

Division of Experimental Criminology

of the American Society of Criminology

Annual Report: 2016 - 2017

Submitted: April 2017

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October 2016 - March 2017

Overview of the Division of Experimental Criminology

The Division of Experimental Criminology (DEC) was established formally by the Executive Board of the American Society of Criminology in April, 2009, following a decision to initiate a petition drive at the 2008 ASC Joan McCord Lecture. The drive was led by Professor Doris MacKenzie (Pennsylvania State University) and leaders within the Academy of Experimental Criminology. The Division is now one of ten divisions in the American Society of Criminology.

As outlined in its constitution, the DEC's goals and objectives are:

- to advance the development of experimental criminology and to increase awareness of randomized experiments in crime and justice;
- to aid in the improvement of experimental methods in criminology and to facilitate and encourage research employing experimental methods;
- to bring together ASC members interested in discussing and supporting experimental research;
- to facilitate and encourage interaction and dissemination of experimental research among ASC members, practitioners, funding agencies, policy-making bodies, and other relevant groups; and
- to organize and promote ASC conference sessions related to issues in experimental research.

Overall, the DEC seeks to promote and improve the use and development of experimental evidence and methods in the advancement of criminological theory and evidence-based crime policy. It carries out this purpose through a series of activities during ASC annual meetings and throughout the year. The DEC also recognizes outstanding achievements in experimental criminology through the Jerry Lee Lifetime Achievement Award, the Award for Outstanding Experimental Field Trial, and the Student Paper Award.

In late 2011, the AEC and the DEC combined its efforts through a mutual website and newsletter, and a single awards committee for both groups. The AEC primarily serves to recognize scholars who have successfully led randomized, controlled, field experiments in criminology by election as Fellows. Fellows are elected annually by vote of the entire Fellowship upon nomination by any Fellow, and are installed at the annual meeting held in conjunction with the meeting of the American Society of Criminology.

Executive Board and Executive Counselors

The current Executive Board and Executive Counselors, whose terms began in November of 2015, are:

President, Susan Turner (University of California- Irvine)
Vice President, Elizabeth Groff (Temple University)
Secretary and Treasurer, Jordan Hyatt (Drexel University)
Executive Counselor, Charlotte Gill (George Mason University)
Executive Counselor, Elise Sargeant (Griffith University)
Executive Counselor, Cod Telep (Arizona State University)

The Executive Board met on the following dates in 2016 and 2017 to discuss official business (business was also resolved over email in between these meetings):

October 5, 2016
American Society of Criminology Meeting, November 2016
December 7, 2016
January 4, 2017
March 8, 2017

As a new Board was elected in 2015, elections for a new Executive Board will not be held in mid-2017. The new Board will assume their duties at the following ASC conference meeting, tentatively scheduled for November 2017.

Membership Update

The Division of Experimental Criminology (DEC) has two types of membership, "Individual" and "Organizational." The organizational memberships were established in 2012.

Individual memberships provide a yearly subscription to the *Journal of Experimental Criminology* and DEC news. There are two types of individual memberships: regular and student. All members receive an electronic subscription to the Journal and may opt in to receive paper copies. The decision to move from members opting out of receiving a paper copy to requiring them to opt in was made in 2014 as part of DEC's continued efforts to "go green" and increase efficiency, given that many of our members can access the Journal through institutional subscriptions.

Since 2012, the DEC has allowed members to purchase life-time memberships following the same rule as ASC (20 years x fee). The Division currently has 1 lifetime member.

During 2014 the board continued active monthly membership drives to attract new members. Membership was down slightly in 2014 compared to previous years, with 178 active members. However, membership in 2015 (and continuing until the present) started strong with 115 new or

renewing members by mid-February. This may be a result of our decision to reduce membership fees from \$35 to \$20 (\$15 to \$5 for students) to bring DEC into line with other ASC divisions and in recognition of the decision to ask members to opt in to receiving paper copies of the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*.

Year	Membership totals
2010	157
2011	166
2012	191
2013	199
2014	178
2015	207
2016	209
2017	145 renewed/new members as of March 2017

Organizational memberships provide centers, departments, institutes, non-profits, universities, and other entities with one yearly subscription to the *Journal of Experimental Criminology* and newsletters. Organizational member logos and names are also displayed on DEC materials in recognition of their support. There are three levels of organizational memberships: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

We continue to work on ways to increase our organizational membership base in 2016-2017.

Financial Update

The DEC primarily receives financial support from its individual and organizational membership fees. As discussed above, in 2014 we decided to reduce our 2015 membership fees. This decision was taken in light of reduced enrollments to DEC in 2014. We learned that many ASC members typically only join one Division, and that our membership fees were higher than those of other divisions. In 2013, DEC began the year with a positive balance for the first time and ended the year in a much stronger financial position. We were able to maintain and improve upon this position in 2015 thanks to continued cost savings from encouraging members to “go green” with the JEC.

DEC closed 2016 year with a balance of **\$4,531.89** (as of 2017-03). Costs during the past year included plaques for DEC and AEC awards, catering and AV for the Division’s meeting and luncheon at ASC, JEC costs, web hosting, and our communications/contact list subscription. The DEC board has decided to discontinue the free luncheon at ASC for members. Instead the DEC will purchase “swag” promotional items for the membership that will be distributed at the DEC/AEC awards luncheon. In light of the DEC increased membership, the \$500 stipend for the student paper award has been reestablished.

We anticipate reduced costs in 2017 due to a scaled back reception at ASC.

Awards Update

Since the last annual report, the following awards were given by the Division of Experimental Criminology:

2015:

Denise Gottfredson, University of Maryland, Jerry Lee Lifetime Achievement Award
Sara Heller, University of Pennsylvania, Award for Outstanding Experimental Field Trial
Angela M. Jones et al., John Jay College, Student Paper Award

2016:

Doris MacKenzie, Pennsylvania State University, Jerry Lee Lifetime Achievement Award
Robert J. Kane, Drexel University, *Michael D. White*, Arizona State University & *Justin Ready*,
University, Award for Outstanding Experimental Field Trial
Adam Dunbar, with Charis E. Kubrin and Nicholas Scurich, University of California, Irvine,
Student
Paper Award

Since the last annual report, the following awards were given for the Academy of Experimental Criminology:

2015:

Friedrich Lösel, University of Cambridge and University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Joan
McCord Award
Jordan Hyatt, Drexel University, Young Experimental Scholar Award

2016:

David Hawkins, University of Washington, Joan McCord Award
Emma Antrobus, University of Queensland, Young Experimental Scholar Award

Journal of Experimental Criminology Updates

The *Journal of Experimental Criminology (JOEX)* is the official publication of the Division of Experimental Criminology. It remains the only journal that consistently publishes articles regarding and related to experimentation in our field. All DEC members receive electronic access to the Journal, and can opt in to receive a paper copy. Approximately 10% of our active members opted in to receive the paper copy in 2016.

Lorraine Mazerolle, immediate past DEC President, became editor-in-chief of JEC in 2014. The Journal is now encouraging shorter articles of 2,000 -8,000 words in addition to more traditional articles. The JEC focuses on high-quality experimental and quasi-experimental research, systematic reviews on a range of criminology and criminal justice issues, and methodological papers focusing on experimentation and systematic review methods.

Outreach and Website Updates

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA: In 2014, the new Board made the decision to expand DEC's reach on other social media platforms. DEC is now on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/expcrim> and on Twitter at **@DivExpCrim**. However, use of these platforms has remained less active compared to the website and monthly email newsletters. In 2016, the executive board formed a social media committee to explore opportunities, including cross-platform promotion, to increase the visibility of the DEC on social media. This committee has increased the visibility of the DEC, as well as facilitating the cross-promotion of employment and grant opportunities that may be of interest to the DEC community.

ADVERTISEMENT: The DEC provided regular advertisements in most issues of *The Criminologist* during 2015 and has continued to do so in 2016. These ads pertain to membership drives, calls for awards, announcements of events at ASC meetings, and other information.

NEWSLETTERS: The DEC and AEC publish a semi-annual newsletter, "The Experimental Criminologist," but employs a predominantly web/email-based approach to dissemination of information, as time-sensitive information can now be provided more efficiently through monthly email announcements sent via DEC's email contact system. Since 2014, the DEC has published a special issue of "The Experimental Criminologist" for the ASC conference in November. This newsletter includes announcements, conference information and new, original content from DEC/AEC award winners.

COMMITTEES: Since 2014 the Executive Board and members have worked to increase outreach and involvement in committees to all DEC members. The Board is currently recruiting interested members to awards, membership, outreach/social media, and event planning committees.