

Design + Abolition

(Or, how what we ask shapes what we can imagine)

This is a moment in which design, through fields like architecture, communication design, service design, and even public policy, is increasingly involved in the reimagining or rebuilding of prisons, policing, and borders—the infrastructures of the prison industrial complex. This talk looks at recent projects addressing policing and incarceration that are led or joined in some way by designers and rooted in community-led, industry-led, or government-led inquiry, and asks how what designers know and imagine shapes what gets made and how. What questions might interrupt common sense notions of what is and what might be? How might dissent, and the knowledge it produces and demonstrates, become material for designing? In other words, what does an abolitionist design practice look like; how do we (and not only designers) engage in practices of making otherwise?

Shana Agid is an artist/designer, teacher, and activist whose work focuses on relationships of power and difference in visual and political cultures. His collaborative design practice explores possibilities for self-determined design through teaching and research. She is an Assistant Professor of Arts, Media, and Communication at Parsons School of Design, a book-artist, letterpress printer, and member of Critical Resistance.

Shana Agid, Ph.D.

Wednesday, October 3rd

6:00–7:30pm

Gallery 400 Lecture Room

400 South Peoria Street

With responses by Debbie Southorn and Page May discussing #NoCopAcademy

Page May is the co-founder and Organizing Director of Assata's Daughters. Her work focuses on developing young Black people's power to end violence, dismantle the prison industrial complex, and abolish anti-blackness.

Debbie Southorn is a queer abolitionist who works for the American Friends Service Committee in Chicago, where she supports community-based efforts to end police violence, surveillance and militarism. She's also a founding member of the People's Response Team, and serves on the National Committee of the War Resisters League.

#NoCopAcademy is a grassroots, Black youth-directed campaign to stop the construction of \$95 million cop academy in Chicago, and demand resources for communities instead. nocopacademy.com

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