FROM JWSR: June 12, 2015

Dear AUTHOR:

We have received two external reviews for your manuscript, “Racialized and Gendered State Repression in Times of Crisis: Mass Deportation and Mass Incarceration.” After careful consideration, and our own reading of the paper and the reviews, we have decided to invite you to revise and resubmit your paper to the *Journal of World-Systems Research*. The reviewers felt that your paper addresses a critical topic, but that you have not yet developed your analysis enough for the paper to be published in *JWSR*.

You can find along with this letter the reviews we have received, and I will summarize the key revisions we would need to see if you wish us to re-consider this paper for possible publication in the *JWSR*.

In short, you should work to revise the paper to make much clearer your main claims in the paper and to make more explicit the historical and relational processes that you believe are shaping the patterns you find. Reviewer #1 also suggests that you should consider some alternative explanations for the patterns and do more to convince the reader of your interpretation. Both reviewers call for more attention to the role of gender and the interactions of gender and race in your account.

Finally, please note that our [submissions guidelines](http://www.jwsr.org/submissions) specify that submissions should be 8,000-10,000 words in length.

RE: Racialized and Gendered State Repression in Times of Crisis: Mass Deportation and Mass Incarceration

DATE: August 28, 2015

TO: Editors and Peer Reviewers at *Journal of World Systems Research*

Thank you very much for the critical feedback on my manuscript. I greatly appreciate the useful suggestions. These critiques have allowed me to make substantial changes, which have improved the quality of the manuscript. I describe my responses to the suggestions and the changes I made in this memo.

Editor Make main claims clearer.

*I have clarified that my main argument is that mass deportation is best understood as a racialized and gendered tool of state repression with many parallels with mass incarceration.*

Editor Make the historical and relational processes that are shaping the patterns more explicit.

*I have gone through the paper and added additional nuance and detail to the patterns. In addition, I have restructured the paper to make the patterns I am identifying more explicit.*

Editor Consider alternative explanations for the patterns and provide more support for your claims.

*I have added additional evidence and considered alternative explanations as needed.*

Editor Pay more attention to the role of gender and to the interactions of race and gender.

*I have rewritten the section on the raced and gendered discourses that are used to justify mass incarceration and mass deportation to make these claims more explicit. I have strengthened the intersectional analysis throughout the paper.*

Reviewer #1 Identify and support the main argument

*I have clarified that my main argument is that mass deportation is best understood as a racialized and gendered tool of state repression with many parallels with mass incarceration.*

Reviewer #1 Provide historical analyses of major changes noted.

*I have enhanced my historical analysis, particularly with regard to deindustrialization.*

Reviewer #1 Demonstrate how historical changes impact main argument.

*I have rewritten these sections to make the analysis more explicit.*

Reviewer #1 Consider reproductive and household processes in relation to state control to understand why more men are deported.

*Although I agree this point is important, I don’t think this level of analysis is appropriate for this paper. I have strengthened the gender analysis in other areas.*

Reviewer #1 Has deportation always been related to incarceration or is this new?

*The link between deportation and incarceration is not new. However, it has intensified dramatically since the passage of the 1996 laws and especially since the implementation of Secure Communities in 2008. I have clarified that in the paper.*

Reviewer #1 Was it that Black men in Detroit didn't have the skills to do service sector work? Or was it that they weren't considered for retraining and employment in fields that had job openings? Were there a number of explanations for high unemployment of African American men?

*In the revised version, I argue that there are three primary reasons the prevalence of black unemployment in Detroit: 1) the skills mismatch; 2) the spatial mismatch; and 3) racial discrimination by employers. African American men in Detroit are less likely to have the skills and education needed for the types of jobs where there has been growth such as engineering, which leads to the skills mismatch. Much of the job growth in Detroit has been in the suburbs and African American families have been excluded from buying homes in these areas, which has created the spatial mismatch. Notably, in 1990, 50 percent of employed blacks who lived in the city of Detroit commuted to the suburbs for work. Finally, studies have shown that discrimination persists. Black applicants find it more difficult to find work even when they are qualified.*

Reviewer #1 Is the oil crisis the reason why the manufacturing economy declined? And/or are there other explanations?

*I have clarified in the paper that there are two primary explanations for the decline of the manufacturing economy: 1) foreign competition; and 2) the skyrocketing of oil prices in 1973.*

Reviewer #1 Were countries in Latin America and others parts of the periphery integrated into the world-system long before the twentieth century? The article might identify how the intensification of certain ties took place.

*This is an excellent point. In the revised paper, however, I have decided to remove that section as it became extraneous in this version.*

Reviewer #2 I think a key question that the author should answer is that of whether more people of color (specifically Dominicans and Jamaicans) are being deported at higher rates because of international economic conditions that affect their home countries or if their racial identity makes them more likely to be deported.

*This is not an either/or. Dominicans and Jamaicans are being ensnared in the deportation dragnet for the same reasons that black men are being incarcerated. The fact that their governments and transnational corporations have found some use for these deportees helps us to see why it is crucial to think about global capitalism when we discuss deportation.*

Reviewer #2 I think that the issue of gender is a useful discussion to be had, but it is not handled well in the article and would be better cast as a separate article. This would give ample attention to both gendered aspects of racial and gendered issues of deportation.

*I think gender is key here, especially how it intersects with race and have made these claims clearer in the revised version.*

Reviewer #2 Gendered analysis of the sectors that undocumented workers filled would help tell a better story of gender in terms of immigration enforcement.

*In this version, I have clarified that the construction sector, where undocumented Latino men were concentrated, was one of the hardest hit during the Great Recession.*

Reviewer #2 Figure 2 would be useful alongside some data on the gender breakdown on undocumented immigration.

*I have given more details on the demographics of undocumented migration. 40% of undocumented immigrants are women.*

Reviewer #2 Furthermore, if the author is arguing that it is possible to use theories of incarceration as a method of understanding deportation, there seems to be much more comparison between the two central concepts in a racial sense. There is little gendered analysis of incarceration. This seems to seriously hinder, on a theoretical level, any justification of using mass incarceration. I think analyses of incarceration that more directly look at gender, in addition to the Western, Golash-Boza, and Hondageneu-Sotelo texts would be useful.

*What is remarkable is that all of the literature on mass incarceration that looks at gender discusses female incarceration. Of course, men have gender too. Nevertheless, I have been able to enhance this discussion of gender and mass incarceration drawing from this literature.*

Reviewer #2 In terms of race, the author’s argument is a bit stronger. The Wacquant article would lead readers to believe the possibility that enforcement of immigration policy is more rigorous against black undocumented workers. However, I think a bit more explanation of the quantitative data on deportations might reveal a stronger point about racial bias in immigration enforcement. I would be curious to see if black people are deported at higher rates more generally. I also wonder if there is an issue in the immigration routes or immigrant communities from Jamaica and the Dominican Republic that make those populations more likely to be deported. I would be interested in seeing if there were a disproportionately affected racial group before the 1996-1997 legislation such that different immigration routes and communities were also affected. This may more directly link racial issues to the capitalist system and not law enforcement per se.

*The data on deportations is quite limited. There is data on the number of people deported in each nationality. However, there is no racial data, so national origin has to be a sort of proxy for race. Insofar as over 95% of Jamaicans are black, being Jamaican is a good proxy for blackness. However, we have no idea how many black Canadians, for example, are deported. And, there is no national level data on how people enter into the deportation dragnet. Class status is also a factor. Africans (most of whom are black) are deported at lower rates than Caribbean nationals, but Africans are much higher educated and less likely to live in working class or poor black neighborhoods.*

*Reviewer #2* Finally, I would like to say that I enjoyed reading the article. If there is one point that I would like to emphasize as a reviewer, it would be that both questions of race and gender are important and complicated. The author is right in that gender is a question that hasn’t been dealt with in past literature. However, gender seems to border the place of an afterthought in the article while race is at the forefront. That race is the central focus is not a bad thing, however it can be an even stronger article if it does not attempt to address both race and gender in such a limited space.

*I agree that it is crucial not to give gender short shrift here. However, the fact that 90% of deportees are men makes it difficult to not talk about gender. I have strengthened the gender analysis in each of the sections of this paper.*