justice courts: visual evidence, such as videos and pictures. Traditionally, criminal proceedings were almost entirely based on testimony provided by witnesses and/or victims, as well as suspects. This form of evidence was (and still is) crucial to the proceedings: witnesses often initiated a case by calling the police, and their testimony was the main source of information about the incident. Consequently, the collaboration of trustworthy witnesses was crucial to the work of justice systems. Today, as a result of technological advances, incident footage, whether drawn from body-mounted cameras, cellphones, dashcams, surveillance cameras, or other sources, is available. These images often provide compelling and convincing stories regarding the nature of the offence. Scientific literature, as well as the media, however, mostly focus on the deterrent effect of cameras, i.e. the impact that their very presence could have on the behaviour of those being filmed, whether police officers or citizens. As a result, it is easy to forget that cameras can also (or even primarily?) record incidents and police interventions from an external point of view, and as a result create a potentially crucial piece of evidence. A significant reluctance to adopt these technological tools, and to change procedures, has nevertheless been noted among police officers, prosecutors, judges, and citizens. A greater reliance on technological evidence is sometimes perceived as being highly demanding as compared to its relatively minor benefits. Issues related to privacy and costs are also often mentioned. For example, body-mounted cameras are presented by some as a “solution without a problem” that public finances do not allow.

This thematic issue aims to shift this debate from its current emphasis on police work, to a broader discussion of the impact of cameras on the justice system as a whole. What are the implications of the growing use of visual evidence? And what are the assumptions for supporting its use?

TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

Authors interested in contributing to this thematic issue should send their names, affiliation, and contact details to Rémi Boivin (remi.boivin@umontreal.ca). An abstract of 250 to 500 words should accompany this email. *Criminologie* is a peer-reviewed and open access journal published in French; however, we are soliciting English propositions as well. Selected manuscripts will be translated at the Journal's expense. Abstracts can be submitted in either French or English.

Manuscripts are expected by April 15th, 2020. They will be sent for blind review, and authors will be asked to submit a revised version of their manuscript for October, 2020. Spring 2021 is the target date of publication.

LA REVUE *CRIMINOLOGIE*

Founded in 1968 by Denis Szabo, *Criminologie* is primarily dedicated to presenting research results, and seeks to address both scientists and criminal-justice professionals. Published by Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal, *Criminologie* is the only French-language criminology journal published in North America, and is one of the 128 criminology journals published in the world. As of 2017, *Criminologie* has opted for an open-access dissemination model, and the whole publication is available via the Érudit platform. Authors can submit their paper using our online management system: <https://criminologie.ca>. Each issue presents 10 thematic articles, as well as an open topic section.

Criminologie is made possible thanks to grants from the Canadian Human Sciences Research Council of Canada, and the Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture.