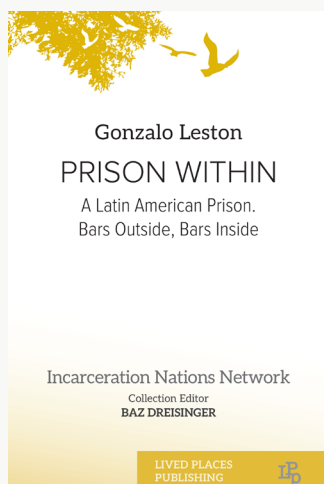




Prison Within: A Latin American Prison. Bars Outside, Bars Inside

AUTHOR Gonzalo Leston
COLLECTION EDITED BY Baz Dreisinger

COLLECTION

Incarceration Nations
Network

EDITION

1st edition

MARKET

College/higher education
and Professional and
Scholarly

This course reading...

- Offers a rare firsthand account of the Uruguayan criminal justice and prison system, providing an insider's perspective on arrest, detention, and incarceration.
- Explores the concept of the "prison within," revealing how memory, fear, guilt, and emotional trauma can create forms of captivity that extend beyond prison walls.
- Enriched by Rioplatense cultural and musical references that deepen the emotional resonance of the narrative and situate it within a distinctive Latin American context.
- Encourages critical reflection on punishment, rehabilitation, human dignity, and the relationship between institutional and psychological confinement.
- Ideal for students, researchers, and practitioners in criminology, sociology, psychology, human rights, prison studies, and Latin American studies, as well as general readers interested in incarceration and restorative justice.

What does prison reveal about the invisible forms of captivity that exist within us?

In *Prison Within: A Latin American Prison. Bars Outside, Bars Inside*, Gonzalo Leston offers a powerful firsthand account of the Uruguayan criminal justice and prison system, tracing a journey that begins with an unexpected arrest after he intervenes to protect his brother during a violent assault. From police detention and courthouse holding cells to classification units and life inside a prison module, Gonzalo Leston guides readers through the realities of incarceration, exposing the tensions, informal hierarchies, solidarities, and survival strategies that shape everyday prison life.

Beyond its portrayal of the external prison, Gonzalo Leston reveals a deeper and more unsettling reality: the "prison within." As confinement intensifies, memories, fears, guilt, and unresolved emotional wounds emerge, creating an inner landscape of captivity that mirrors the physical institution itself. The book demonstrates how punishment extends beyond walls, routines, and regulations to encompass processes of self-confrontation and psychological reckoning.

This book is ideal for students, scholars, and practitioners in criminology, sociology, psychology, social sciences, human rights, prison studies, and Latin American studies, as well as general readers interested in incarceration, restorative justice, and the human dimensions of punishment.

Gonzalo Leston is a Uruguayan writer, musician, and registered nurse whose emotionally resonant work explores the intersections of confinement, memory, identity, and human resilience.

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