Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce our special editors for this unique edition of the Carceral Notebooks, “Challenging the Punitive Society”: Perry Zurn and Andrew Dilts.

Zurn and Dilts recently edited a remarkable collection of texts titled Active Intolerance: Michel Foucault, the Prisons Information Group, and the Future of Abolition, published in 2016 with Palgrave Macmillan. In this issue of the Carceral Notebooks, they build on that earlier conversation and bring together many new voices to explore and challenge our punitive society.

Together, they bring a wealth of philosophical and critical theory to bear on the problem. Perry Zurn is a professor of philosophy at American University. He is a co-editor of the first authoritative collection of GIP documents in translation: Intolerable: Writings from Michel Foucault and the Prisons Information Group, 1970-1980 (forthcoming). Andrew Dilts is a professor of political theory at Loyola Marymount University and the author most recently of Punishment and Inclusion: Race, Membership, and the Limits of American Liberalism. Their shared commitment to thinking the history of the present, and engaging theory in material realities, is here, as in their individual work, amply evident.

Welcome to this special edition and thank you Perry Zurn and Andrew Dilts!