

## 2024 Special Issue of *Justice Quarterly*

*Innovative Measurement Approaches to Advance Criminological and Criminal Justice Research*

### Description of Special Issue

Although sound measurement is critically important to all research in criminology and criminal justice, there is nonetheless infrequent discourse on current best practices and measurement developments in the field ([Addington, 2014](#); [Freilich & LaFree, 2016](#); [Hibdon et al., 2023](#)). The purpose of this special issue is to publish original articles that place an explicit focus on measurement—including new measurement strategies and/or innovative analytic approaches that address core measurement problems in the field—that generate or support new, significant insights into the causes and consequences of crime and victimization and/or the functioning of the criminal legal system.

The call to focus more explicitly on improving measurement in criminology and criminal justice is not new, but it is one that should be better heeded. For example, Sullivan and McGloin ([2014](#)) have astutely argued the importance of focusing on careful and creative research design and data collection that involves focusing on *measurement first*, including conceptualizing in and across levels, piloting new instruments, triangulating data sources and vantage points, and utilizing methods and validation techniques from other disciplines. Improving measurement, including leveraging enhanced data collection possibilities enabled through societal changes and technological advances (e.g., GPS tracking, health monitors, body-worn cameras), innovative research designs (e.g., measurement burst longitudinal designs, mixed-methods research), and more systematic analyses of existing measures (e.g., assessing measurement invariance), is likely to yield important advances for both basic and applied criminological science.

Though a variety of article types will be considered for publication including empirical tests of theories, manuscripts submitted for publication should: 1) *be clearly focused on advancing criminology or criminal justice research through a novel or innovative approach to measurement*, and 2) *make a significant contribution to the field*. We solicit manuscripts that seek to: a) validate a new (or previously unvalidated) instrument that fills a critical measurement gap in the field; b) use one or more innovative data sources to significantly improve measurement (e.g., [McCluskey et al., 2023](#)); c) use an innovative research design that improves measurement (e.g., [Anderson et al., 2016](#)); d) advance a modified or adjusted measure to improve accuracy or utility (e.g., [Chalfin et al., 2021](#)); e) apply an advanced analytic technique to provide new insights and help resolve lingering measurement issues (e.g., [Ward et al., 2017](#)); and, while empirical studies are preferred: f) provide thoughtful commentary on a critical measurement issue of our time (e.g., [Nguyen & Loughran, 2019](#)).

### Deadline

Full manuscript submissions due via JQ submission system by **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

### Format

Articles should follow the standard [JQ format](#) and be submitted through the online system. Cover letters should be addressed to the Special Issue Editor and should clearly indicate that the submission is for consideration in the Special Issue.

### Special Issue Editor

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