Book review: Maria João Guia, Maartje van der Woude, and Joanne van der Leun: Social Control and Justice: Crimmigration in the age of fear

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It is not often that a new area of law emerges. Since the 1980s, however, criminal law and immigration law have increasingly converged to do just that. Pathbreaking scholars have begun to identify and theorize the myriad ways in which criminal law and immigration law have blended into one another. Conduct that has historically been considered about migration has, in some instances, increasingly become the basis for criminal prosecution, while in an ever-expanding set of circumstances criminal activity has become the basis for immigration law enforcement actions. Meanwhile, the investigative tactics of each area of law have left their traditional confines and become central features of the other. Police officers, for example, have commonly become the first layer of investigation about suspected immigration law violations, while immigration agents have increasingly turned to the security-centered practices of police officers.

Crimmigration law, as this new field is called, is everywhere. Although it was initially theorized in the United States, most explicitly by legal scholar Juliet Stumpf's article The Crimmigration Crisis, its array of investigative and prosecutorial features quickly spread. Social Control and Justice: Crimmigration in the Age of Fear (2013), edited by a legal scholar, Maria João Guia, and a pair of criminologists, Maartje van der Woude and Joanne van der Leun, is the first book specifically devoted to crimmigration's development as a distinct mélange of substantive law and law enforcement techniques. Appropriately enough, it does so with a transatlantic focus that illuminates common forces propelling crimmigration's expansion while recognizing important though nuanced distinctions among various locales.

In this pioneering work sure to be followed, the international team of contributors that the editors assembled reveals that national responses in North America and Europe have taken a decisively punitive bent. The Dutch became increasingly intolerant of diverse cultural practices as asylum seekers from Turkey, Morocco, Suriname, and the former...