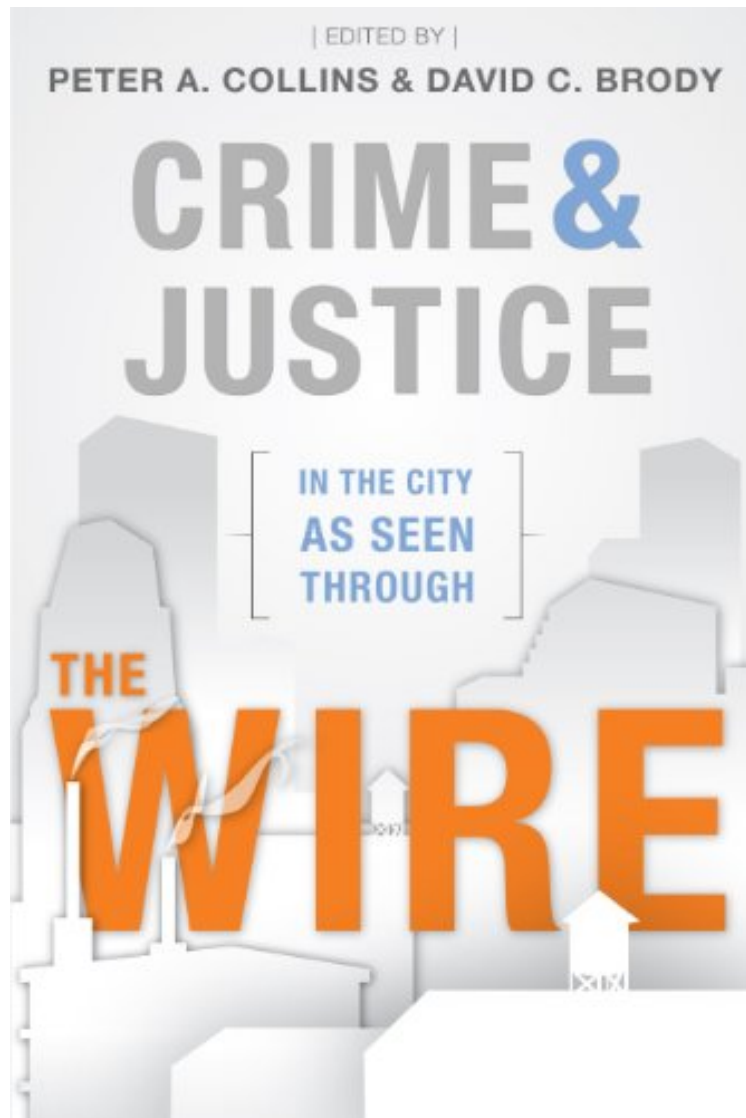


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## Crime and Justice in the City as Seen through The Wire

*Peter A. Collins, David C. Brody*  
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**Peter A. Collins, David C. Brody : Crime and Justice in the City as Seen through The Wire** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crime and Justice in the City as Seen through The Wire:

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Since the hit HBO show The Wire premiered on June 2, 2002, it was viewed as much more than a typical police

procedural. Over its five-season run it was praised by critics for its intricate examination of crime, life in the inner city, the criminal justice system, and the functioning of public institutions and the people who work in them. However, unlike other police and crime dramas, the police in *The Wire* did not solve cases on a weekly basis. The hardships faced by millions of people struggling to survive in the inner city were not softened. Rather than portraying characters as good or bad, *The Wire* does not flinch from portraying the good and bad sides of the police, criminals, educators, judges, lawyers, elected officials, or labor unions. Indeed, it presents an unvarnished view of the complex nature of the criminal justice system and the web of institutional linkages that impact individuals and society. The show's willingness to take the time to address complex issues and institutions in non-simplistic ways, has led academics and scholars from myriad disciplines to make *The Wire* a component of their scholarship and university teaching. While this book examines the problem of urban crime and an inefficient criminal justice system from the perspective of legal and social science scholars, it presents divergent and unique examinations of these oft-studied issues. This anthology is organized into four main sections. The first begins with a socio-legal presentation of the interconnectedness of the criminal justice system, the negative impacts of urban inequality and poverty, and highlights many institutional failures as well as the impact that systematic pressures have on individuals. The second and third sections cover topics such as police culture and practice, the War on Drugs and the repercussions of drug war policies, government and politics, and harm reduction strategies. The final section provides excellent linkages from the various scenes and themes from *The Wire* to criminological theory and practice. All of the chapters in this volume are useful in linking material from the show to academic concepts. Each chapter tackles a different topical focus area and they all do an excellent job in sighting the relevant research as well as contemporary issues surrounding the chosen subject matter.

About the Author Peter A. Collins is a professor in the criminal justice department at Seattle University. David Brody is a Professor in the Criminal Justice Department at Washington State University.