



## The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare

Volume 23  
Issue 2 *June*

Article 10

June 1996

### **Review of *Incapacitation: Penal Confinement and the Restraint of Crime*. Franklin E. Zimring and Gordon Hawkins. Reviewed by William G. Archambeault, Louisiana State University.**

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#### **Recommended Citation**

Archambeault, William G. (1996) "Review of *Incapacitation: Penal Confinement and the Restraint of Crime*. Franklin E. Zimring and Gordon Hawkins. Reviewed by William G. Archambeault, Louisiana State University.," *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*: Vol. 23 : Iss. 2 , Article 10.  
Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol23/iss2/10>

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## Book Reviews

Franklin E. Zimring and Gordon Hawkins, *Incapacitation: Penal Confinement and Restraint of Crime*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995. \$27.95 hard cover.

For nearly thirty years, Gordon Hawkins and Franklin Zimring, either individually or collectively, have been providing the academic community with stimulating and insightful analyses of criminal justice policy and practice in the United States. Consistently, these scholars produce works that are well researched, concisely written, and have clearly stated positions. They are able to explain complex concepts in ways that enhance understanding. Their writings serve as knowledge platforms that engender lively and provocative classroom discussions as well as debates in the applied criminal justice community. *Incapacitation: Penal Confinement and Restraint of Crime*, the authors' present collaborative work, is no exception.

The central theme of *Incapacitation* is plainly stated in the first sentence of the book's preface: "Of all the justifications for criminal punishment, the desire to incapacitate is the least complicated, the least studied, and often the most important." The authors go on to skillfully identify relevant literature, synthesize critical cogent issues on the use of incapacitation in the United States, outline policy research directions of the future, and identify areas of strengths and weaknesses in knowledge acquisition and research.

The book is organized into three main sections. Section I, entitled "Concepts," consists of four chapters that identify key ideas, paradigms, ideology and theories of incapacitation. The first chapter briefly traces the evolution of key 1970s justice paradigms of imprisonment, rehabilitation and incapacitation, then connects these to academic research. Selective incapacitation is discussed in the next chapter. In it, the authors trace incapacitation from the eighteenth century writings of Jeremy Bentham through the 1970s era of LEAA policy influence to the Greenwood, Blumstein and National Academy of Science research of the early 1980s. In the third chapter the authors discuss "theory" in relationship to the use of incapacitation. The fourth chapter concludes this

section by focusing on issues of jurisprudence and due process of law.

Section II, entitled "Research," includes Chapters 5 and 6. In these, the authors first critically evaluate the utility of three methods of research that were used generally in the 1980s to assess "effects of imprisonment:" survey, official-record studies and community-level studies. Then, the authors focus on California crime research to illustrate the present inadequacies of crime and incapacitation policy research. The authors conclude that there is a continuing need for multiple measures of community level research, especially relationships between crime rates and crime policies. They also suggest four areas for substantive future research into the issue of incapacitation: "(1) identification of different patterns for different crime and offender types; (2) the documentation of patterns over time in individual offense frequencies; (3) the detection of variations in individual crime rates that are associated with large shifts in criminal justice policy, and (4) the study of incapacitation and specific offenses."

Section III of the book is entitled "Policy" and consists of Chapters 7 and 8. The first examines the policy issues of cost and benefit incapacitation by critically analyzing several different studies conducted by different academic disciplines. The authors conclude that the 1980s research which focused on "costs and benefits of imprisonment in dollar terms" resulted in criminal justice studies taking "a significant step backwards." The concluding chapter to the book is organized into four themes: (1) placing incapacitation in its socio-political context; (2) valuating the utility of incapacitation in dealing with drug and property type crimes; (3) examining some of the factors and influences that limit the use of imprisonment, and (4) the future of incarceration and incapacitation policy and research. The authors conclude that future scholars will focus on selective, rather than on collective incapacitation. They also argue that incarceration, in general, will occupy a "less dominant position" in criminal justice policy making than it has in the past.

This book is most suited for criminal justice policy scholars and graduate level courses in criminal justice, political or social policy. It may also be useful in selected advanced undergraduate classes as well, but would not be appropriate for general

undergraduate usage. The authors presume that the reader has a thorough background and understanding of: (1) the history of American criminal justice and judicial sentencing policy, especially since the 1970s; (2) criminal justice practice and operations; and (3) criminal justice research and policy debate. They also presume that the reader has a substantial background in sociological theory, social-governmental policy and research methods. Without this substantial background, many readers would simply not comprehend the complex issues that our presented.

*Incapacitation* is a book written from the ideological perspective of academic sociology with which some scholars may disagree. This perspective leads the authors to some inconsistencies in their analyses. For example, on one hand the authors lament the fact that little meaningful applied policy research on incapacitation was either conducted or published in the late 1970s and 1980s. Yet, the authors fail to recognize the fact that sociological academic values discourage applied research, prevent its funding and inhibit its publication in scholarly sociology dominated journals—conditions that continue today.

Despite its few weaknesses, *Incapacitation* is an example of outstanding academic scholarship. Its thoughtful reading and discussion should be considered mandatory for anyone interested in criminal justice policy in the United States and the role that penal incarceration will take in the future.

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Kathleen Barry, *The Prostitution of Sexuality*, New York: New York University Press, 1995, \$24.95 hardcover.

Prostitution, like pornography, is one of those complex issues that painfully divides the women's movement—not surprisingly, given its explosive mix of sexuality, class, race and nationality. Feminists hold two basic positions on prostitution: first, it is a legitimate means for women to earn a living and should be decriminalized, and second, it is inherently exploitative of women and must be abolished. Kathleen Barry belongs firmly in the second camp, and has written a passionate argument for ending