**Imagining Alternative Justice for GBV Survivors**

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ABSTRACT:

In this contribution, I explore how ideals of justice can be action-guiding for social justice struggles. Specifically, I focus on the ideal of a world without prison, at the core of feminist prison abolitionism, and how this can orient feminist activists and theorists to respond to gender-based violence. While the ideal of a world without prison led to tangible policy changes (e.g., Woodly 2021, 191), I analyze how this ideal, brought recently to the forefront by the Movement for Black Lives, transforms collective responses to gender-based violence. Building my argument from an engagement with debates on realism in political theory, I contend that the ideal of prison abolitionism acts as a “disposition” (Mckean 2016), shaping our collective imagination through “narrative activism” (Moody-Adams 2022). Put differently, this disposition guides us towards action and orients us, while allowing us to resist previous conceptions of justice and shaping alternative ways to imagine and put in place justice for survivors.

I investigate what role the *disposition* of prison abolitionism has had following the #MeToo Movement, that is, how this disposition helps to shape transformative justice ideals while resisting pervasive myths on sexual violence (e.g., seeing sexual violence as being only perpetuated by “monsters” or complete strangers (Yap 2017)).

Abolitionist thinkers have reclaimed accountability for sexual violence outside of the carceral state (Davis 1983; 2003; Davis, Dent, and Richie 2022; Incite! 2003; Kaba, Nopper, and Murakawa 2021; Smith 2009; Taylor 2018; Terwiel 2020; Woodly 2021). To be clear, abolishing the carceral state does not mean to leave those who commit acts of violence off the hook, but it is to seek alternative ways to seek justice, centered on the survivor’s needs.

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