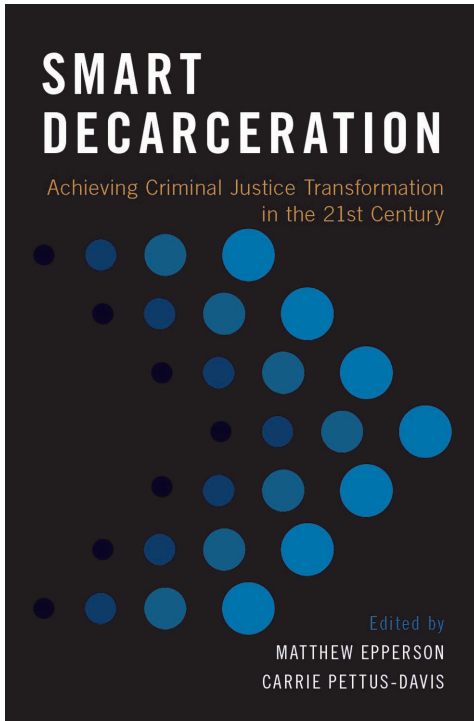


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## SMART DECARCERATION

ACHIEVING CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRANSFORMATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Edited by Matthew Epperson and Carrie Pettus-Davis



*Smart Decarceration* is a forward-thinking, practical volume that provides solutions and concrete strategies for ushering in an era of decarceration. The text grapples with tough questions and takes up the challenge of transforming America's approach to criminal justice in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This timely work consists of chapters written from multiple perspectives and disciplines including advocates, researchers, academics, practitioners, and persons with incarceration histories who are now leaders in the movement.

The primary purpose of this book is to inform both academic and public understanding – to place the challenge of smart decarceration at the center of the current national discourse, taking into account the realities of the current sociopolitical context – and to propose beginning action steps. This is achieved by first outlining and addressing questions such as: What if incarceration were not an option for most?; Whose voices are essential in this era of decarceration?; What is the state of evidence for solutions?; How do we generate and adopt empirically driven reforms?; How do we redefine and rethink justice in the United States? *Smart Decarceration* offers a way forward in building a field for decarceration through provocative but reasoned challenges to existing approaches to criminal justice reforms, lively focus on potential solutions, and action steps for making real change.

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“As the United States decreases its reliance on incarceration, thoughtful and evidence-informed scholarship is needed to guide the necessary transformations. Epperson and Pettus-Davis assemble a unique mix of engaged scholars and experienced professionals to provide the intellectual fuel for smart decarceration. A very timely volume indeed!”

—*Michael G. Vaughn, PhD, Professor and Director of the Health Criminology Research Consortium, Saint Louis University*

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**Matthew Epperson**, PhD, MSW, is an associate professor at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration and a founding co-director of the Smart Decarceration Initiative.

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## Contents

*Foreword by Michael Sherraden*

*Introduction by Matthew W. Epperson and Carrie Pettus- Davis*

### Part I | Setting the Context for Decarceration

1. Smart Decarceration: Guiding Concepts for an Era of Criminal Justice Transformation *by Matthew W. Epperson and Carrie Pettus- Davis*
2. Reflections on a Locked Door: Lessons from History and the Failed Promise of Penal Incarceration *by Rebecca Ginsburg*
3. From Moment to Movement: The Urgency for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals to Lead Decarceration Efforts *by Glenn E. Martin*

### Part II | Advancing Justice and Community Reforms

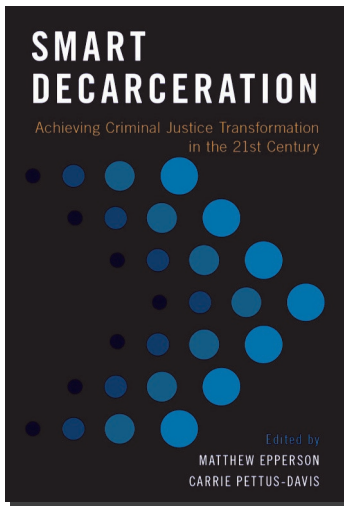
4. From the Inside Out: A Perspective on Decarceration from a Formerly Incarcerated Individual *by Ronald Simpson- Bey*
5. The Prosecutor's Role in Promoting Decarceration: Lessons Learned from Milwaukee County *by John Chisholm and Jeffery Altenburg*
6. Learning to Lead in the Decarceration Movement *by Vivian D. Nixon*
7. Prisoner Reentry in an Era of Smart Decarceration *by Reuben Jonathan Miller*
8. Community and Decarceration: Developing Localized Solutions *by Kathryn Bocanegra*

### Part III | Rethinking Policy and Practice

9. Minimizing the Maximum: The Case for Shortening All Prison Sentences *by Nazgol Ghandnoosh*
10. Reforming Civil Disability Policy to Facilitate Effective and Sustainable Decarceration *by Carrie Pettus- Davis, Matthew W. Epperson, and Annie Grier*
11. A Public Health Approach to Decarceration: Strategies to Reduce the Prison and Jail Population and Support Reentry *by Ernest Drucker*
12. Community Interventions for Justice- Involved Individuals: Assessing Gaps in Programming to Promote Decarceration *by Faye S. Taxman and Amy Murphy*
13. Empirical Means to Decarcerative Ends? Advancing the Science and Practice of Risk Assessment *by Julian Adler, Sarah Picard- Fritsche, Michael Rempel, and Jennifer A. Tallon*

### Part IV | Moving from Concepts to Strategies

14. Imagining the Future of Justice: Advancing Decarceration through Multisector Social Innovations *by Margaret E. Severson*
15. Guideposts for the Smart Decarceration Era: Recommended Strategies from Researchers, Practitioners, and Formerly Incarcerated Leaders *by Carrie Pettus- Davis, Matthew W. Epperson, Samuel Taylor, and Annie Grier*



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