

## Open Call for Proposals

### Journal of Social Issues

#### *Legal Socialization: The Next 50 Years*

Special Issue Editors: Rick Trinkner, Michael Reisig

In 1971, the *Journal of Social Issues* (JSI) published a special issue (Vol. 27, Issue 2) featuring a collection of articles exploring the law as a socializing agent. Building on the burgeoning law and society movement from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, that issue of JSI was the first attempt to bring together an eclectic group of scholars to explore a brand new field of inquiry: legal socialization, or the process by which people develop their relationship with the law (Tapp & Levine, 1974). For many contemporary legal socialization researchers, that 1971 issue represents the cornerstone upon which the field developed, ushering in a new era of work exploring the ways people develop their understanding of laws via the acquisition of law-related values, attitudes, and reasoning capacities and how that development affects legal behavior (Cohn & White, 1990; Tapp, 1991; Trinkner & Tyler, 2016).

The scholars of that special issue were inspired by the monumental social changes that had begun in the previous decade. In the decades since, legal socialization has waxed and waned in popularity. However, in the past 15 years research in legal socialization has increased dramatically across a variety of fields (e.g., psychology, criminology, sociology, and law). This renaissance has been driven by a new set of monumental changes (e.g., mass incarceration, mass surveillance, aggressive policing strategies, youth activism, immigration, etc.) that highlight the socializing function of law in society.

Regardless of the decade, these changes highlight the ways in which the law can shape (and be shaped by) society and individuals in both positive and negative ways. As June Louin Tapp (editor of the 1971 issue) noted at the time, they were living in an era where “substantial numbers seek law and order, many challenge the justice and efficacy of our sociolegal order, and others seriously question if present rule structures encourage order or disorder, justice or injustice” (p. 1). Now (as in 1971), many societal members are questioning the role of law in society, its purpose, its function, its history, its efficacy, and its influence on the social fabric of daily life. As before, we find ourselves in a position where understanding of our sociolegal order and its influence on people’s legal development is at a premium.

The present call for proposals rests against this backdrop. We are seeking proposals that not only take stock of what we have learned in the last 50 years of scholarship, but also lay the groundwork for a new era of scholarship better positioned to understand the legal socialization process as society settles into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Toward this end, we welcome papers from a diverse set of disciplines and perspectives. Appropriate topics for proposals would include, but are certainly not limited to:

- Development and change of legal attitudes, values, and reasoning capacities
- Relation between legal socialization and legal behavior (e.g., compliance, cooperation, activism, critical noncompliance)
- New theoretical applications that explain the legal socialization process (e.g., restorative justice)

- Understudied populations (e.g., young children, immigrants, people outside the US/West)
- Underexplored topics (e.g., emotions, prison abolition)
- Role of non-legal contexts (e.g., parenting, schooling, etc.) in the legal socialization process
- Role of criminal justice institutions outside of police (e.g., adult/juvenile court, corrections, etc.)

### **Editorial Process:**

Submissions will constitute a detailed abstract of no more than 1,000 words. Each abstract should include (1) the working title of the proposed article, (2) author(s) name and institution, along with contact information for corresponding author, (3) description of what the manuscript will cover/describe/explore and how that fits within the legal socialization field, so that we can anticipate the contents and focus of the piece, (4) description of the theoretical underpinnings and/or research questions being addressed, the methodological approach to be taken, and the implications for the piece with respect to the theme of the special issue. Empirical abstracts should also describe the sample, methods, and findings. Qualitative proposals should follow COREQ or SRQR guidelines. For review article proposals, the abstract should include a description of the way in which the work reviewed was chosen (such as selective, supportive, exhaustive) and primary conclusions.

Please note that submissions based on empirical research where data collection is in progress or has not been completed will not be considered. Manuscripts must be original works that have not been previously published. Manuscripts should follow 7<sup>th</sup> edition APA formatting guidelines.

Abstracts must be received by **April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020** in order to be considered for the special issue. Please email the detailed abstract directly to Justin Sanchez ([mjsanch5@asu.edu](mailto:mjsanch5@asu.edu)) with “JSI Special Issue: Legal Socialization” in the subject heading.

We anticipate making decisions about abstracts and notifying authors by **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**. Full-length manuscripts will be due no later than **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**. We encourage authors to submit manuscripts before this date. Manuscripts submitted after this date may not be eligible for inclusion in the issue. Approximately 10-12 papers will be selected for the final issue. Issue editors and the JSI editorial board will provide feedback on accepted abstracts to support the development of manuscripts.

We do hope you consider submitting to this exciting issue celebrating the 50 year anniversary of legal socialization scholarship in JSI. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely, your special issue editor team,

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## References (in chronological order)

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