

We are delighted to announce the call for papers for a special issue of *French Historical Studies* on

Incarceration in French and Francophone histories

The term “incarceration” implies more than the modern prison, but how far does and can it stretch? What are the experiences, ideologies and power dynamics of non-voluntary confinement? For this special issue, we invite articles that explore any facet of incarceration within France and its empire in any historical period. Given recent developments in historical and carceral scholarship, we particularly welcome articles which allow us to think through understandings of incarceration in a broad sense, and which shed light on the continuities and discontinuities in practices and conceptualisations of confinement in time and space.

Fresh historical research has been complicating many foundational assumptions about histories of incarceration. While the work of Michel Foucault continues to influence the terrain, historians have been rethinking chronologies, connections, and spatial considerations. Historians of the early modern period, for instance, have been pushing back against interpretative narratives that emphasise the novelty of the modern period, drawing attention instead to the deep historical roots of conceptions and systems of confinement. This research is also opening debate on the relationships between types of institutions of confinement over time. Historians of empire, meanwhile, have been calling into question longstanding assumptions about the primacy of the modern penitentiary as a technology of power and social control, pointing to the long and enduring history of the transportation and exile of convicts, enslaved individuals, and “suspect” populations.

Together, these new approaches are destabilising orthodoxies on the unfolding dynamics of practices, spaces, and uses of incarceration, providing new insights into the experiences of people enclosed within these spaces and new understandings of the connections that existed between them and communities on the outside.

Writing the history of incarceration can encompass more than just a consideration of official and textual expressions of power. What did incarcerated subjects and communities make of confinement? Drawing on the concept of the “anarchive,” how might alternative forms of archives supplement the official records held on prisoners in repositories like the French Ministry of Justice and the Archives nationales d’outre-mer? What perspectives are revealed by considering visual materials? How have observers beyond the confines of incarcerated spaces viewed those inside?

Possible themes include (but are not limited to):

- cultures and imaginaries of incarceration
- incarceration in and beyond the prison, for instance asylums; port-city *bagnes*; overseas penal colonies; sites of captivity of enslaved people; juvenile reformatories; military disciplinary camps, camps for prisoners of war and other ‘suspect’ populations, and so on
- politics of space and mobilities (exile, isolation, networks, community)
- reportage, photography, public campaigns on incarceration
- architecture and technologies of control and constraint
- gendered and racialized practices and experiences of incarceration
- incarceration and family life
- forms of self-expression (e.g. art, writing, etc) and resistance
- colonial and post-colonial forms of incarceration
- guards, doctors, lawyers and other workers within carceral spaces
- legacies, heritage and material cultures of sites of confinement

Submissions can be in either English or French, but should be accompanied by a 150-word abstract in both languages. Please submit your manuscripts via <https://read.dukeupress.edu/french-historical-studies>. Please follow the information for authors, and mark your manuscript to be considered for the special issue.

For any questions, please contact the guest editors Briony Neilson (briony.neilson@sydney.edu.au) and Sophie Fuggle (sophie.fuggle@ntu.ac.uk.)

The deadline for submissions is **August 15, 2024**.

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Recent publications: [*France's Memorial Landscape: Views from Camp des Milles*](#) (Liverpool University Press, 2023)
[*Framing the penal colony: Representing, interpreting and imagining convict transportation*](#) co-edited with Katharina Massing and Charles Forsdick (Palgrave, 2023)

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