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INSIGHTS FROM THE  
AMERICAN  
PRISON  
WRITING  
ARCHIVE

Two million people in the United States live behind bars, in prisons and jails.

Their voices are largely absent from the civic sphere, political debate, and mass media. Yet imprisoned authors are among the sharpest analysts of their own situation, as well as of U.S. politics and society in general. Now, the American Prison Writing Archive, a collection of over 3,300 essays by incarcerated people, is moving to Johns Hopkins University, as a resource available to everyone to learn about life behind bars.

@PRISONWITNESS

BEHIND

DR. DORAN LARSON  
Professor of Literature and Creating Writing  
Hamilton College

ADRIANA ORDUÑA  
JHU ‘23, International Studies and Sociology

EMMA PETITE  
JHU ‘24, International Studies and Political Science

ELIZA ZIMMERMAN  
JHU ‘23, Sociology and Writing Seminars

In this panel discussion, the founder of the American Prison Writing Archive, Dr. Doran Larson, will be in conversation with three current JHU undergraduates who have recently completed year-long research projects based on essays in the Archive, supervised by Dr. Vesla Weaver and Dr. Stuart Schrader. Larson will provide an overview of the Archive, and the students will present their research findings on Covid-19 in prison, legal efforts to prevent sexual assault in prison, and bureaucratic hurdles to rehabilitation.

Thursday, October 6th  
6 PM – 7:30 PM  
Hodson 311

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BARS