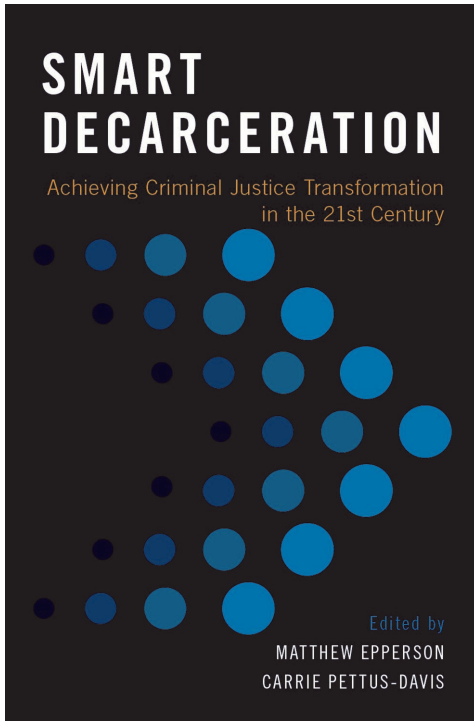


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SMART DECARCERATION

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 21st 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 reform.

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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!”

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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.

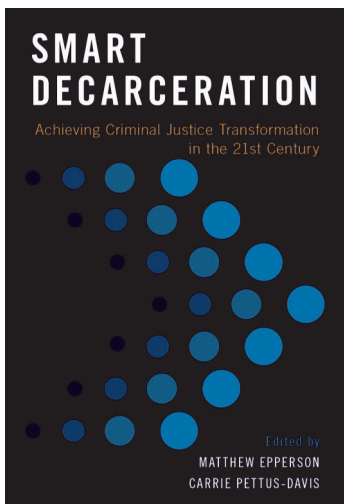
Carrie Pettus-Davis, PhD, MSW, is founding director of the Institute for Advancing Justice Research and Innovation and founding co-director of the Smart Decarceration Initiative.

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