

Apr 18th, 1:00 AM - 3:00 AM

Exploring Cross-National Differences in the Incarceration of Women: A Conjunctive Analysis Approach

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Boppre, Breanna; Miethe, Terance D.; and Salisbury, Emily J., "Exploring Cross-National Differences in the Incarceration of Women: A Conjunctive Analysis Approach" (2016). *Graduate Research Symposium (GCUA) (2010 - 2017)*. 6.

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Exploring Cross-National Differences in the Incarceration of Women: A Conjunctive Analysis Approach



Breanna Boppre, Terry Miethe, & Emily J. Salisbury
Department of Criminal Justice

Research Question

Given differences in female imprisonment rates worldwide (see map), what structural-level factors account for cross-national differences in these rates?

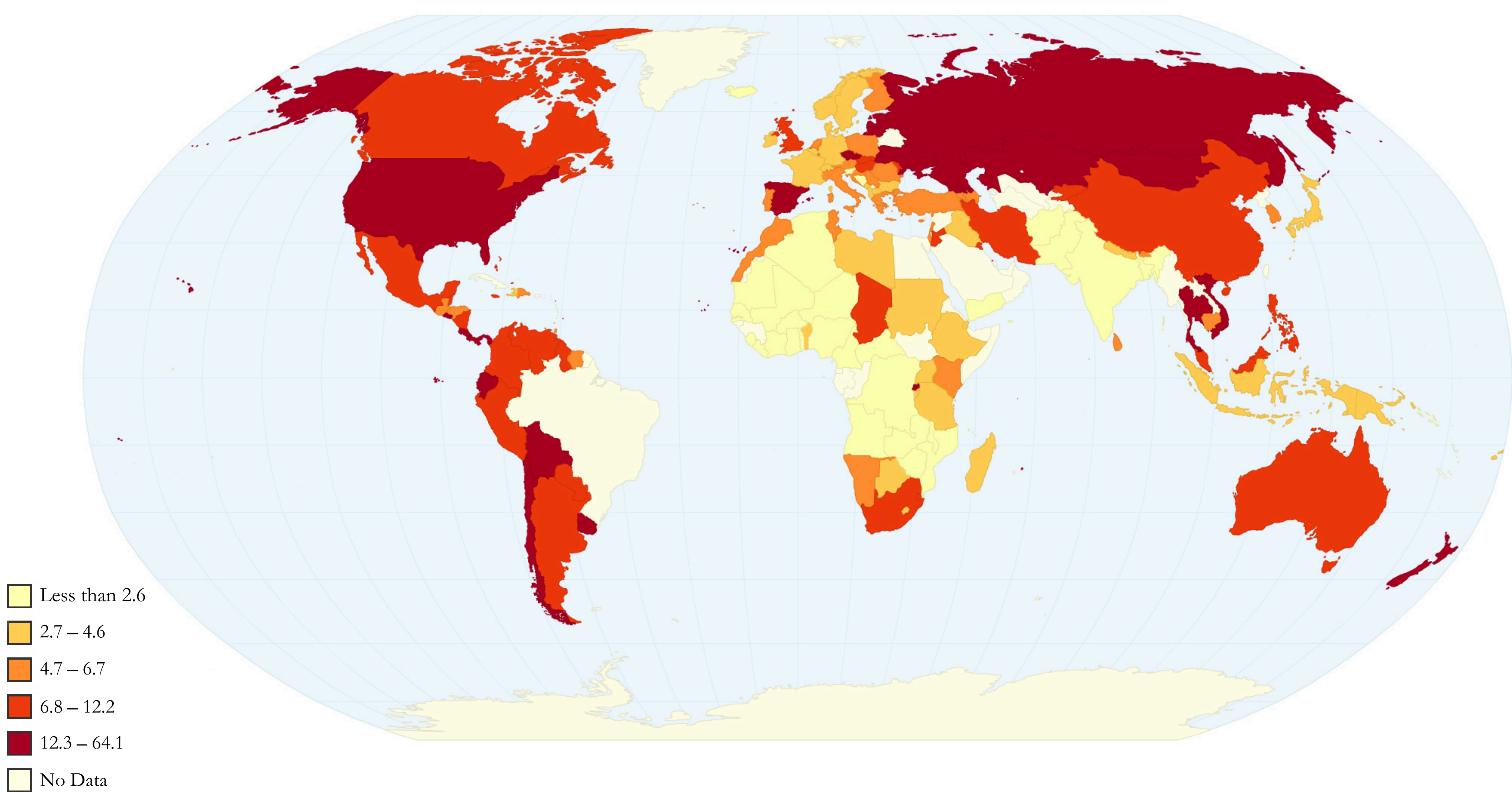
Structural-Level Theories of State-Sponsored Punishment

- The presence of particular social conditions explains national imprisonment rates over place and time.
- Important causal factors underlying these theories include nations' levels of development, criminality, socio-economic inequality, and political volatility.

Logistic Regression Results

Structural Attribute	Odds of Nations Experiencing High Female Imprisonment
High Development	10.6**
High Income Inequality	3.5*
High Homicide Rate	3.1*
High Political Instability	.9
High Ethnic Diversity	.5
Number of Countries	128
Variance in Female Imprisonment Explained	24.7% (R-Squared: 0.247)
** p<0.001, * p<0.05	

Worldwide Imprisonment Rates of Women



A Conjunctive Analysis of Case Configurations (CACC)

CACC identifies the profiles (configurations) of structural attributes always associated with high or low imprisonment rates across nations.

Socio-Economic Profiles that Lead to High Female Imprisonment

Development	Homicide Rates	Income Inequality	Ethnic Diversity	Political Instability	Percent of Nations' Profiles Always Resulting in <i>High</i> Imprisonment Rates
High	High	High	High	High	100% (n=3)
High	High	High	High	Low	100% (n=7)
High	High	High	Low	Low	100% (n=3)
High	High	Low	High	High	100% (n=1)
High	High	Low	Low	High	100% (n=1)
High	High	Low	Low	Low	100% (n=1)
High	High	Low	Low	Low	100% (n=1)
High	Low	High	Low	Low	100% (n=3)
High	Low	High	High	Low	100% (n=2)
High	Low	High	Low	High	100% (n=1)

Socio-Economic Profiles that Lead to Low Female Imprisonment

Development	Homicide Rates	Income Inequality	Ethnic Diversity	Political Instability	Percent of Nations' Profiles Always Resulting in <i>Low</i> Imprisonment Rates
Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	100% (n=1)
Low	High	Low	High	Low	100% (n=1)
Low	Low	High	High	High	100% (n=2)
High	Low	High	High	High	100% (n=2)

Significance of the Project

Theoretical

- Overall, development matters in incarceration rates for women.
- Contrary to structural theories, ethnic diversity and political instability decrease the odds of high imprisonment.
- The effect of each structural variable depends on the other attributes that define its context.

Methodological

- CACC reveals the joint influence of particular factors that is often neglected in conventional regression analysis.
- The primary advantage of CACC is the ability to assess whether the influence of particular structural attributes vary across different contexts.

For more information about our data collection, methodology, and results, please access the QR code

