

# Criminology & Public Policy

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*Call for Papers for 2021 Special Issue (DUE DATE EXTENDED)*

## **George Floyd Protests and the Criminal Justice System: Examining the Etiology of and the System's Responses to the Protests**

Special Issue Editors: Joshua Freilich and Steven Chermak

George Floyd's death on May 25, 2020, while in the custody of a Minneapolis police officer, stunned the nation and led to calls for criminal justice and community change. Scholars estimate that over 20 million persons have attended protests about this killing and other police misconduct in the United States, making these the largest social protests in American history. Importantly, there has been widespread discussion about the proper role of police in society. Different proposals have been set forth including: defunding the police; reassigning certain responsibilities away from the police to other professionals; enhancing police training involving use of force, de-escalation techniques, and related issues; and expanding community policing tactics.

Policymakers have deployed both aggressive and conciliatory approaches to manage the protests. The federal government has charged hundreds, and thousands of others have been arrested on the local level. Local prosecutors have been asked to take a more critical view of cases involving police violence, and have had to decide how to prosecute protest-related crimes. Currently, legislators are debating initiatives involving police use of force and altering the qualified immunity doctrine for police, among other issues.

This *Criminology & Public Policy* Special Issue welcomes empirical studies and review pieces using a variety of methods that address the causes, nature, characteristics, and outcomes (both intended and unintended) of the protests as well as police response to protests. Specifically:

1. Examine the etiology of the protests: Which locations saw greater levels of activity? Who were the protesters? Who was more likely to participate, and why? Scholars could also comparatively examine the impact of the protests on crime trends in different cities.
2. In addition to the millions of peaceful protesters, a few committed crimes including arson, vandalism and looting. Studies could compare protests that resulted in crimes to peaceful protests where no crimes occurred. In addition, who was arrested? Many politicians claimed outside agitators were responsible for the looting. Is this claim supported empirically? Scholars could also investigate the prosecution and charging decisions for those arrested.
3. Examine the impact of proposals to change police responses to managing peaceful protests. In addition, some have argued that racial inequities also extend to how protests are policed and that responses vary depending upon the groups involved (for e.g., BLM versus MAGA supporters). Researchers could conduct comparative studies of police

responses/tactics/strategies across ideological movements, jurisdictions, and or time periods.

4. Studies could also evaluate any of the recent proposals regarding reforming police training on the use of force, use of de-escalation techniques, defunding/reassigning police responsibilities, etc. The latter point includes the shifting of policy/practice/responsibility/funding as well as the structural delivery of police service (e.g., consolidation, disbanding). What are the consequences and possibly the unintended consequences of specific proposals?
5. Relatedly, will the protests and calls for reform impact police recruitment practices, the diversity of incoming classes, or lead to changes in desired qualifications? What new approaches for police recruitment from marketing to selection have emerged?
6. Many protesters have highlighted racial injustices in society that go beyond police conduct to include the broader criminal justice system. Studies could examine if and how the protests have impacted efforts to reform the courts, probation, corrections, schools, or community-based criminal justice initiatives to reduce racial and other disparities, or involvement, in the criminal justice system.

Papers for this special issue must be submitted through the ScholarOne online submission site for *Criminology & Public Policy* (<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/capp>). **The deadline for papers has been extended to July 1, 2021.** All papers will go through *CPP*'s normal peer-review process. For questions about this call for papers, please contact the Editors-in-Chief, below.

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