

## **WGSS339 - Annotated Bibliography**

### **Ashleigh Johnson**

Bingaman, Anne K. *A Commentary on the Effect of the Equal Rights Amendment on State Laws and Institutions / Prepared for the California Commission on the Status of Women's Equal Rights Amendment Project*. California Commission on the Status of Women, 1975. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

In this article, Anne K. Bingaman argues that meeting human needs should be studied, rectified, and authentically reflected in the law. She is “astounded at the number of inequities which state laws and institutions impose on persons because of their sex.” She expressed the need for society to review the moral codes that exist as norms in family, education, employment, and criminal justice. Private institutions of this time that were not considered “significantly involved” with the state, therefore equality is not enforced: educational and religious institutions, banks, savings and loan associations, and insurance companies. Courts historically rely on “narrow, technical grounds of state law” - especially for oppressed communities. Public knowledge of these issues and alternatives that exist could facilitate social change. By providing a general guide to the issues of state law, we can establish momentum for innovative legislative solutions to issues that have been with us for centuries. Bingham references studies of court cases relating to discrimination, such as *Burton v Wilmington Parking Authority*, 365 U.S. 715 (1961) - A conflict regarding a state property lease of a restaurant known to racially discriminate.

And, *Evans v Newton*, 382 U.S. 296 (1966) - overtaken ownership of a municipal park to private trustees due to the terms of the gift of the park which required the city to discriminate based on race. Some limitations include the authors strong focus on sex and gender rather than on more intersectional identities. Also, the article was written in 1975, over 40 years ago. However, it could be beneficial to use historical context to make predictions and inferences about the implementation of the Equal Rights Amendment. This article relates to my issue with the prison industrial complex because it emphasizes the notion of white male supremacy and the long fight for equality. Whether between genders, races, status, etc. provides insight into the issues that are deeply rooted in U.S. laws and legislation. Its important to reference because it emphasizes the need to revisit moral codes in society and how they came to fruition. The author argues, "Meeting human need should be studied, refined, and genuinely reflected in the law,"

Potopowitz, Barbara, et al. "Chapter 8: Women In Prison." *Connecticut Women in the New Millennium: Not Equal Yet!*, Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, Hartford, CT (18-20 Trinity St. Hartford 06106), Connecticut, 2000, pp. 148–156. Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

In this article, Barbara Potopowitz, et al. argues that children of inmates suffer the most and are 5-6 times more likely to follow the pattern of their incarcerated parent, and are often left psychologically traumatized. She states, "If confinement and incarceration remain the standard method of punishment, countless families will continue to suffer and

the criminal justice system will have made few strides in its efforts to control crime and the painful cycle of recidivism.” Prison construction has become a multibillion dollar industry that continues to grow. Prisons are the invention of a single generation to serve very specific needs. If they continue to be the only solution to social issues we will continue to be trapped in inherited answers. Many people leave prison worse than they were when they went, because prison systems include high rates of understaffing, overcrowding, suicide, employee protest, and poor treatments of inmates with mental illness. The authors referenced scientific studies and prison demographic data. To relate to their main point, confinement and dependency are being used to control and undermine the abilities and desires of inmates. Some limitations include their strong focus on women inmates, their evidence and data is from only one prison in Connecticut, and it was published in 2000. This article relates to the issue of the prison industrial complex and its ineffectiveness in being a solution to public order offenses. It’s important to reference because it provides evidence of the outdated, unjust standard method of punishment that only creates more harm and trauma for future generations. It provides alternatives to push for such as job training, residential programs, drug treatments, steady employment, and child care.

McArthur, Virginia A. *From Convict to Citizen: Programs for the Woman Offender*. District of Columbia Commission on the Status of Women, 1974. *Alexander Street*, Accessed 12 Feb. 2022.

In this article, Virginia A. McArthur argues that volunteers can create impressions on the issue of incarceration by fighting for new legislation or brainstorming full-scale rehabilitation programs. Also, there is a disproportionately small number of women incarcerated than men, may be due to the “traditional deference of women which leads to leniency,” Or because men are considered more dangerous and treated as such. Most men and women in prisons come from the poor, less educated, powerless communities. Official decisions tend to favor white, middle class personas. Evidence comes from demographic data and conclusions from scientific studies. She proposes different programs for each stage of the criminal justice process. Her main points explore the background of the criminal justice system, programs designed to help women offenders at all stages, and the importance of rehabilitation and social welfare. The article is mainly directed towards helping women offenders although it provides data that men are disproportionately more targeted by the system. Another limitation is that it was published in 1974b. However, history can provide us an outline of where we started and how little we have progressed. This article relates to the issue of incarceration as punishment and is important in analyzing different programs that could combat the rise in prison populations.

Davis, Angela. “Masked Racism: Reflections on the Prison Industrial Complex.” *Colorlines*, 18

Apr. 2015,

<https://www.colorlines.com/articles/masked-racism-reflections-prison-industrial-complex>

In this article, Angela Davis argues that social problems are often grouped together as crime and target poor, oppressed communities. Prisons do not make problems go away, they make the people go away. Making these people disappear from poor, immigrant, and racially marginalized communities has become one of the biggest businesses in the U.S. Correctional facilities dangerously resonate with the military industrial complex. “The political economy of prisons relies on racialized assumptions of criminality,” Her main points describe how capitalism profits from prisoners, how prison labor is as valuable as third-world labor, and how mass incarceration has a hidden agenda, to trick people to believe its efficacy. One limitation is that it was published in 1998, not timely but still accurate. The article relates to the issue because it further explains the prison industrial complex and its unjust implications.

Baker, Jim, et al. “Understanding and Confronting the Prison-Industrial Complex.” *Arabella Advisors*, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Oct. 2018, <https://www.arabellaadvisors.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Understanding-and-Confronting-the-Prison-Industrial-Complex.pdf>.

In this article, Jim Baker, et al. argues that through endowments philanthropists may be unwillingly investing in corporations that contribute to the prison industrial complex. Corporations that may be against their own missions and values. Philanthropists can help combat the network of companies that profit from mass incarceration. The authors identify intervention opportunities and provide strategies to remove funding from the

prison industrial complex. “It will require fundamental reforms to our criminal justice system, including changes to unjust, unfit, and overly punitive sentencing policies and drug laws, as well as reforms of prosecutorial and policing practices that correlate with soaring prison populations.” They reference U.S. Census data, Bureau of Justice statistics, and scientific studies. The main points are mass incarceration, an overview of the prison industrial complex, identifying strategic intervention points, and the next steps for activists wanting to promote change. One limitation is that it is targeted to and solely representative of the philanthropists role in criminal justice activism. However, this article relates to the issue of funding the prison industry. It provides strategies that can be implemented outside of philanthropy and describes in depth the role the prison industrial complex plays in political and societal affairs.

Hannah. “The ‘Alternative’ to the Prison-Industrial Complex.” *Christians for the Abolition of Prisons*, Wordpress, 16 Oct. 2019, <https://christiansforabolition.org/2019/10/16/the-alternative-to-the-prison-industrial-complex/>.

In this article, Hannah argues, “Understanding that our goal isn’t a united system but instead a patchwork of programs that meet specific community needs.” Her main point is that many alternatives to prison exist because one single strategy will not work to replace the entire system. Different alternatives are intended for different communities to see what works best for them. Alternatives must be voluntary, mandates would recreate the issues we have with imprisonment. She uses restoration resources and abolitionist

testimonials to back her argument. This article relates to the kind of activism needed to combat the prison industrial complex by looking at other activist groups' implementation. It is important to reference because it gives examples of potential programs that are based in direct action.