Core questions:

* Is there a trade-off between welfare attitudes and punishment attitudes at the individual level?
* How universal is it? Is it confined to English-speaking countries (where incarceration rates rose much faster)?
* Is welfare state generosity/levels of redistribution associated with lower punitiveness at the individual level?
* Does it change the punitiveness of the rich or the poor (or both)?
* To what extent is punitiveness driven by subjective crime insecurity vs. subjective economic insecurity?
* Does the welfare state weaken that relationship?
* Does [some feature of the criminal justice system, e.g. police numbers, incarceration rates are perhaps even more problematic causality-wise.] weaken that relationship?

Related basic questions:

Individual level:

* What is punitiveness? Is it related to political ideology (left-right, political conservativsm), morality, objective and subjective security?

Other stuff:

* Are there items that touch upon “ontological security” or perceptions of disorder (attitudes about “the youth today”): quite an important theory in research on fear of crime.
* Subjective physical health could also be an interesting thing to look at: on the one hand, people with weaker health are more afraid and objectively more vulnerable 🡪 should be more punitive (also: terror management theory); on the other hand, people who are “stronger” could be less compassionate and therefore 🡪 more punitive. There’s probably a better way to describe the psychological mechanisms. Just a hunch.
* Ethnic composition and immigration should be there as controls, but of course they are also important in their own right. Now sure we want to go there in this paper, though.