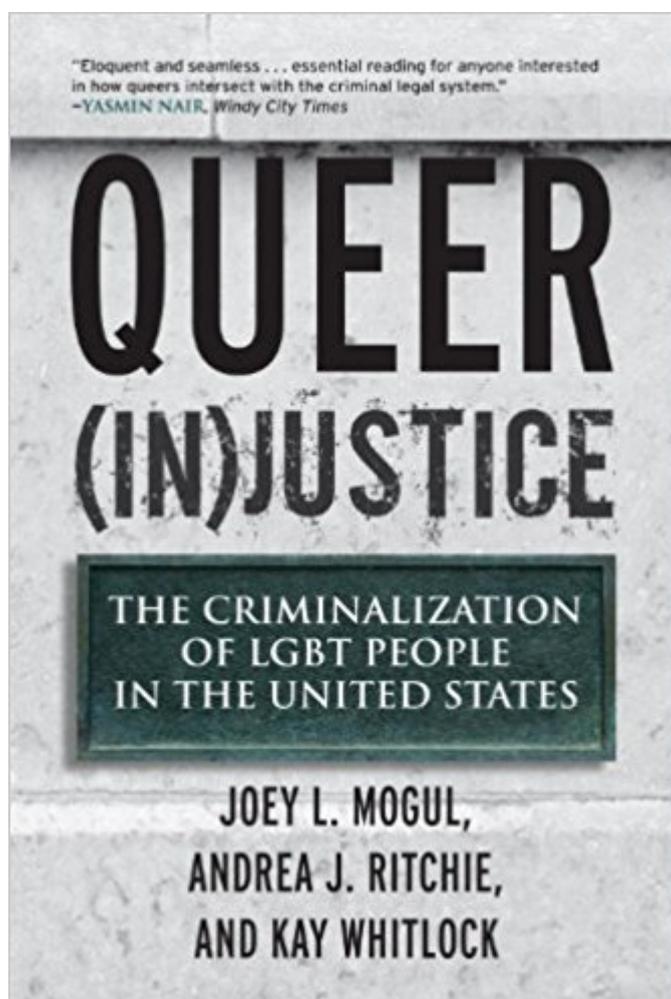


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# Queer (In)Justice: The Criminalization Of LGBT People In The United States (Queer Ideas/Queer Action)



## Synopsis

Winner of the 2011 PASS (Prevention for a Safer Society) Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency A groundbreaking work that turns a “queer eye” on the criminal legal system, *Queer (In)Justice* is a searing examination of queer experiences as “suspects,” defendants, prisoners, and survivors of crime. The authors unpack queer criminal archetypes like “gleeful gay killers,” “lethal lesbians,” “disease spreaders,” and “deceptive gender benders” to illustrate the punishment of queer expression, regardless of whether a crime was ever committed. Tracing stories from the streets to the bench to behind prison bars, they prove that the policing of sex and gender both bolsters and reinforces racial and gender inequalities.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Eloquent and seamless . . . essential reading for anyone interested in how queers intersect with the criminal legal system.” —Yasmin Nair, *Windy City Times* “*Queer (In)Justice* ought to be force-fed to the staffs and boards of directors of every national and state gay organization in the hope that it might open their eyes to a reality they too often deliberately ignore. . . . It’s that important.” —Doug Ireland, *GayCityNews* “A vivid account of how the law in the United States has historically treated LGBT people as criminals and, startlingly, the degree to which formal decriminalization of gay sex has failed to remove the criminal taint from queer sexuality and

expression . . . Mandatory reading. "Re-evaluates the penal system through a lavender lens...the book sheds light on serious flaws in the legal system, as well as homophobia and bigotry among many in law enforcement."

Philadelphia City Paper "Queer (In)Justice is the book we have been waiting for. By examining the policing of gender, it forces us to reexamine our complicity in the police state when we are fighting for hate crime legislation but should be arguing for decriminalization. It calls us to develop a more radical analysis that understands that ending state violence must be central to a transformative queer politics."

Andrea Smith, cofounder of INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence and author of *Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide* "If you think the struggle for LGBT equality is only about marriage and the military, *Queer (In)Justice* will be a revelation. In lucid prose, it tells stories of criminalization, victimization, and discrimination, while illuminating strategies for progressive change. A must-read for anyone who cares about justice."

Ruthann Robson, author of *Lesbian (Out)Law and Sappho Goes to Law School*, professor of law, City University of New York School of Law "A cogent and urgent call to move beyond single issue politics and to take a stand against the often brutal punishment of criminalized queers. The authors lay out a framework for a multi-issue social justice agenda that links LGBT activists to feminists, prison abolitionists, and immigrant rights and homeless advocates. This powerful critique should profoundly transform the ways we seek to end violence and fight for our freedom."

Julia Sudbury, editor of *Global Lockdown: Race, Gender, and the Prison-Industrial Complex*, professor of ethnic studies, Mills College "Queer (In)Justice is an urgently needed and essential resource for activists and scholars. Accessible and stirring, it clearly and concisely exposes how criminalization is a central issue facing queer and trans politics today. Tracing the historical and contemporary implications of mass imprisonment as a central vector of racial and gender violence this book is a vital tool toward building a movement that challenges the policing of our very identities."

Dean Spade, founder of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, assistant professor of law, Seattle University School of Law "With remarkable passion *Queer (In)Justice* makes visible the very serious consequences of the prison industrial complex on the lives of LGBT people. It's an important scholarly critique, an urgent call to action, and a vivid historical account of how the policing of gender and sexuality are intricately linked to race, class, and power."

Beth Ritchie, director, Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago "[Queer (In)justice] thoroughly explores and clearly articulates the multiple, overlapping, and mutually reinforcing way that heteronormative legality is used to

marginalize and control other oppressed groups, especially the poor, people of color and women.

—Nancy Polikoff, *Beyond (Straight and Gay) Marriage*

“VERDICT: Illuminating reading for criminal justice scholars and educated readers with an interest in gay rights.”

•Library Journal “At times devastating, provocative, explicit, and horrifying, this book will make you deeply sad, deeply angry, and more fully aware of how far we really are from full equality for sexual minorities.”

•Elevate Difference “An eye-opener for any reader accepting the myth of equal justice for all.”

•Book Marks “[Q]ueer (In)Justice is much more than a litany of horror stories... It is a passionate and powerful weaving of the stories, the history and all its meaning.”

•Fire Dog Lake “What Queer (In)Justice provides is a very well researched and written, but usually missing from the conversation, context for understanding the LGBT equality movement. Or better, movements, plural. In part, what the authors address is how the civil rights efforts are splintered.

—The authors use an alarming wealth of stories about how real queer people experience our “criminal legal system.”

—One obvious, but powerful, tool of the Powers That Be is to divide us. Queer (In)Justice could be one powerful resource to help us find some “togetherness.”

•TaylorMarsh.com “Queer (In)justice is one of the most important books about the struggle for LGBT rights that we’ve seen in decades. It adds a critical point of discussion, advocating for working beyond the standard ‘marriage and military service’ framework and instead fighting the entire system of institutional wrongs historically perpetrated against all LGBTs.”

•Daily Kos “Queer (In)justice is an incredibly eye-opening take on the complexity of factors, including race and class, that needs to be considered in a progressive strategy for obtaining justice.

—to miss out on this book would be to turn your back to reality.”

•James Vilorio, *Gay Persons of Color* “The strength of *Queer (In)Justice* is that, though it focuses on the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and other queer people in its analysis, it never isolates these experiences from the surrounding social facts of race, class, nationality, immigration status and so on.”

•Kristian Williams, *In These Times*

Joey L. Mogul is a partner at the People’s Law Office in Chicago and director of the Civil Rights Clinic at DePaul University’s College of Law. Andrea J. Ritchie is a police misconduct attorney and organizer in New York City. Kay Whitlock is a Montana-based organizer and writer whose work focuses on dismantling structural injustice in law enforcement and other public institutions. From the Hardcover edition.

When working in Oklahoma where we are told that we are not really after equal rights, but special rights, because we are so uppity and self serving, the stats presented in this book is quite helpful in combating such ingrained homophobia, transphobia and racism. There really are ways the intersection of poverty and multiple minority disenfranchisements (such as being black and transgendered at the same time) indicates very high risks of negative, hurtful, and unfair consequences within the systems we rely on, even if the actual crime committed is exactly the same as what others do all the time and not even get slapped on the wrist.

Excellent book. I am so glad I purchased it. Anyone interested in law in respect to human rights and equality should pick up this book. Well written and timely, it is a really great history lesson through case study. Eye opening and at times jarring, the authors educate the reader on the history of both queer justice and injustice within the court system. Highly recommend.

A good quick read about the history of policing sexuality, gender, and queerness in the United States with a focus on the disproportionate discrimination of queer people of color.

Must have book if you are interested in the intersections of prison/criminal legal system and LGBTQ people. Also great for people who don't care so much about that. Great look at the way ideas about queer people have grounded modern notions of criminality.

Love this book great way to introduce people to criminology in the LGBTQ

Informative, nuanced, and thought provoking.

great shape

I took my time reading this book because one, it's such a heavy book and two, I could not handle all the horrible stories in one sitting. I needed time to process and not get so upset because reading it while being a member of queer people of color community described in the book makes me feel so emotional, like it could happen to me too had I been born in those places at those times. Overall, I think the authors did a good job in compiling all criminalization acts in US against queer people, if there is one thing I feel is not explored more is the Queer Asian Pacific Islander demographic. I feel

that there is limited stories and that when the authors use the term People of Color it often only refer to blacks and/or hispanics population and not API/other.

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