

**Food Behind and Beyond Bars:  
Food and Carceral Spaces**  
*Kelsey Timler, A.E. Stearns and Amanda Wilson*

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**SPECIAL ISSUE EDITORS**

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**SPECIAL ISSUE THEME**

In carceral spaces like prisons and halfway houses, food is deeply symbolic and can assume high importance. On the one hand, it can be used by carceral state actors to deliver punishment and exact control. On the other, food can be used by incarcerated and criminalized individuals themselves to express identity, find solace, build community, or to resist and circumvent the repression they face. Through creating one's own recipes, cooking and sharing food together, appropriating institutional food or refusing food altogether, food offers incarcerated and criminalized individuals' diverse paths of expression and action. In short, prisonized food is so much more than an effort to meet (or, fail to meet, as is often the case) nutritional standards. As part of a special issue of the *Journal of Prisoners on Prisons* (JPP) on the theme of "Food Behind and Beyond Bars: Food and Carceral Spaces", we invite contributions that emphasize the fluidity of meanings and uses of food within and beyond prison walls.

Authors are encouraged to submit pieces that critically reflect upon their experiences with food and foodways from diverse perspectives. By *foodways* we mean the practice of making and consuming food and the

social, economic, cultural, political and historic contexts that surround food. Some examples include food as punishment, identity, resistance, community, creative enterprise, coping mechanism, etc. It could also include experiences in food-related prison work in food service, canteen, or farms, or food-based activities such as gardening or culinary courses.

## **CONTRIBUTION FORMATS**

This special issue welcomes contributions from a wide range of scholarly work including:

- Auto-ethnographic accounts that examine experiences of imprisonment to illuminate broader issues faced by incarcerated people;
- Theoretical, critical and analytical essays;
- Scholarly research articles based on quantitative, qualitative, arts-based and/or mixed- methods research;
- Book reviews;
- Artistic content – photo or graphic essays, digital art, poetry, etc.;
- Recipes;
- Interviews or discussions transcribed from recordings; or
- Commentaries.

## **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

At the *JPP*, we support the right of incarcerated people to exercise freedom of expression pursuant to section 2 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and embedded in national constitutions elsewhere across the world. We believe that publishing the writing of incarcerated people is a necessary tool to facilitate transparency in carceral settings. We welcome submissions from all current and former prisoners, and are eager to hear your input on the above-mentioned issues. Please share this notice with anyone who may be interested in contributing to our journal. We ask that those who choose to submit include a short biographical statement and let us know if you would like to be published anonymously. We look forward to reviewing your submissions that follow the journal's guidelines below and hope to hear from you soon.

- The Journal will not publish any subject matter that advocates hatred, sexism, racism, violence or that supports the death penalty.
- The Journal does not publish material that usually focuses on the writer's own legal case, although the use of the writer's personal experiences as an illustration of a broader topic is encouraged.
- The Journal does not usually publish fiction and does not generally publish poetry. Illustrations, drawings and paintings may be submitted as potential cover art.
- Articles should be no longer than 20 pages typed and double-spaced or legibly handwritten. Electronic submissions are gratefully received.
- Writers may elect to write anonymously or under a pseudonym.
- For references cited in an article, writers should attempt to provide the necessary bibliographic information. Refer to the references cited in past issues for examples.
- Editors look for developed pieces that address topics substantially. Manuscripts go through a preliminary reading and then are sent to review by the Editorial Board. Those that are of suitable interest are returned to the author with comments or suggestions. Editors work with writers on composition and form, and where necessary may help the author with referencing and bibliographic information, not readily available in prisons. Selected articles are returned to authors for their approval before publication. Papers not selected are returned with comments from the editor. Revised papers may be resubmitted.
- Please submit biographical and contact information, to be published alongside articles unless otherwise indicated.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

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| Submissions by authors:                              | 1 June 2026      |
| Editorial decision and reviewer comments to authors: | 1 September 2026 |
| Revised manuscripts:                                 | 1 December 2026  |
| Final editorial decision to authors:                 | 1 February 2027  |
| Publication date   date de publication :             | 2027             |

**SUBMISSIONS | SOUMISSIONS**

Via email to [jpp@uottawa.ca](mailto:jpp@uottawa.ca) or by mail to the address below:

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