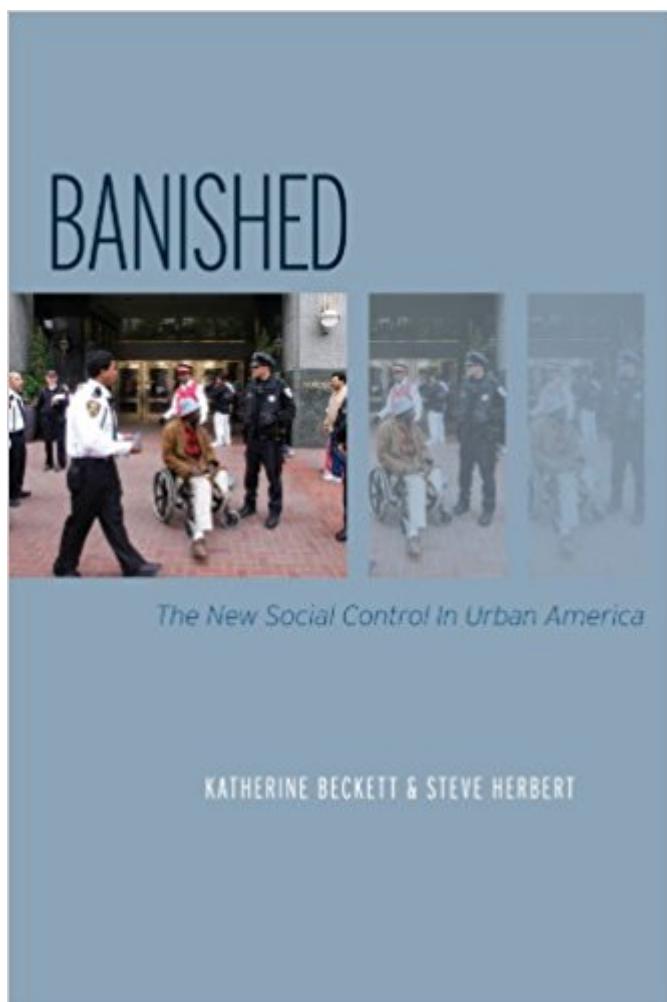


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# Banished: The New Social Control In Urban America (Studies In Crime And Public Policy)



## **Synopsis**

With urban poverty rising and affordable housing disappearing, the homeless and other "disorderly" people continue to occupy public space in many American cities. Concerned about the alleged ill effects their presence inflicts on property values and public safety, many cities have wholeheartedly embraced "zero-tolerance" or "broken window" policing efforts to clear the streets of unwanted people. Through an almost completely unnoticed set of practices, these people are banned from occupying certain spaces. Once zoned out, they are subject to arrest if they return—effectively banished from public places. *Banished* is the first exploration of these new tactics that dramatically enhance the power of the police to monitor and arrest thousands of city dwellers. Drawing upon an extensive body of data, the authors chart the rise of banishment in Seattle, a city on the leading edge of this emerging trend, to establish how it works and explore its ramifications. They demonstrate that, although the practice allows police and public officials to appear responsive to concerns about urban disorder, it is a highly questionable policy: it is expensive, does not reduce crime, and does not address the underlying conditions that generate urban poverty. Moreover, interviews with the banished themselves reveal that exclusion makes their lives and their path to self-sufficiency immeasurably more difficult. At a time when more and more cities and governments in the U.S. and Europe resort to the criminal justice system to solve complex social problems, *Banished* provides a vital and timely challenge to exclusionary strategies that diminish the life circumstances and rights of those it targets.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

"Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, the practices of banishment have returned. In this fascinating and important book, Katherine Beckett and Steve Herbert critically engage the renaissance of archaic forms of exclusion in contemporary society. The authors brilliantly demonstrate how this new arsenal of refurbished legal tools--off-limit orders, anti-loitering ordinances, park exclusion orders, civil gang injunctions, public housing trespass programs, SODAs, SOAPs, and ASBOs--increasingly delimit zones of exclusion from which so many of our fellow citizens are banished. This book is a must read for anyone interested in modern society and our current practices of social control." --Bernard E. Harcourt, Julius Kreeger Professor of Law and Political Science, University of Chicago "In a striking and original analysis, Beckett and Herbert provide an important case study of new barriers that exclude the poor and homeless from America's urban centers. Erected by municipal government and enforced by police, this new regulation of urban space produces a profound criminalization of poverty. Contributing as much to the study of social inequality as criminology, *Banished* offers an important lesson in how the formal apparatus of crime control has come to widely regulate the lives of America's urban poor." --Bruce Western, Professor of Sociology, Harvard University "In *Banished*, Katherine Beckett and Steve Herbert powerfully expose the shifting contours of urban social exclusion and marginalization at the street level. They highlight the manner in which banishment is enforced through novel control tools, "civility codes" and policing strategies of spatial exclusion from certain urban zones as well as the impact of such tactics on marginalized groups within the population. This is a story with broad ramifications and relevance beyond Seattle and deserves to be widely read by anyone interested in the fate of modern cities and the changing face of urban social control." --Adam Crawford, Professor of Criminology, University of Leeds "In drafting viable solutions to urban problems, academics and policymakers can learn much from Beckett and Herbert's case study... Beckett and Herbert have made an important contribution in helping us to understand that banishment is clearly not a step in the right direction." --Gwendolyn Dordick, Lecturer in the Department of Sociology, City College of New York "Banished is an important contribution to the literature on urban inequality, space and crime, and punishment as they percolate throughout various disciplines. It will be of particular interest to readers of crime and punishment, urban theory, social inequality and justice, and law and society. The range of perspectives in the book helps us appreciate the role of banishment in crime control and to understand how attempts to attack the victims and symptoms of social problems

rather than their root causes only produces an increase in both." --Lucia Trimbur, Dept. of Sociology, John Jay College, & Dept. of Criminal Justice, The Graduate Center, CUNY "This is a book I would recommend for those interested in equality, civility and poverty as well as a more academic audience of teachers, graduate and undergraduate students. It is an enjoyable and informative read. ... In drafting viable solutions to urban problems, academics and policy makers can learn much from Beckett and Herbert's case study." --Contemporary Sociology

Katherine Beckett is Professor in the Department of Sociology and the Law, Societies, and Justice program at the University of Washington. Her research and teaching focus on the politics of crime, punishment, and social control. She is the author of *Making Crime Pay* and *The Politics of Injustice*. Steve Herbert is Professor in the Department of Geography and the Law, Societies, and Justice program at the University of Washington. His research and teaching focus on the legal regulation of space, especially as practiced by the uniformed police. He is the author of *Policing Space and Citizens, Cops, and Power*.

*Banished* explores geographic restrictions that are placed on people in the city -- often homeless people and people of color. The authors use a variety of sources: records from the police and the courts, archives from the city council, interviews with prosecutors, defenders, and judges, and -- most vividly -- interviews with people who are subject to the restrictions. The book focuses on Seattle, which uses a number of geographic restrictions. It should interest anyone concerned about poverty, homelessness, criminal justice, and civil liberties. Very often probation (or a deferred sentence) for a minor offense includes an order to Stay Out of Areas of Prostitution (SOAP) or to Stay Out of Drug Areas (SODA). Hundreds of people are also given trespass admonishments, with orders not to go to one or many parks or not to go to one or many businesses. Violating these orders subjects a person to arrest, trial, and jail. And yet obeying the orders often isolates the person from his or her community and makes it difficult to get social services, and so most people covered by the orders do not obey them. The scope of the system is large (and therefore costly). In Seattle, for example, criminal trespass charges led to over 10,000 jail days in 2005. And the city attorney estimated that jailing SODA violators cost the city about \$1 million from March 2006 to December 2007. Thoroughly researched and eye-opening.

This is a very readable book about a social problem being faced -- and dealt with badly -- by cities all over the country. The authors explain that homeless and street people are being effectively

banished from cities and parts of cities at great cost and little social benefit. This is clearly a book worth reading for anyone interested in this issue.

Had to read this for a class at the UW but enjoyed it a lot. Being from Seattle I found it very valuable to know about this social problem that is occurring here and all over the United States.

I didn't think it would have lots of highlighting but then again the price I paid says it all. Thank you for the details & honesty, I would re-purchase again!

This is a great book if you are at all interested in legal/political issues, homelessness, poverty, and of course the main topic of the book - 'banishment', or the (legal) exclusion of individuals from certain places. The book is about the city of Seattle, and being from Seattle myself, I thought that was very cool. It's well written, interesting, educational, plenty of first-hand interviews, and easy to read. The only reason I give it 4/5 stars is because I can't say I 'love' it - I wouldn't have picked this up and read it unless it was assigned by a teacher (which for me, it was)...but I enjoyed it nonetheless :)

Read this book on recommendation from one of her students, might have been assigned reading. Book repeated itself in every chapter. For the amount of research done, I was hoping to hear some fresh ideas on what could be done for/about the homeless situation in Seattle. The authors idea (and appeared to be only solution) was to build government housing for homeless to do drugs and drink alcohol in..... The language used was an attempt to evoke sympathy and empathy for the homeless, which we should as a society be concerned about. However I can only remember one or two lines that attempted to sympathize with the communities affected by the issue. No talk of when "disorder" urinates on your child's toys or leaves trash in public parks. The sympathy framing is extensive and overdone. Would you empathize with a an individual that got so drunk he had to be removed from the bar, then got in his car and got pulled over for DUI after he smashed your mailbox..... now this individual is "banished" from the bar, banished from his car, and banished from the person's residence where the mailbox was destroyed. Maybe we should build him public housing so he can drink more.

The only reason I purchased this book was for a college course; it was required. It was complete crap!!! The entire book was the same story told over and over and over like a remake (meaning The

Evil Dead has been remade twice, which equals 3 versions and the original did NOT need one remake, let alone two remakes). It was a 'poor me' for those who got into trouble with the law and how they had no recourse for action to right the wrong. That is unfair but so is life. You know what else is unfair? That not only did I have to read this book but I had to write a 900 word book report - for a senior college course (capstone). Seriously, the book title *Banished* tells you everything you need to know...

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