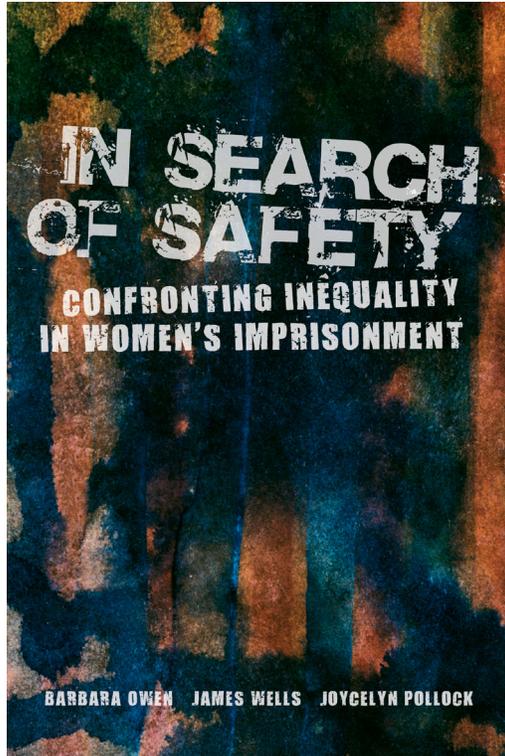


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In Search of Safety

Confronting Inequality in Women's Imprisonment

BARBARA OWEN, JAMES WELLS, JOYCELYN POLLOCK

"This book shows the profound neglect and violence women face in the criminal justice system, and the unique ways in which gender compounds the punishment of confinement. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to see justice-involved women regain their human and civil rights in the United States and beyond."

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"Profoundly humanistic . . . in this remarkable book we see how cumulative disadvantages and harms associated with gender find their fullest, and often cruelest, expression in the state-sponsored harms meted out in prisons for women. This book is destined to be a classic."—Robert Johnson, American University

In Search of Safety takes an intimate look at gendered violence and conflict in women's prisons. The authors examine how intersectional inequalities and cumulative disadvantage are at the root of prison conflict and violence, reflecting the women's pathways to prison. Women must negotiate these inequities through developing forms of prison capital—social, human, cultural, emotional, and economic—to ensure their safety while inside. The authors also analyze how conflict and subsequent violence result from human-rights violations inside the prison that occur within the gendered context of substandard prison conditions, inequalities of prison capital among those imprisoned, and relationships with correctional staff. In the end, the authors suggest a way forward—the implementation of international human-rights standards for U.S. prisons.

Barbara Owen is Professor Emerita at California State University, Fresno.

James B. Wells is Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the School of Justice Studies at Eastern Kentucky University.

Joycelyn M. Pollock is Distinguished Professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Texas State University.

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