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**Annotated Bibliography**

**Bridges, George S., Robert D. Crutchfield, and Edith E. Simpson. "Crime, social structure and criminal punishment: White and nonwhite rates of imprisonment." *Social Problems* 34.4 (1987): 345-361**.

The authors’ central claim is that individuals of low social-economic standing are more likely to be punished than those of high socioeconomic status. One sub claim is that most whites have a good economic background compared to the nonwhites, and their level of incarceration is lower. Bridges and colleagues wanted to know how the various attributes of a society’s social structure impacted or affected criminal punishment. As a result, they carried out a study to examine the relationship between the two. The results of the study are in line with what Marxist theorists stipulated and to be more specific that punishment is given according to an individual’s economic level and that law is a tool used by the elites in the society to control the poor and the powerless (129).

This study is relevant to this research as it helps show the relationship between the social-economic standing of an individual and the punishment likely to be awarded in court. The sample size used in the study was large, which increases the credibility of the results attained. Also, the procedure followed did not leave room for bias which increases the credibility of the results. All three researchers were sociology professors at the University of Washington making the study credible. Oxford Academic published the work in 2014 after confirming the validity of the study and was meant for people in position of power who can enact the recommendation. The only limitation is that not all the States were considered in coming up with the sample (123).

The main reason I picked this article is that the study shows the relationship between social-economic background and incarceration. It will aid to portray the disparity in punishment awarded in court based on an individual's economic standing in a society. The poor are more likely to be incarcerated than the wealthy even though they have committed the same illegal act. The information presented in this study is in line with the argument and evidence presented by Garland and colleagues in their journal article. To be more specific, the poor are more likely to receive punishment such as incarceration compared to their wealthy counterpart (103).

**Garland, Brett E., Cassia Spohn, and Eric J. Lodahl. "Racial disproportionality in the American prison population: Using the Blumstein method to address the critical race and justice issue of the 21st century." *Justice Policy Journal* 5.2 (2008): 1-42.**

Garland and colleagues’ main claim is that the Blumstein method can be used to address injustice the poor people of color face in the criminal justice system. One subclaim is that one of the significant issues in contemporary criminal justice is the inequality the poor face. More specifically, the disadvantaged Hispanic and African Americans due to their wanting economic backgrounds have a higher incarceration rate compared to the wealthy Whites. Using evidence from various studies and reputable sources, they provide a recommendation of how to deal with the discrimination the poor minority races face in the justice system. To be precise, they prove that the Blumstein method can be used to address this injustice the poor people of color face. The method can be instrumental in identifying, monitoring, and predicting locations in the justice system where discrimination based on race and class is likely to occur (146).

This peer-reviewed article is relevant to my research as it provides a key recommendation that can eliminate the inequality the poor face in the justice system. All three authors are senior professors of criminology, which makes it credible. Garland is a professor at the Missouri State University, Spohn is a professor at Arizona State University, and Wodahl is a Professor at the University of Wyoming. The article was published in 2008 in the Journal Polity Journal. They also quote different renowned individuals in the field like Alfred Blumstein, which increases the credibility of their arguments. Even though his article is more than a decade old, the recommended method to reduce the inequality the poor face in the justice system is still sound (122).

The main reason I picked this article is that the authors depict the relationship between an individual's economic background and their incarceration rate. They also outline a sound solution to help deal with the predicament which is adopting the Blumstein method to identify, monitor and predict locations in the justice system where discrimination based on race and class is likely to occur. Like the article by Taylor and colleagues and Garland and colleagues, the authors provide a recommendation on how to end the injustice the people of color face in the judicial system face due to their wanting economic background (100)

**Reiman, Jeffrey, and Paul Leighton. *The rich get richer and the poor get prison: Thinking critically about class and criminal justice*. Routledge, 2020.**

The authors’ main claim is that the justice system is flawed, and the prisons are full of economically disadvantaged individuals when the wealthy who actually cause a lot of harm with their greed and predator behavior are not punished. The first sub claim is that even though the United States claims that it is tough on crime, the evidence of its efforts is very limited. The second sub claim is that the wealthy individuals who commit illegal acts use their corporate leadership, power, resources, and influence to manipulate situations in the justice system, like evidence tampering or paying off the judges, to avoid going to jail. The last claim is that due to lack of accountability on their part, the wealthy deem themselves untouchable and continue engaging in crime, and the poor are at a disadvantage (136).

This work is helpful in my research as it will helps depict why even though the poor and the rich may engage in the same illegal acts in the streets when caught, only the poor man is likely to be incarcerated. The arguments presented in this peer review piece of work are supported by solid evidence hence is reliable. Also, the book was published last year by the renowned publisher Routledge, which makes the information valid and up to date. It was meant for scholars seeking to understand the injustice in the system. The authors are also renowned sociology and criminology professors and researchers from the University in Washington and Eastern Michigan University, which make the information from the work credible (121).

This work will help shed light on the disparity that exists between the poor and the rich in the justice system. To be more specific, it helps indicate that due to their corporate leadership, resources, power, and influence, the rich are hardly ever incarcerated. The poor, on the other hand, lack the resources to buy out their way. It a reason why even though the wealthy and the poor may perform the same criminal act, the poor man is more likely to be incarcerated while the rich man is set free. This information is in line with the evidence provided in the article by Bridges and colleagues (107)

**Taylor, Evi, Patricia Guy-Walls, Patricia Wilkerson, and Rejoice Addae. "The Historical Perspectives of Stereotypes on African-American Males." *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work* 4.3 (2019): 213-225.**

The authors' main claim is that the stereotyping influences acts of prejudice in the justice system, and more specifically, the stereotyping of poor African American males as violent, lazy, criminals by the whites when slavery was prominent has contributed to the inequalities they face in the justice system. The first sub claim is that stereotypes are ingrained in the country's fabric, and some of them, even though they were formed many years ago, still affect how things are done today. The second is that creating awareness of the negative impacts of outdated stereotypes. Another sub claim is that African American males are a part of the minority race, and their poverty levels are very high. In attempting to depict what historically has put the poor Africa American males at a disadvantage when it comes to the justice system, the authors reference various works by renowned individual and valid studies (149).

The article is relevant to the topic as it depicts the genesis of the injustice the poor minority races face in today's justice system. It also outlines what can be done to reduce and eventually end this injustice. This article was published in the Journal of Human Rights and Social Work and is meant for scholars seeking to determine and understand the beginning of the unfair treatment poor minority races face in the justice system. The authors of the article are renowned researchers. Taylor is a professor at the University of North Carolina School of Social Work and rest are professors at Arkansas State University, which makes the arguments reliable. The article was written in 2019, which makes the information relevant, and reliable (123).

The main reason I picked this article is to better understand the injustice the poor minority face today by determining the root cause of the injustice. This article depicts the beginning of the injustice the poor minority races, and more specifically, the African American males face. By knowing the genesis, it will be easier to understand the current situation and help in determining what can be done to eliminate the disparities between the poor and the wealthy in the justice system. Like the article Garland and colleagues, this article gives recommendations on how to reduce inequality the poor African Americans face.

**Travis, Jeremy, Western, Bruce and Redburn, F. Stevens. "The growth of incarceration in the United States: Exploring causes and consequences." (2014)**

Travis and colleagues’ main claim that most of the individuals who are imprisoned are men under the age of forty from poor parts of the nation. The first sub claim that the number of individuals who have been incarcerated in the last four decades has quadrupled and that currently, the United States has the highest number of prisoners in the world. The second sub claim is that the incarceration rate of the disadvantaged members of the nation has passed the point of social benefit and has resulted in social harm and injustice. The third sub claim is that changing the sentencing policy to ensure that the incarceration of poor people does not exceed the point of social benefit and that there is equality in giving sentences no matter one’s social background. The authors referenced various works by renowned individuals and valid studies (142).

This work is essential in my research as it helps prove the point that the punishment awarded to the disadvantaged in society is direr than the rich. The authors are reputable, making the information valid. Travis is the fourth president of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Western is a professor of sociology at Columbia University, and Redburn is a professor at George Washington University. The work was published by the National Academies Press in 2014 and was meant for scholars and lawmakers seeking to understand the subject. Also, they provide evidence to back up their arguments. This piece of work is intended for scholars who want to more about incarceration in the United States (115).

In this case, the authors of this work like in the journal article by Garland and colleagues first provide evidence to prove that compared to the rich in the United States, the less disadvantaged portion of the population is more disadvantaged and more likely to be incarcerated. Also, after acknowledging the predicament in the justice systems, the authors like in article by Taylor and colleagues, give recommendations they deem will help get rid of the inequality that causes high incarceration rates among the less disadvantaged in the society and to ensure that the wealthy receive the same punishment as the poor (101).

**Vromen Ariadne, Loader, Brian, and Xenos, Michael. Two in one: differences in the US justice system for the rich and the poor (2016)** [**https://www.researchgate.net/blog/post/young-voters-could-tip-the-scales-in-2016-heres-what-drives-their-political-activity**](https://www.researchgate.net/blog/post/young-voters-could-tip-the-scales-in-2016-heres-what-drives-their-political-activity)

The authors’ main claim in this article is that even though there is only one constitution that the justice system uses as a reference point, there are two interpretations of the said laws. The first interpretation is meant is for the rich, and based on this interpretation they are hardly ever incarcerated. There is also the harsher interpretation meant for the poor which mostly sends them to prison. The first sub claim is that social media platforms is an appropriate tool that can be used to highlight and address the inequalities found in awarding punishments between the wealthy and the poor. They reference statistical data and studies by renowned persons to support their arguments. The 2013 Sentencing Project report and Mona Lynch a Professor of Criminology, at the University of California are referenced (133).

This piece of work will be helpful in my research. It will help depict why even though the same constitution is used to interpret the law in the justice system, the poor are more likely to be incarcerated than the rich and how social media can be used to rectify this disparity. The arguments presented in this piece of work are supported by strong evidence. Also, the article was published in 2016 by the reputable ResearchGate, which makes the information valid and reliable. Also, Vromen, Xenos and Loader are renowned researchers at the University of Sydney, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of York, respectively, which makes the information in the article credible. (114)

The main reason I picked this article is that as it portrays even though there is one set of laws, there is a disparity in the punishment awarded to the poor and the rich. The information presented in this article is in line with the argument and evidence presented by Bridges and colleagues and Garland and colleges in their journal articles that also stipulate that the poor are more likely to receive punishment such as incarceration compared to their wealthy counterpart. This article is also paramount as it introduced the concept of using social media to fight the disparity in punishment awarded in the two groups (106).

**Western, Bruce, and Becky Pettit. "Incarceration & social inequality." *Daedalus* 139.3 (2010): 8-19.**

The authors’ central claim is that a high number of poor people in prisons is because of the double standard in the justice system and class inequalities start. The first sub claim is that the American social inequality has contributed to the rapid growth of the poor and the disadvantages in the prisons compared to the rich. Another sub claim is that even though an individual of the upper class and an individual of the lower class may commit the same illegal act, the chances of the rich getting incarcerated are very low hence their low numbers in prison. The last sub claim is that incarceration of the poor is intergenerational in that the children of an incarcerated members are more likely to also end up in prison. The authors reference different sources and school of thoughts in coming up with their arguments (143).

This study is relevant to my research as it helps show the relationship/ pattern between an individual’s social class and the punishment they are likely to receive in court. To be more specific, this article stipulates that an individual from the upper class is less likely to be punished and vice versa. The arguments presented in this piece of work are supported by strong evidence hence are credible. Also, the Western and Petit are renowned professors of sociology at Columbia University and the University of Texas-Austin. It was published by Dædalus in 2020 and is meant for scholars who seek to know the relationship between incarceration and social class inequalities in the United States (114)

The main reason I picked this article is that to better understand the disparity in punishment awarded. The information presented in this article is in line with the argument and evidence presented by Garland and colleagues in their journal article and to be specific that the poor are more likely to receive punishment such as incarceration compared to their wealthy counterparts. Also, a new concept that the inequalities are intergenerational in that, the children of the incarcerated members are more likely to end up in prison is also introduced in this works. It is something that calls for further research on the matter (103).