



## Reflections on the NAS Report on High Rates of Incarceration in the United States

by  
Jeremy Travis and Bruce Western

A year has passed since the April 30, 2014 release of *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences*.<sup>1</sup> The report of a consensus panel of scholars and experts was convened by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to assess the evidence on one of the most significant public policy developments of the modern era: the massive expansion of the use of prison as a response to crime. As chair and vice chair of that panel, we are grateful for this opportunity provided by *The Criminologist* to offer our reflections on the report. We believe the issue of high incarceration rates – called elsewhere “mass incarceration,” a phrase not used in our report – is one of the most important issues facing our nation. We also frankly believe that this phenomenon poses intellectual challenges to the discipline of criminology. In our view, the NAS report can provide a platform for a new generation of scholarly inquiry and policy development on the intersecting issues of crime, the administration of justice, the question of race relations, and the relationship between state and citizen.

In brief, the report found that that incarceration rates in the United States had climbed to historically high levels over the last four decades. The increase in prison populations, with their large racial and ethnic disparities, was driven by harsher sentencing policies. Harsh sentencing policy, in turn, emerged out of a context of rapid social and political change. Despite the large increase in the U.S. penal population there is little scientific consensus about the magnitude of the crime reduction that followed, although there are indications of negative consequences for poor and minority families and communities. The committee recommended significant reductions in the U.S. incarceration rate.

We begin this essay by describing the process that led to our consensus, summarizing the findings of the NAS panel, and the response to the report. We then offer our view on the unique contributions the NAS report has made to the discourse on crime and justice. Finally, we suggest some of the larger implications of the report regarding topics for further inquiry and the role of normative discussion in a positive research program.

### I. The NAS Report: History and Process

The bottom line conclusion of the NAS report may not come as a surprise to most criminologists or observers of the realities of high rates of incarceration in the U.S. The consensus panel concluded that, “[g]iven the small crime prevention effects of long prison sentences and the possibly high financial, social, and human costs of incarceration, federal and state policy makers should revise current criminal justice policies to significantly reduce the rate of incarceration in the United States.”<sup>2</sup> In this regard, the NAS report might be viewed as simply echoing the conclusions of other scholarly publications on this topic. Yet the NAS report stands apart from similar publications for the simple fact that the report was prepared under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences. Because of the high degree of rigor inherent in the review and approval processes of the National Academy, and the historic role of

<sup>1</sup> Unless referenced otherwise, all citations can be found in the following report: National Research Council. *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> NRC, page 9.

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the National Academy in providing scientific advice on issues of importance to the country, this report occupies an unusual place in the recent scholarship about incarceration in the United States. Accordingly, before discussing the report's findings in more detail, it is important that we describe the processes of the National Academy of Sciences and the history leading up to the formation of the consensus panel on high rates of incarceration in the U.S.

President Abraham Lincoln created the National Academy of Sciences in 1863 as scientific advisors for the nation. Over the past century and a half, the NAS has played a critical role in assessing scientific evidence on some pressing national challenges, including *Identifying the Culprit: Assessing Eyewitness Identification*; *Deterrence and the Death Penalty*; and *Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach*. The NAS carries out its work through the National Research Council, which, in turn, oversees a number of standing boards that manage the work of the NAS on discrete scientific domains.<sup>1</sup> In the case of the report on high incarceration rates, the standing board is the Committee on Law and Justice (CLAJ).

In January of 2012, CLAJ proposed that the NAS undertake a review of the evidence on the causes and consequences of high incarceration rates in the United States. The National Institute of Justice, under the leadership of its Director, Dr. John Laub, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and its now-president, Julia Stasch, provided the necessary funding. With these funds in hand, the NAS convened a panel of twenty scholars and experts<sup>2</sup>, staff were assigned, and we were designated as chair and vice-chair. We held five meetings between March 19, 2012 and June 27, 2013, each meeting lasting two days. Between meetings we exchanged drafts of various sections, drawing on the expertise of our panel, and commissioned specific analyses by scholars that we determined would aid our deliberations. With rare exceptions, all meetings of the panel were closed to the public, thereby facilitating a sense of confidentiality and candid deliberation.

In our Statement of Task,<sup>3</sup> we were asked to answer three questions: (1) what were the causes of the growth in incarceration rates in the United States; (2) what are the consequences of that significant new reality on public safety, the individuals incarcerated, their families and communities, and the larger society; and (3) what were the public policy implications of the panel's review of the relevant evidence? We had only one touchstone for our deliberations: Our charge was to review and assess the evidence. We understood that this expectation would place constraints on traditional scholarly inquiry into various explanatory theories, but the panel fully embraced this assignment. In conducting this assessment of the evidence, we had one goal in mind, clearly articulated by the NAS: If possible, we aimed to achieve consensus on the evidence. If consensus was not possible, those with a minority view of the evidence would clearly state the reasons for any dissent.

As would be expected with a group of twenty scholars and experts representing different disciplines (legal theory, economics, political science, history, sociology, psychology, and criminology) and a wide variety of professional experiences—our panel included a corrections official, a federal judge, and criminal justice policy experts – our discussions were often quite lively. The panel considered how the definition of “evidence” differed across disciplines and had the challenging task of explicating the methodological pitfalls in determining causation. Yet the discipline derived from limiting our discussion to the evidence, in combination with the shared goal of achieving consensus, provided a roadmap for our work. Another important, perhaps essential ingredient was at work. Members of the consensus panel were highly motivated to produce a report that would speak to these issues. Each of us, in different ways, had concluded that the phenomenon of high rates of incarceration requires critical examination by scholars, politicians and the general public. The commitment of the panelists was demonstrated by the tireless redrafting of chapters to forge consensus.<sup>4</sup>

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1 The National Academies, includes the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine (IOM), the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), and the National Research Council (NRC)— See: <http://www.nationalacademies.org>.

2 Jeremy Travis (Chair), John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York; Bruce Western (Vice Chair), Department of Sociology and Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; Jeffrey A. Beard, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation\*; Robert D. Crutchfield, Department of Sociology, University of Washington; Tony Fabelo, Justice Center, Council of State Governments, Lexington, KY; Marie Gottschalk, Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania; Craig W. Haney, Department of Psychology and Program in Legal Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz; Ricardo H. Hinojosa, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas; Glenn C. Loury, Department of Economics, Brown University; Sara S. McLanahan, Center for Research on Child Wellbeing, Princeton University; Lawrence M. Mead, Department of Politics, New York University; Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York City Public Library; Daniel S. Nagin, Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University; Devah Pager, Department of Sociology and Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; Anne Morrison Piehl, Department of Economics and Program in Criminal Justice, Rutgers University; Josiah D. Rich, Department of Medicine and Epidemiology, Brown University, and Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights, The Miriam Hospital, Providence, RI; Robert J. Sampson, Department of Sociology, Harvard University; Heather Ann Thompson, Department of History, Temple University; Michael Tonry, School of Law, University of Minnesota; Avelardo Valdez, School of Social Work, University of Southern California

3 NRC, Page 16.

4 Following completion of the report, one member of the panel filed a short statement noting his different views on the panel's assessment of the discussion as well as certain conclusions related to the causes of high rates of incarceration and their effect on crime prevention. This statement, which did not rise to the level of a dissent, indicated the writer's concurrence with the overall findings and conclusions of the panel. NRC, Appendix A, Page 419.

The great effort by the committee was fuelled by the hope that the report would facilitate this overdue national conversation.

Once we had completed a draft report, the NAS sent it to an external review panel comprising more than a dozen prominent scholars in the disciplines represented on the panel.<sup>1</sup> That external panel made a number of comments and critiques anonymously, each of which was addressed by the consensus panel and staff. At the end of this rigorous review process, the NAS approved the release of the report.

The public release took place at a forum on April 30, 2014 hosted by the Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington D.C. Consistent with NAS practices, the panel provided briefings to our sponsors at NIJ and the MacArthur Foundation prior to the release, and to congressional staff on the day of the release. It is perhaps too early to assess the impact of the report. Yet some metrics would indicate that the report has reached a wide audience. As of April 15, 2015, the report has been downloaded 10,575 times and over 2000 copies have been sold or provided to legislators, national policy associations, justice organizations, and others. Of the 199 reports released by the National Academies Press in 2014, it ranks #4 in downloads for that year. With additional funding from the MacArthur Foundation, the NAS produced a number of accessible follow-up items, including videos, an info graphic, a four-page summary of the entire report, and a series of short briefs that summarize findings from the report as well as key issues raised in the report (two of which are available in Spanish). These communications vehicles have been highly popular.<sup>2</sup> Beyond these metrics, a more telling indicator is the large number of venues where members of the panel have been invited to present the report's findings. These include scholarly conferences such as the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) and the American Society of Criminology (ASC), which devoted an entire day to five panels discussing entire chapters of the report. In addition, a Senate Judiciary briefing was conducted on the 20th anniversary of the Crime Bill last September and public policy briefings have been held in California, New Mexico, and New York, and Massachusetts. Given the policy implications of the report, it is gratifying to see that the findings have been presented to state legislators, sentencing commissions, judges, budget directors and executive branch criminal justice policy staff.

## II. The NAS Report: Findings and Recommendations

What did the consensus panel conclude? First, the panel found that “the growth in incarceration rates in the United States over the past 40 years is historically unprecedented and internationally unique.”<sup>3</sup> Stated differently, we found that we have never been here before: for fifty years between 1920 and the early 1970s, the rate of incarceration in the United States was fairly stable, hovering around 110 per 100,000 and then started to increase every year until 2009, by which time the rate had increased more than four-fold. At the present time, the US incarceration rate is five to ten times higher than that found in Western Europe. Second, the panel found that this dramatic increase in the use of prison as a response to crime was not directly caused by changing crime rates. In fact, the crime rate rose, then fell, then rose again over this four-decade period. Yet crime rates did play a role in the following sense: The decades of the 1960s and 1970s, which were characterized by rapid social change and rising crime rates, “provided the context for a series of policy choices, across all branches and levels of government, that significantly increased sentence lengths, required prison time for minor offenses, and intensified punishment for drug crimes.”<sup>4</sup> This conclusion can be stated bluntly: We have high rates of incarceration because—as a matter of public policy—we have chosen to have high rates of incarceration.

While incarceration rates grew in unprecedented fashion, this growth was distributed unevenly across the population. The enduring racial disparity ensured that much of the growth in the penal population was among African Americans and Latinos. In addition to large racial and ethnic disparities, nearly all the growth in incarceration was concentrated among those with no post-secondary schooling. Race and educational disparities combined to produce extremely high risks of incarceration among black men with little schooling. Recent cohorts of African American male high school dropouts were estimated to have a lifetime risk of imprisonment of around 70 percent.

The NAS report backs up these conclusions in three separate chapters. Chapter 2 presents data disaggregating the rise in prison rates by crime type over a thirty-year period. Building on analyses by Blumstein and Beck commissioned by the consensus panel, this chapter documents the ten-fold increase in incarceration rates for drug offenses, compared to the overall four-fold increase for all offenses.<sup>5</sup> The Chapter also discusses the racial disparities in the imposition of prison sentences. Chapter 3 catalogues the various sentencing changes that were enacted over the decades that led to more people in prison. This chapter documents the waves of reforms over these years, including the creation of sentencing commissions, the passage of mandatory minimums, and the enactment of such sentence enhancements as three-strikes, truth-in-sentencing, and life without parole. Chapter 4 then steps back from an analysis of the proximate drivers of the prison population to present the historical and political analysis of the changing

1 See page xii in report for list.

2 To access these materials, visit <http://nationalacademies.org/incarceration>.

3 NRC, Page 2.

4 NRC, Page 4.

5 Beck, A.J., and Blumstein, A. (2012, October 31). *Trends in Incarceration Rates: 1980-2010*. Paper prepared for the National Research Council Committee on the Causes and Consequences of High Rates of Incarceration, Washington, D.C.

context in which those policies were formulated. This discussion includes the description of the launch of the war on drugs, the evolution of federal crime policy, the emergence of a “tough on crime” political environment, and the increasingly racialized nature of criminal justice policy over the four decades of the prison build-up.

When the NAS report was released, a question from the press on the day of the announcement was perhaps predictable: “What’s new?” On one level, the answer is “there is nothing new,” because the NAS protocol requires an assessment of available, not new evidence. But on a more fundamental level, what is new is the creation of a complete narrative of the last half century in criminal justice policy in the United States, using the best available evidence. This narrative, set forth in Chapters 2, 3 and 4, leads to a stark conclusion: Policy choices, not crime rates, have resulted in our country’s unprecedented high rates of incarceration.

The report then examines the evidence on the consequences of these choices. In a particularly important chapter, the report examines the question that lies behind the findings of the political rationale for putting more people in prison: Did this policy choice result in crime reductions? The report acknowledged the methodological challenge in answering that question and concluded that teasing out causation over a long time period with many cross-cutting societal and economic developments is exceedingly difficult. Yet, after reviewing the evidence, we concluded that “the increase in incarceration may have caused a decrease in crime, but the magnitude of the reduction is highly uncertain and the results of most studies suggest it was unlikely to have been large.”<sup>1</sup>

This finding addresses one of the central challenges facing policy makers who are seeking to reduce incarceration rates. There is a common understanding among some of the public, and some policy experts, that the low level of crime in the U.S. is attributable to the high rates of incarceration. Some would ask why the country should reduce the prison population when doing so would risk public safety.

If politicians ran for office on the promise that they would be tough on crime by putting more people in prison, didn’t they deliver on their promise? In contrast to this widespread understanding of the relationship between prisons and crime stands this important finding of the NAS panel: While there was likely some reduction in crime by ramping up the use of prison, the magnitude of that reduction was, at best, uncertain, and most likely modest.

The panel’s finding on this point is further reinforced by three other conclusory statements, each of which relies on a stronger evidence base. The panel concluded that the crime prevention effects of statutes making long sentences longer, or imposing mandatory minimum prison sentences were minimal. Furthermore, there was little evidence that the impact of the ten-fold increase in incarceration rates for drug offenses had desired results. Contrary to expectations, drug prices did not rise significantly and the levels of drug use did not decline. Lacking a baseline measure of drug offending, these data would call into question the overall efficacy of our current policies on drug enforcement. Taken together, these three findings are as important as the conclusion regarding aggregate crime rates. Given the report’s conclusions that the increased levels of incarceration could be attributed to statutes making long sentences longer, laws imposing mandatory minimum prison sentences, and the tough enforcement policies associated with the war on drugs, this assessment of the evidence on the crime prevention effects of each driver adds additional support to the overall conclusion: The unprecedented rise in incarceration rates has had very little public safety benefit.

Having established a crime prevention benefit that was modest at best, the panel then assessed the evidence of other potential costs. One of the important contributions of the report, in our opinion, is the unflinching focus on life within the nation’s prisons. Chapter 6 titled *The Experience of Imprisonment* reviews the literature on the impact of prison on the physical and psychological wellbeing of incarcerated people. Perhaps most telling is the increase in double- and triple-celling, straining prisons far beyond their design capacity. Cells originally designed for one person became housing for two, or sometimes three people. Interestingly, and contrary to predictions, the levels of violence did not increase with overcrowding. Instead, levels of lethal violence declined. At the same time, however, prison programming and other essential services such as health care were strained. The increased use of administrative segregation, with the attendant adverse psychological effects that flow from long-term isolation, added to the troubling picture of prison conditions in the era of high incarceration rates. Chapter 7 adds to this portrait the health and mental health challenges facing the incarcerated population, including high levels of communicable diseases, mental illness and histories of significant substance abuse. While the NAS report presents the available evidence on prison conditions, the more important observation in the report is how little is known about the lives of these millions of individuals held behind bars.

The NAS report went on to catalogue the consequences of incarceration for the employment prospects of those leaving prison, as well as for the children, families and communities of those incarcerated. In each case, the consensus panel found that the evidence, though decidedly incomplete, pointed in the direction of long-term negative ripple effects. Studies indicate lifetime earnings and employment rates were diminished following a prison term. Children of incarcerated parents suffered higher rates of housing instability and developmental difficulties. Because high incarceration rates are concentrated in a small number of inner city neighborhoods struggling with poverty and other challenges, it is difficult to tease out causal links between incarceration and

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1 NRC, Page 4.

other measures of disadvantage. But, once again, the composite picture of these neighborhoods points to negative impact on community well-being. In the final chapter, the report takes a broader look and examines the impact of high rates of incarceration on the U.S. society. The number of people who have served time in prison is larger than ever before. They are increasingly marginalized by policies that create, in essence, a diminished status. These individuals often cannot vote, are banned from serving on juries, have difficulty securing employment in many sectors of the economy, and in many other ways are prevented from participating as full citizens.

The NAS report concludes this assessment of the causes and consequences of high rates of incarceration with a statement that, given the likelihood of small crime prevention effects, and the possibly high financial, social and human costs, U.S. policy makers "should revise current criminal justice policies to significantly reduce the rate of incarceration."<sup>1</sup>

### III. Chapter 12: The Normative Framework

When the NAS report was presented at the 2014 conference of the American Society of Criminology, one of the discussants was Stanford Law School Prof. Joan Petersilia, one of the nation's leading scholars of prisons and prisoner reentry. As she described her experience reading the NAS report, she said that she was reading the sections on causes and consequences and felt she was covering familiar terrain. When she reached the conclusion stated above – that the costs likely outweigh the benefits – she expected the next chapter to feature a discussion of the "what works" literature. Rather than diving into a chapter assessing effective programs in prison, or the literature on alternatives to incarceration, she found Chapter 12, which features a discussion of values. In her ASC remarks, she said that Chapter 12 was the most important chapter and the most valuable contribution of the NAS report.

We recognized that the method of assessing such a profound shift in social policy strictly through cost-benefit conclusion was deeply unsatisfying. The use of prison involves a decision by the state to deprive an individual of liberty. Whether it is a legislative body that sets prison as punishment for a particular crime, or a judge who imposes a prison sentence, the determination that someone should be sent to prison is profound. Simply evaluating the policies that have resulted in the increased use of prison on a cost-benefit equation and matching putative benefits such as crime reduction against costs as incalculable as the loss of freedom seemed to sidestep difficult but urgent normative questions.

The panel reached into a variety of different literatures – jurisprudence, legal philosophy, political theory, and social psychology – to frame the normative principles that should govern the use of prison. Our review of the literature is presented in Chapter 12, entitled *The Prison in Society: Values and Principles*.

The chapter details four normative principles that should govern penal policy. First, sentences should be proportionate to the severity of the crime. Second, incarceration should be used parsimoniously, so only the bare minimum level of punishment should be used to attain a legitimate public policy purpose.

Third, penal sanctions should not be so lasting or severe as to violate a person's citizenship, one's fundamental status as a member of the social compact. Finally, like all public institutions, prisons should support a principle of social justice so its pains do not disproportionately burden any particular group and indeed operate to promote a fair distribution of resources and opportunities for all groups.

The consensus panel set forth these principles in Chapter 12 both as a reminder that the nation had lost sight of them during the massive expansion of penal power over four decades, and as a statement of guideposts for the policy discussion going forward. They provide a different framework for considering ways to reduce incarceration rates. For example, a proposal to cut back on severe sentences can be justified by reference to the principle of proportionality. Similarly, a debate over mandatory minimum sentences might simply invoke the parsimony principle, noting that the deprivation of liberty is not necessary to achieve the purposes of punishment. A discussion about limitations on solitary confinement might incorporate reference to principles of human dignity. Finally, proposals to cut back on incarceration rates might be justified by arguing that current policies unfairly limit opportunity for racial minorities and the poor. These normative perspectives enrich and inform the public discourse on the proper role of prisons in our society.

The NAS report has certainly contributed to the scholarly literature on the traditional analyses of the costs and benefits of our criminal justice policies. More importantly, perhaps, the NAS report has reinforced the importance of a normative discussion about the role of the law in defining the relationship between citizen and state and the role of the criminal justice system in promoting the goals of social and racial justice that lie at the heart of the American democratic experiment.

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<sup>1</sup> NRC, Page 9.

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#### IV. The Research and Policy Agenda Going Forward

Beyond the NAS report, what is the responsibility of scholars to the key recommendations that incarceration rates be significantly reduced, sentencing be reformed, conditions of confinement improved, and community-based alternatives be investigated? Criminological and other social science expertise has historically made an important contribution to penal policy. In recent decades, however, policy change has been propelled by tough-on-crime politics and social science influence on policymaking has receded. Equally important, as the NAS report makes clear, harsh penal policy represents a departure from longstanding principles that constrain the use of state power, particularly when it is concentrated in the poorest sections of the population. Scholarly investigation of the consequences of incarceration, particularly at the level of communities was seen as an important research frontier. Research on the conditions of confinement is also urgently needed particularly as scholars have found correctional facilities increasingly inhospitable to researchers as incarceration rates increased.

This re-invigorated research program must also be alive to the ethical significance of the prison as a social institution. How we take on that ethical agenda in our work remains to be defined. Normative discussion – systematic, thoughtful, and rooted in legal and political theory – is challenging ground for many empirical researchers. Denying any normative content in favor of a just-the-facts positivism is, of course, a normative commitment of another kind. When the topics are justice and the deprivation of liberty, there is a place for values in the research process and they should be discussed in an open and intellectually serious way, just like we discuss our methods and empirical evidence. This, more than anything, may be the largest implication of the report.

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# MEMBER PERSPECTIVES

This new section of the newsletter, launched earlier in the year, was created for the purpose of engaging the ASC membership in conversations about a variety of themes relevant to the profession. The effort is not designed to elicit a representative sample of perspectives. Instead, the more modest goal is to get people talking about the problems and prospects facing the organization. In the last issue I encouraged the membership to reflect on two questions: (1) How would you characterize the current state of the field of criminology and criminal justice (i.e., what are some of the most positive and negative trends and developments?); and (2) What do you regard as the most significant challenges for maintaining or enhancing the status of the field over the next decade or so? This essay summarizes the major themes highlighted in just over 50 responses that have filtered in over the past month.

## *The State of the Field*

Perhaps because many of us have been trained to be skeptical of the social world we see, or maybe because we routinely direct our attention to solving perceived problems, the bulk of the responses focused on features of the field that, if fixed, could improve our collective status. But there also were more positive reflections, and so let me begin by highlighting some of the good news. One of the more commonly mentioned positive trends was the substantial growth that has occurred in the field over the past two decades. Annual reports by the Association of Doctoral Programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice (ADPCCJ)<sup>1</sup> and other publications (e.g., Frost and Clear 2007) document a significant expansion of the number of CCJ programs and enrollments in both undergraduate and graduate programs. Indeed, with respect to the latter, the number of Criminology and Criminal Justice Ph.D. programs has tripled over the last two decades, and anybody who has attended ASC over the past few years can attest that our circle has grown notably. By and large, ASC members who weighed in considered this growth to be a healthy sign, especially since it appears to have yielded an increasingly interdisciplinary and international field during a period in which many other disciplines have experienced countertrends. However, even on this seemingly uncontroversial set of observations, some questioned whether the growth we have experienced has been wholly positive. Skeptics pointed to what they saw as diluted quality of published research, wrought by the expansion of journal outlets with subpar publication standards. Most who shared this view acknowledged that it is difficult to formally assess the overall quality of published work in the field, but there is no doubt that the number of outlets has grown significantly. In fact, lists compiled since the early 1990s suggest that the increase in the number of available journal outlets since that period has mirrored the observed growth in Ph.D. programs.<sup>2</sup>

There was a more uniform collective sentiment that, as a group, we are engaging in increasingly fruitful research activities. Most notably, several members who replied considered the growth in applied research, scientific evidence of what works, and increased attention to evidence-based practices to be among the most positive developments in the field over the past few decades. Such comments were expressed both by researchers positioned within academic institutions and those who develop or apply crime-prevention programs and policies in a variety of settings. More general improvements in research design and analytical rigor also were consistently cited as positive trends in the field, though with some caveats as well. For instance, notwithstanding the expansion of experimental research, which many viewed as a good development, some members commented that inconsistent and somewhat loose attention to causality continues to be a problematic feature of contemporary practice. For the most part, however, the collective sentiment was that the field has become more scientific and methodologically rigorous, and that this has enhanced our status within many domains.

There are bound to be many other positive developments in the field, and perhaps some of you will share them after you finish reading this essay. I would welcome publishing these and other reactions in a subsequent *Member Perspectives* column or in our new *Letters to the Editor* section. But, as mentioned above, the responses received thus far to my inquiry about your thoughts on the direction of the field were dominated by concerns about a variety of issues that were perceived to be detracting from our collective progress. The negative developments highlighted by members who replied were quite varied and probably more controversial than the positive trends described above, and it is worth reiterating that these may not reflect the representative views of the membership. With those caveats, the most consistent concerns cited by those who weighed in focused largely on three matters.

First, several members voiced concerns that too many of us are preoccupied with measuring our contributions in terms of publication and citation counts rather than broader impacts on crime, justice, and society. This position was conveyed in a variety of ways. Some simply expressed dissatisfaction with what they perceive to be a trend in which considerations of publication quality have been increasingly drowned out by a preoccupation with publication quantity. But others drew more sweeping implications, a position summed up by one member in the following manner: "I cringe every time I read an article about the 'most successful criminologists,' so defined only by the number of times other criminologists have cited them in journals. Rather than measuring our contributions towards improving crime prevention, public safety, justice, or rehabilitation, we merely count how often others

1 See <http://www.adpccj.com/surveys.html>.

2 See Vaughn and del Carmen (1992), Vaughn et al. (2004), and the list compiled more recently on the ASC website (<https://www.asc41.com/links/journals.html>).



## MEMBER PERSPECTIVES

mention us in articles that are published in scholarly journals that only we read... I often like to think of our discipline in terms of medical analogies. Imagine a study that determined how successful medical researchers were by how often their publications were cited by someone else, but failed to reference whether their research helped promote health, prevent disease, cure illness, or improve surgeries. Sadly, this is exactly what criminologists do...we should be thankful the medical field does not do the same." The common denominator in all of these responses was a pitch to define the magnitude of our "contributions" in a broader fashion.

A second feature of the field that several of you mentioned as something for which there is much room for improvement is a perceived lacuna that exists between researchers and those who debate, formulate, and enact policies. As one member put it, "our work and its significance continue to largely remain a well-kept secret to many key stakeholders." This concern has been a prominent discussion point within the ASC for the past several years, and the good news is that there are some excellent ideas being developed and meaningful steps being taken to enhance the visibility and status of the organization. Among others, over the past 15 years the ASC has launched a refereed journal devoted to the study of criminal justice policy and practice (*Criminology & Public Policy*), established a National Policy Committee, and sponsored annual congressional luncheons to highlight policy-relevant research. Additionally, there are now routine policy panels profiled at our annual conference, and the ASC is in the process of hiring a "Social Media & Media Relations Specialist" who will work with the membership on communicating research findings to a variety of audiences and develop "a social media strategy that will help promote the research of ASC members through social media outlets, blogs, and media lists" (see Dugan 2015: 38-39). Finally, groups such as the Criminal Justice Journalists (CJJ) have been organized to collate and convey news stories about crime and justice, including important new research findings, to the public (see Gest 2015). These and related moves may help to eventually fill the research-policy gap noted by many as a significant concern.

The third general theme noted by several readers as a feature that may be impeding our progress as a field shines a light on potentially important missed, or at least underappreciated, opportunities. This concern was voiced in several different ways, but the unifying point was that we are paying too little attention to major social, cultural, and technological shifts in the contemporary era that have transformed both the volume and nature of illicit conduct and the ways we probably ought to be studying it. Some cited the transformation of how we buy and sell goods, which increasingly occurs beyond arms-reach through electronic transfers, as one such important shift. As one of our colleagues noted, the field seems to be largely overlooking this phenomenon, even though such changes probably have yielded substantial shifts in the general opportunity structure for crime and large reductions in the amount of cash circulating on the street, both of which are likely to have profound implications for street crime. Others lamented that the field remains heavily focused on traditional behaviors (e.g., delinquency, street crime), even as fundamental technological shifts have altered where and how people spend their time and the nature and location of illicit activities in which they are most likely to engage. Finally, several members judged the field to be too slow to capitalize on technological innovations that have yielded opportunities for collecting and analyzing data in unique ways; in essence, technology now enables us to bring "big data" to bear on questions of relevance to the field, but too few of us are taking advantage of that opportunity.

### *The Road Ahead*

Despite emphasizing these and other concerns, most who weighed in considered the future of the field to be bright, especially if the limiting factors identified above are effectively tackled. Beyond this sentiment, perhaps because criminologists frequently have been criticized when they make forecasts, many who replied did not offer detailed commentary on what they see as the most notable challenges for maintaining or enhancing the status of the field over the next decade. But most of the comments that were submitted on this question referenced two themes. One was that it will be especially important for us to continue to engage those outside the field—the public, media, practitioners, and policy-makers—about our research and how it can inform knowledge and understanding about important social issues. A key rationale provided for this view was that making such connections may be particularly important given that trajectory of substantial growth in student numbers and institutional support may be showing signs of subsiding.

The other forward-thinking point consistently emphasized by those who have weighed in so far is that we should be mindful of the significant demographic transition currently underway in the field, especially with respect to the shifting age structure. A growing percentage of the relatively large cohorts of faculty who entered the field during the late 1970s and early 1980s are moving on to other pursuits, and while much of that exodus is being offset by large incoming cohorts of new scholars, the net impact is that we are quickly becoming less experienced. This type of demographic transition need not derail our progress, but much will depend on whether younger scholars are willing and able to fill important leadership roles in the field and the ASC. As one member who recently retired put it, "hopefully we have done an adequate job of preparing the next generation to carry on...and hopefully they will step up and get the job done...it's their turn."

## MEMBER PERSPECTIVES

### Concluding Thoughts

This essay has only scratched the surface of member perspectives on the state of the field and the key ingredients for our continued progress. My hope is that it serves to kick-start the conversation, and in that spirit let me close by renewing the invitation for you to share your views with me (ebaumer@fsu.edu) on these or other matters you would like us to chronicle within the *Member Perspectives* column in subsequent issues of the newsletter.

Eric P. Baumer, ASC Vice President

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### Graduate Research Fellowship Program for Criminal Justice Statistics

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is seeking applications under its Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) Program. This program provides awards to accredited universities for doctoral research that uses criminal justice data or statistical series and focuses on crime, violence, and other criminal justice-related topics. BJS invests in doctoral education by supporting universities that sponsor students who demonstrate the potential to complete doctoral degree programs successfully in disciplines relevant to the mission of BJS, and who are in the final stages of graduate study. The ultimate goal of this solicitation is to increase the pool of researchers using criminal justice statistical data generated by BJS, thereby contributing solutions that better prevent and control crime and help ensure the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice in the United States.

Applicant institutions sponsoring doctoral students are eligible to apply only if the doctoral research dissertation has direct implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States. BJS encourages institutions to consider doctoral students from social and behavioral sciences, mathematics, or statistics academic disciplines for their applications. Applicant institutions are strongly encouraged to sponsor minority and female student candidates. Awards are anticipated to be made to successful applicant institutions in the form of a cooperative agreement to cover a fellowship for the sponsored doctoral student. Each fellowship potentially provides up to 3 years of support, usable over a 5-year period. For each year of support, BJS provides the degree-granting institution a stipend of \$35,000, usable toward the student's salary and related costs, and up to \$15,000 to cover the student's tuition and fees, research expenses, and related costs. If the doctoral student's dissertation is not completed and delivered to BJS within the 5-year period, the academic institution will be required to return the full award amount to BJS. Final award decisions will be made by the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

**Deadline:** All applications are due to be submitted and in receipt of a successful validation message in Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on June 10, 2015.

**Eligibility:** Eligible applicants are limited to degree-granting educational institutions in the United States. To be eligible, the institution must be fully accredited by one of the regional institutional accreditation agencies recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Historically Black Colleges and Universities are encouraged to consider applying.

**Contact Information:** For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contact Gerard F. Ramker, Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics by telephone at 202-307-0765, or by email at askbjs@usdoj.gov. Include "2015GRFPCJS" in the subject line.

# EDITOR'S CORNER

## Critical Criminology: The Spirit and The Journal

by

**David Kauzlarich**, Professor of Sociology, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville  
For submissions: <http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/criminology/journal/10612>

*Critical Criminology: An International Journal* is devoted to publishing progressive and radical scholarly work on crime, criminal and social justice, violence, and social harm. We aim to give voice to counter-hegemonic criminological perspectives and in the process develop alternative visions and analyses of crime, violence, and justice. The journal also prizes work that advances critical praxis and transpraxis in the areas of gender, race, class, sexual equality, and social transformation.

While the journal may have its roots in what was called "conflict" criminology – a somewhat outdated term which has historically been associated with early Marxist criminology – most articles in the journal reflect a range of classical and contemporary approaches including feminist, cultural, neo-Marxist, Marxist, green, postmodern, post-structural, convict, left realist, critical race, intersectionality, queer, or anarchist perspectives. Like the field of critical criminology itself (DeKeseredy, 2011), there is a tremendous amount of variation in the theoretical and methodological substance of the journal's articles. For example, in the last two years we have published articles ranging from intersectional and critical race-feminist approaches to crime and justice (Chesney-Lind & Morash, 2013; Potter, 2013) to environmental crime, green praxis, and justice (Rugierro and South, 2013; Maloney and Chambliss, 2014) to a large special issue on the compelling new area of queer criminology (Ball, Buist, & Woods, 2014).

Originally titled *The Journal of Human Justice*, the journal is formally attached to the American Society of Criminology's Division on Critical Criminology. The publication began as a labor of love over two decades ago by a very small group of Canadian and American critical criminologists who saw the need for a print forum to exchange radical criminological theory and research, as many journals at the time appeared to be completely uninterested or hostile to this form of criminology (I might add there is still some significant concern about this problem amongst various critical criminologists). Currently, the ASC and ACJS Divisions play a major role in developing and sustaining a community of international scholars interested in social inequality, power, and social justice and crime, whether that be in the areas of race, gender, class, sexuality, or other stratifying forces. The journal is in a way an extension of the spirit of these divisions and the scholars who compose them.

As I have previously noted, my own sense of critical criminology is that:

A relevant, spirited, and crucial critical criminology sees power, inequality, and oppression as fundamental elements of social structure, culture, and interaction. Stratification systems based on class, race, ethnicity, gender, age, geography, anthropocentrism, and sexual identities and orientations are obvious realms of critical criminological analysis, but so are inquiries into the crimes of powerful state and corporate organizations along with the material and ideological forces impacting the development and exercise of criminal justice, law, and social control. To these concerns we can add the importance of praxis to critical criminology, whether in the form of street protest, counter-hegemonic pedagogy, social media claims-making activities, or collaborating with non-academics in various social spaces toward social justice (Kauzlarich, 2013: 255).

While the journal is obviously interested in papers that are theoretically progressive or radical, this does not mean we do not value all forms of methodological approaches including quantitative, ethnographic, interview-based, content analysis, and historical-comparative research. The same is true when it comes to the types of crime analyzed. While some outside of critical criminology may think we are mostly concerned with the crimes of the powerful, such as the crimes of capitalists, state crime, and state-corporate crime, more pieces in the journal examine traditional street crimes.

Along with journals like *Social Justice, Humanity & Society, Contemporary Justice Review* and other progressive and radical social science outlets which regularly publish articles on crime, violence, and justice, we invite you to submit your critical work to the journal and become a part of the rich and vibrant community of critical criminology.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

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**Susan Bourke** (University of Cincinnati) Corrections; Undergraduate Retention; Teaching Effectiveness  
**Sandra Lee Browning** (University of Cincinnati) Race, Class, and Crime; Law and Social Control; Drugs and Crime  
**Nicholas Corsaro** (Michigan State University) Policing, Environmental Criminology, Research Methods  
**Francis T. Cullen** (Columbia University) Criminological Theory; Correctional Policy; White-Collar Crime  
**John E. Eck** (University of Maryland) Crime Prevention; Problem-Oriented Policing; Crime Pattern Formation  
**Robin S. Engel** (University at Albany, SUNY) Policing; Criminal Justice Theory; Criminal Justice Administration  
**Ben Feldmeyer** (Pennsylvania State University) Race/Ethnicity, Immigration, and Crime; Demography of Crime; Methods  
**Bonnie S. Fisher** (Northwestern University) Victimology/Sexual Victimization; Public Opinion; Methodology/Measurement  
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**Paula Smith** (University of New Brunswick) Correctional Interventions; Offender/Program Assessment; Meta-Analysis  
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**Patricia Van Voorhis** (University at Albany, SUNY; Emeritus) Correctional Rehabilitation and Classification; Psychological Theories of Crime; Women and Crime  
**Pamela Wilcox** (Duke University) Criminal Opportunity Theory; Schools, Communities, and Crime, Victimization/Fear of Crime  
**John D. Wooldredge** (University of Illinois) Institutional Corrections; Sentencing; Research Methods  
**John P. Wright** (University of Cincinnati) Life-Course Theories of Crime; Biosocial Criminology; Longitudinal Methods  
**Roger Wright** (Chase College of Law) Criminal Law and Procedure; Policing; Teaching Effectiveness

# AROUND THE ASC

## Call for Abstracts, DCS *Handbook on Corrections and Sentencing*, Volumes 1 and 2

ASC's Division on Corrections & Sentencing is sponsoring the *Handbook on Corrections and Sentencing*, a series of volumes on seminal and topical issues that span the fields of sentencing and corrections. The *Handbook* is being published by Routledge Press. Each volume will include critical essays, reviews, and reports of original research to provide a comprehensive assessment of the current state of knowledge, contribute to public policy discussions, and identify future research directions. Each volume will be thematic and focused on a single topical issue that cross-cuts corrections and sentencing research. The contents will be eclectic in regard to disciplinary foci, theoretical frameworks and perspectives, and research methodologies. The Division is currently soliciting articles for the first two volumes in the series: *Risk and Need Assessment: Theory and Practice* and *Punishment Decisions: Sites of Disparity*.

**We invite abstracts for Volume 1, *Risk and Need Assessment: Theory and Practice* being edited by Faye Taxman that will be published in late 2015.** We have received abstracts from 15 excellent committed contributors but can use about 5 more. Although we will consider contributions in all topic areas, we are especially interested in contributions that focus on several specific topics: gender and/or cultural responsive instruments, criminal history versus criminal offenses, scoring of instruments, implications of using one instrument at all decision points, differences among risk instruments for individuals of various legal statuses, use of risk assessment tools at sentencing, use of risk assessment tools for prosecutorial decisions, or racial disparity. Please submit abstracts and inquiries to Faye S. Taxman at [ftaxman@gmu.edu](mailto:ftaxman@gmu.edu) by May 30, 2015. Completed papers will be expected by September for publication in late 2015.

**We invite abstracts for Volume 2, *Punishment Decisions: Sites of Disparity* being edited by Jeffery Ulmer and Mindy Bradley.** This volume will define disparity broadly to include the intersection of race/ethnicity, gender, age, citizenship/immigration status, and socioeconomic status. The volume will examine dimensions such as how the pretrial or guilty plea processes shape exposure to punishment, how different types of sentencing decisions and/or policy structures (sentencing guidelines, mandatory minimums, risk assessment tools) might shape and condition disparity, or how post-sentencing decisions involving probation and parole contribute to inequalities. We seek pieces that pull together what we know and what we don't and, most of all, contributions that will plow new ground for future advances. We invite theoretical papers as well as quantitative and qualitative empirical inquiries that move the field forward. We desire papers that demonstrate new concepts and propositions, novel sources of quantitative or qualitative data, or cutting-edge analytical techniques. Please submit abstracts and inquiries to Jeffery Ulmer at [jtu100@psu.edu](mailto:jtu100@psu.edu) by September 1, 2015. Authors whose abstracts meet the above described standards will be invited to submit a full manuscript for external review and possible inclusion in the *Handbook*. The volume will be published in late 2016.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2016 ELECTION SLATE OF 2017 - 2018 OFFICERS

The ASC Nominations Committee is seeking nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President and Executive Counselor. Nominees must be current members of the ASC, and members in good standing for the year prior to the nomination. Send the names of nominees, position for which they are being nominated, and, if possible, a current C.V. to the Chair of the Nominations Committee at the address below (preferably via email). Nominations must be received by **August 1, 2015** to be considered by the Committee.

Steve Messner  
University at Albany, SUNY  
Department of Sociology  
1400 Washington Ave  
Albany, NY 12222-0100  
518-442-4674 (Ph)  
[smessner@albany.edu](mailto:smessner@albany.edu)

## DIVISION OF EXPERIMENTAL CRIMINOLOGY AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

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### DIVISION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2015

The Division of Experimental Criminology (DEC) seeks to promote and improve the use of experimental evidence and methods in the advancement of criminological theory and evidence-based crime policy. We welcome members with a broad range of interests in evaluation research methods, including **randomized controlled trials, quasi-experiments, and systematic reviews**, in all areas of crime and justice: **corrections, courts, policing, prevention and more!** Membership includes a subscription to the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*. Learn more at <http://expcrim.org>. The Division is also home to the Academy of Experimental Criminology, which honors outstanding scholars who have advanced experimental research.



To renew or begin your 2015 membership to the ASC and the Division of Experimental Criminology, download the ASC membership form at <http://www.asc41.com/appform1.html> or scan the code on the left.

Did you know we also offer **organizational memberships**? Show your department's, center's, or institution's commitment to experimental criminology by becoming a **gold, silver, or bronze** organizational member, starting at only \$250 per year. Contact us at [expcrim@gmail.com](mailto:expcrim@gmail.com) for details.

### DEC & AEC AT ASC-WASHINGTON D.C. 2015

DEC and AEC look forward to welcoming you to Washington D.C. in November! Join us for an exciting program of events, including our Division Luncheon (free for current members!), annual Joan McCord lecture, and DEC/AEC awards ceremony. Events are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday. Stay tuned for more information! Please contact us at [expcrim@gmail.com](mailto:expcrim@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping out on the DEC exhibit table.



### HELP US BUILD OUR EXPERIMENTAL CRIMINOLOGY COMMUNITY!

The DEC is building a web page listing all the experiments in criminology that our members have been involved in to help others connect and collaborate with researchers in their area. If you're not a current member but have been involved in an experiment we'd love to hear from you too! Contact us at [expcrim@gmail.com](mailto:expcrim@gmail.com) for information on how to get involved.

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## The Division of Policing

<http://ascpolicing.org>

The Division of Policing seeks to advance theory, knowledge, and practice in policing through rigorous research and evaluation. The Division is committed to advancing the science of policing, testing innovation in the field, and promoting excellence in practice through translational activities.

We invite ASC members to join the Division of Policing in 2015 for just \$15. Our Division is creating a new dialogue among policing scholars, practitioners, policy makers, community leaders, and students of policing, and we want you to be a part of it.

Visit [ascpolicing.org](http://ascpolicing.org) for more information on membership, Division activities, Division committee work, and our plans for ASC 2015.

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## AROUND THE ASC

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### Call for Nominations- 2015 DWC Awards

Nominations are requested for the following Division on Women and Crime awards:

**Distinguished Scholar Award** which recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of women and crime by an established scholar. The contributions may consist of a single outstanding book or work, a series of theoretical or research contributions, or the accumulated contributions of an established scholar. Eligibility includes scholars who have held a Ph.D. for eight or more years.

**New Scholar Award** which recognizes the achievements of scholars who show outstanding merit at the beginnings of their careers. Outstanding merit may be based on a single book or work, including dissertation or a series of theoretical or research contributions to the area of women and crime. Eligibility includes scholars who held a Ph.D. for less than eight years.

**Lifetime Achievement Award** which recognizes scholars upon retirement. We inaugurated this award on our 20th Anniversary, 2004. Scholars receiving this award should have an established career advancing the goals and work of the Division on Women and Crime.

**CoraMae Richey Mann "Inconvenient Woman of the Year" Award** recognizes the scholar/activist who has participated in publicly promoting the ideals of gender equality and women's rights throughout society, particularly as it relates to gender and crime issues. This award will be granted on an *ad hoc* basis. Nominations should include specific documentation of public service (news articles, etc) and should describe in detail how this person's activism has raised awareness and interest in the issues that concern the Division on Women and Crime. This award was inaugurated in honor of our 20th Anniversary in 2004.

#### **Saltzman Award for Contributions to Practice**

The Saltzman Award for Contributions to Practice recognizes a criminologist whose professional accomplishments have increased the quality of justice and the level of safety for women. The Saltzman Award need not be given every year. It is available to honor unique achievements combining scholarship, persuasion, activism and commitment, particularly work that has made a deep impact on the quality of justice for women, as well as a wide impact (interdisciplinary, international, or cross-cultural).

#### **Graduate Scholar Award**

The Graduate Scholar Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of graduate students to the field women and crime, both in their published work and their service to the Division of Women & Crime. Outstanding contributions may include single or multiple published works that compliment the mission of the DWC, and significant work within the Division, including serving as committee members, committee chairs, or executive board members. Preference will be given to those candidates who have provided exceptional service to the DWC. Eligibility includes scholars who are still enrolled in an M.A. or Ph.D. program at the time of their nomination.

#### **Sarah Hall Award**

The Sarah Hall Award (established in 2012) recognizes outstanding service contributions to the Division on Women and Crime of the American Society of Criminology and to professional interests regarding feminist criminology. Service may include mentoring, serving as an officer of the Division on Women and Crime, committee work for the ASC, DWC, or other related group, and/or serving as editor or editorial board member of journals and books or book series devoted to research on women and crime. The award is named after Sarah Hall, administrator of the American Society of Criminology for over 30 years, whose tireless service helped countless students and scholars in their careers.

#### **Submission Information**

The nominees are evaluated by the awards committee based on their scholarly work, their commitment to women crime as a research discipline, and their commitment to women in crime as advocates, particularly in terms of dedication to the Division on Women and Crime. In submitting your nomination, please provide the following supporting materials: a letter identifying the award for which you are nominating the individual and evaluating a nominee's contribution and its relevance to the award, the nominee's c.v. (short version preferred). No nominee will be considered unless these materials are provided and arrive by the deadline. The committee reserves the right to give no award in a particular year if it deems this appropriate.

Send nominations and supporting materials by **Friday, October 9, 2015** to:

Ashley Wiegand  
awiegan1@emich.edu

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**AROUND THE ASC**

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**The Division of International Criminology (DIC)  
Opens Nominations for 2015 Awards  
For Distinguished Scholar, Book, and Student Papers**

The DIC is pleased to offer a variety of ways to encourage scholarship on international and comparative crime and justice. These methods include competitive monetary awards for outstanding graduate student papers, and recognition of outstanding books and distinguished individuals who have contributed to the body of knowledge in the field.

**Sesha Kethineni, Chair**  
ASC Division of International Criminology  
[www.internationalcriminology.com](http://www.internationalcriminology.com)

**Freda Adler Distinguished Scholar Award**

The Division of International Criminology (DIC) of the American Society of Criminology is currently soliciting nominations for the Freda Adler Distinguished Scholar Award. This prize is awarded annually to an international scholar, who has made a significant contribution to international criminology, including international criminal justice, comparative, cross-border and transnational crime or justice research. Nomination requires a letter of nomination and a complete CV to be sent electronically to the Adler Award Committee chair, **Dr. Patricia Brantingham**. She can be contacted at: [pbrantin@sfu.ca](mailto:pbrantin@sfu.ca). The nomination letter must explain why the candidate is qualified to be considered for the award. Letter-writing campaigns by multiple nominators are discouraged. Self-nominations are also discouraged. Current DIC Executive Board members are excluded from being considered for the Award. **The deadline for nominations is July 31, 2015.** The award will be presented at the annual meeting in November, 2015 in Washington, D.C.

**2015 Outstanding Student Paper Awards**

The Division of International Criminology conducts a student paper competition each year. This year we are accepting submissions from students enrolled in Master's and doctoral programs, studying subjects related to international crime and justice. The paper topics must be related to international or comparative criminology or criminal justice.

Submissions must be authored by the submitting student (only) and should not be submitted if student will have graduated by the November ASC annual conference. Co-authorships with professors are not accepted. Papers must be previously unpublished and cannot be submitted to any other competition or made public in any other way until the committee reaches its decision. Manuscripts should include a 100-word abstract, be double-spaced (12-point Times New Roman or Courier font), written in English, and should be no more than 7500 words in length. Submissions should conform to APA format for the organization of text, citations and references. Eligible students worldwide are strongly encouraged to submit papers in English only.

Manuscripts must be submitted as an e-mail attachment in Word or as a .pdf or .rtf file only. Submissions should be accompanied by a cover sheet which includes the author's name, department, university and location, contact information (including e-mail address) and whether the author is a Master's or doctoral student, and the precise name of the degree program in which the student is enrolled. Winning submissions in each category will receive a monetary award and be recognized at the meeting of the American Society of Criminology in November. Nominations should be sent to the DIC Student Paper Award committee chair, **Dr. Camille Gibson** no later than **June 1, 2015**. She can be contacted at: [cbgibson@pvamu.edu](mailto:cbgibson@pvamu.edu). The awards will be presented at the annual meeting in November, 2015 in Washington, D.C.

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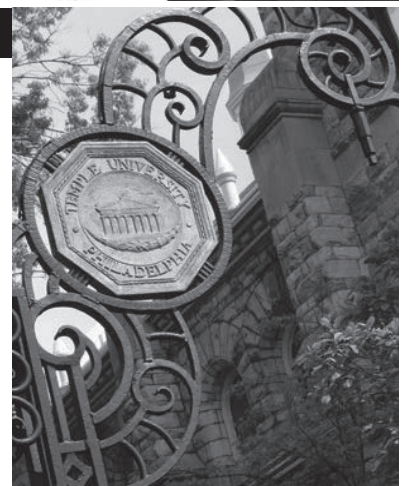
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- Jerry Ratcliffe** (Nottingham) policing, criminal intelligence, crime science, spatial criminology
- Aunshul Rege** (Rutgers) cybercrime, terrorism, organized crime, corporate crime
- Caterina Roman** (American) violence, social network analysis, built environment, gangs, reentry
- Cathy Rosen** (Temple) criminal law & procedure, legal history, women & the law
- Ralph Taylor** (Johns Hopkins) community criminology; police/community interface; evaluation
- LaTosha Traylor** (Illinois) prisoner reintegration, social justice, family & incarceration
- Nicole Van Cleve** (Northwestern) courts, the racialization of criminal justice, ethnography
- E. Rely Vilcicã** (Temple) courts, corrections, comparative criminal justice
- Wayne Welsh** (UC Irvine) violence, corrections, substance abuse, organizational theory
- Jennifer Wood** (Toronto) policing & security, regulation, public health law



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# POLICY CORNER

## Funding, Bills, A Task Force and Summit

by

Laura Dugan, ASC National Policy Committee Chair

### *The Latest in Washington:*

The following report comes from Thomas Culligan of the Brimley Group, the policy team hired by the Crime & Justice Research Alliance (CJRA).

- Following the Congressional Recess, focus will be on the annual Appropriations process in the House and Senate. We anticipate that the House Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) Appropriations bill—which funds the Justice Department, federal law enforcement and the Bureau of Prisons—will be “marked up” in committee by late April or early-mid May, with floor action sometime following the Memorial Day recess. The Senate CJS bill typically follows the House bill by a few weeks. We will be watching to see how Justice grant programs and research funding fares, particularly given some challenge budget allocations in the House and Senate budget resolutions, which increased Defense spending at the expense of Non-Defense discretionary programs (which includes DOJ).
- On the authorization side, a number of bills previously introduced in the 113th Congress addressing sentencing and other criminal justice reforms have been introduced to the 114th Congress over the last two months leading up to this recess. We anticipate that several more bipartisan bills will be introduced following the April recess and then the House and Senate Judiciary committees will weigh what is politically feasible to advance in the summer timeframe.
- Earlier this month, the Charles Coslon Task Force on Federal Corrections held its second public meeting on Capitol Hill. This Congressionally-directed task force is being supported by the Urban Institute and has brought together former Rep. JC Watts, former Rep. Alan Mollohan, former U.S. Attorney David Iglesias, Prison Fellowship CEO Jim Liske, former GA Rep. Jay Neal, former Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson, Clemency Project manager Cynthia Roseberry, Judge Ricardo Urbina and PA Secretary of Corrections John Wentzel. The Task Force met in the U.S. Capitol and heard testimony from a number of witnesses who shared their experiences serving and working in the federal prison system.

You can learn more about it here: <http://www.colsontaskforce.org/>.

- Also of note in Washington was the so-called “Bipartisan Summit on Criminal Justice Reform” which was held on March 26 and sponsored by Van Jones, Newt Gingrich, Donna Brazile and Pat Nolan. D.C. Presenting Sponsors were the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Gingrich Productions, #Cut50, Dream Corps and Serving California, as well as event program sponsors ACLU and Koch Industries. FAMM, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Coalition for Public Safety, Gen Opp Institute and the Charles Koch Institute were also event sponsors.

The summit was ultimately the result of collaboration between Newt Gingrich and Van Jones (both former co-hosts of the CNN’s Crossfire). It was designed to showcase the already strong bipartisan consensus on the need for federal criminal justice reform and drew policymakers from the Congress, the administration and the states as well as researchers, practitioners and advocates of all persuasions to attend this full-day event. Featured speakers included Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary of Labor Tom Perez, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal, Piper Kerman, Mark Holden, multiple Senators and Congressmen, and video remarks from President Obama, Texas Governor Rick Perry, Utah Senator Mike Lee and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte.

You can learn more about it here: <http://www.bipartisansummit.org/>.

## POLICY CORNER

*2015 ASC Policy Panels Update*

Thank you all for responding to my request for policy panels for the 2015 Annual Meeting in Washington DC. The following panels were selected as Policy Panels. Each includes a mixture of researchers and policy experts or practitioners. The sessions should be lively!

<b>Session Title</b>
Advancing Evidence-Based Sex Offender Management: Policy and Research Perspectives
Bail & Pretrial Justice: Action Research and Evidence-Based Policy in the Pretrial Arena—The Pendulum Swings?
Combating Product Counterfeiting: Field-Identified Challenges and the Role of Research
Criminal Justice Debt: Causes, Costs, & Consequences
Criminology and Police Reform: The Presidential Task Force on 21st Century Policing
Ensuring Victim's Legal Rights Across the Criminal, Civil, and Administrative Spectrum: A discussion of practice, policy and research
Existing and Proposed Policies to Address Gender-Based Violence on College Campuses
Feminist Perspectives on Mass Incarceration: Gendered Pathways and Contemporary Prison Policy
Global Gender Justice Challenges and Gender-Responsive Policies
Homelessness, Trauma and Recovery: Housing Policy, Help and Hope
How Academic Terrorism and Counterterrorism Research can Better Support the Intelligence Community
Improving the Criminal Justice System Response to Sexual Assault: Recent Research and Next Steps for Assuring Justice
Law enforcement use of emerging technologies: Intended and unintended outcomes and the importance of agency policies
Learning After Ferguson: Policing in the Wake of a High Profile Officer-Involved Shooting
Linking Research, Policy and Practice: The Impact of Immigration Policy
Measuring Juvenile Recidivism
Participatory Policing: Three Case Studies of an Emerging Model of Municipal Governance
Policy Discussion on Veterans and Veterans Treatment Courts
Research and Policy: Countering Violent Extremism at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
School Violence and Safety Policies: Alleviating Problems or Creating New Ones?
Technology Planning in Criminal Justice
The Imperative to Expand Release Options for Men and Women with "Life" and Other Long Prison Sentences
Understanding the Context of Incarcerated Women's Lives and Utilizing a Pathways Approach to Inform Policy and Interventions for Incarcerated Women



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**Beth M. Huebner**, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri-St. Louis



Anatomy of an Oxford Bibliographies Article

The screenshot shows the Oxford Bibliographies article page for 'Islamic Criminal Law' by Chelsea S. Warren. Six numbered callouts highlight specific features:

- 1. Headings** concisely identify the types of resources and key areas of scholarship (e.g., Introduction, General Overview).
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# DOCTORAL STUDENT FORUM

## The Advantages and Disadvantages of Original Data Collection for Criminology and Criminal Justice Doctoral Students

by

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### INTRODUCTION

Drawing on years of cumulated experience in academia, Cullen and Vose (2014) identified ten lessons for prioritizing and utilizing doctoral education. Among many lessons, the article encourages students to take advantage of the time to seek training and establish professional research identities (Cullen and Vose 2014). Additionally, recent articles (Cullen 2011; Hepburn 2013) have stirred debate among criminal justice educators as to what pedagogies regarding research methodologies merit attention. To date, however, the field has not had a formal discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of one crucial research decision made in graduate school: whether to engage in original data collection.

The decision to collect original data potentially has major implications for doctoral students' time use, research trajectories, and employment opportunities. After all, the trajectories of criminological "stars" can be tracked using scholarship in academic journals as a barometer of success (Rice, Cohn, and Farrington 2005). Publication frequency in elite journals, however, requires a quick turn-around time from development of an idea to publication. Consequently, students who have devoted significant time to data collection may be at a disadvantage when on the job market and applying to universities that show preference to a competitive publication record. Conversely, students who collect original data may be better positioned to convince potential employers of the ability to independently ask and answer original research questions; they may also showcase a deeper understanding of research methods and may be perceived as engaging in translational criminology and as closing the gap between academic-practitioner relations. In the following sections, we address issues such as these in a formal discussion of advantages and disadvantages of original data collection for criminology and criminal justice doctoral students.

### ADVANTAGES

#### *Hands-On Experience*

Involvement in original data collection provides doctoral students with a first-hand perspective of research design. Doctoral students take core classes that cover an omnibus range of research methodologies (Kleck, Tark, and Bellows 2006). Since these courses superficially touch on many quantitative methods, research designs, and strategies, doctoral students cannot learn about all the nuances of designing and implementing a study from beginning to end unless they specifically seek out classes relevant to their field of study. By working on original data collection projects, graduate students learn first-hand about sampling, design, methodological strategies, attrition, and accessing participants. Students can also ask professors and principal investigators questions throughout the process, which also provides further insight. Certainly, these questions include a broad range of topics that would not have been inspired while sitting in a classroom.

#### *Advancing the State of Knowledge*

Primary data collection provides doctoral students with the skills necessary to move the field of criminology forward. The current state of the field emphasizes use of secondary data analysis and self-report surveys for testing theories and finding relationships, limiting the field's ability to uncover underlying processes or to tap into constructs not easily measured in this way (Cullen 2011). In order to advance the state of knowledge, young scholars must ask questions and talk to people involved in crime events or the criminal justice system to test theories, understand construct measurement, and explore the complexities of social context (Cullen 2011; Hepburn, 2013). Participating in such projects inspires doctoral students to ask original questions of their choosing, operationalize theoretical concepts in different ways, and provide an evidence-base for criminological practices and policies in, perhaps, better ways. Relying on secondary data with respect to educating doctoral students provides its own limitations. For example, the use of secondary data eliminates the need for students to consider important measurement issues, as well as the opportunity to build skills in designing survey instruments.



## DOCTORAL STUDENT FORUM

### *Pursuing Evidence-Based Criminology*

Involvement in data collection provides students with a basis for advancing evidence-based practices and policies. Learning how to “get dirty” in the natural setting of those studied, whether through talking with offenders, gang members, or correctional officers, creates learning experiences for graduate students and furthers their working knowledge of the criminal justice system, its services, and its personnel (Hepburn 2013). This can help bridge the gap between researcher and practitioners, which in turn, can better inform policy and evidence-based practices. By understanding the complexities and intricacies of the criminal justice system and those that either work in or are served by it, doctoral students can further enrich their fervor for criminological research. Furthermore, doctoral students learn how to access and collaborate with these populations; a skill that is not taught in a classroom. Skill sets such as these are only possible for doctoral students through an imitation of their mentors, repeated interactions within a research team, and other daily activities that teach them to lead effectively in future studies.

### DISADVANTAGES

#### *Time*

Primary data collection is a time-intensive commitment. A doctoral student's life is governed by time. Students must complete coursework, pass comprehensive exams, and defend their dissertations in order to graduate, while holding research assistantships that require a stipulated amount of hourly work. They are also encouraged to teach courses, publish manuscripts, and collaborate on research projects to supplement their qualifications. Any scholar collecting original data, especially for projects that require the use of human subjects, quickly learns that such ventures are time consuming and frequently unpredictable. In addition, issues related to gaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, sampling, attrition, funding, and other unanticipated events might extend project deadlines, perhaps for years. Alternatively, researchers can acquire and analyze an existing data set with minimal cost (Hyman 1972; Laub Sampson, and Kiger 1990). Students that have the time and motivation to collect data may find that they do not have the necessary funding. As such, original data collection may not be the preferred methodology for a doctoral student with limited time and available monetary resources.

#### *Research Potential*

Findings from original data collection are limited in their scope of contribution. Oftentimes, researchers choose to collect original data because the information necessary to examine a specific research inquiry either does not exist or is not readily available (Laub et al. 1990). Many questions, however, are not immediately answerable unless one uses existing data. For example, doctoral students interested in life course criminology will not see their research efforts come to fruition for decades if they opt to collect their own longitudinal data. Additionally, establishing confidence in findings of a particular topic will be delayed until the appropriate data is available to analyze. Secondary analyses allow for the same question to be tested across samples and/or periods of time to increase generalizability of concepts (Laub et al. 1990). Some argue that secondary data is a “figurative mountain of gold” (Hyman 1972: 2) containing “unlimited potential” and knowledge (Laub et al. 1990: 254). The National Institute of Justice publically encourages the continued use of existing data, beyond the scope of original projects (Laub et al. 1990).

#### *Marketability*

Allocating large amounts of effort and time to original data collection projects detracts from participation in other activities. For many doctoral students, the time spent working towards a Ph.D. is dedicated to gaining education and experience, assembling a research-oriented skill set, and enhancing personal qualifications in preparation for a tenure-track faculty position. Within a delimited time frame, a student has a wealth of resources available to them, including faculty mentors, coursework in a variety of topics, and opportunities to collaborate on research. The student's job is to capitalize on these resources by maintaining productivity throughout their time in the program. Although participation in original data collection can provide students with opportunities for publication and marketable experience, data collection neither guarantees nor is required for these outcomes. Further, skills gained through secondary data analysis allow students to become familiar with existing data sets, learn various methodological techniques, and become aware of the importance of replicating and/or building upon past research to create new knowledge.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For the sake of brevity, the authors cannot discuss all possible advantages and disadvantages of original data collection in this essay. Another possible advantage, though, is that the student will have the opportunity to begin their career with an original dataset, giving them the opportunity to publish a number of articles prior to review for tenure. For some individuals, this would allow them to focus on publishing research early in their careers, rather than spending additional time acquiring data. Additionally, secondary datasets are usually not specific to the researcher's interests. Having control over one's data, and the ideas in that data, allow the researcher the potential to expand and draw on different aspects of that research at a later time (maximizing the time spent on data collection). Additional disadvantages include the cost considerations of data collection. The student's funding status, compounded with other monetary factors (the push to present at various conferences, tuition, etc.), may make original data collection infeasible.

## DOCTORAL STUDENT FORUM

### CONCLUSIONS

Both primary and secondary data analyses require creativity, insight, and diligence. Producing a new finding or revolutionary research question from a secondary data source can be as impressive as answering a question from a newly created dataset, and does not necessarily have to be an either/or situation for students. It is evident that both types of research are necessary and can contribute to the field. As John Hepburn has stated, "...collecting original data is the lifeblood activity of the discipline" (2013: 4), but so is the secondary analysis of that data. The best way to prepare future criminological scholars, then, may be to contextualize the settings under which original data collection would be more beneficial. Thus, when considering the costs and benefits of original data collection, we recommend that students articulate their professional goals, and then consider advice from mentors and fellow students when weighing the various opportunities that are available to them in their graduate program for attaining those goals.

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Submissions for future "Doctoral Student Forum" columns are encouraged.

Please contact Jonathan Brauer: [jbrauer@unomaha.edu](mailto:jbrauer@unomaha.edu) (Chair of the Student Affairs Committee)

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### Violence Research and Prevention Information Sharing at West Virginia University

Since its birth on April 2014, the Research Center on Violence at West Virginia University (WVU) has been actively involved in building partnerships with scholars, practitioners, and activists around the world. Based in WVU's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, one of the Center's main goals is to electronically circulate information about colleagues' organizations, research, policy work, and events relevant to the study and prevention of violence. To meet this objective, the Center has created a web site (<http://violenceresearch.wvu.edu/>), a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/violenceresearch.WVU>), and a Twitter page (<https://twitter.com/RCVat WVU>). Please feel free to send me or Dr. Amanda Hall-Sanchez any news or announcements you think would be useful to enhance a rich social scientific understanding of one of the world's most compelling problems. Note, however, that we will screen materials sent to us to ensure that they are appropriate and relevant to the field. As well, please take a moment to visit our social media sites and check out what we have disseminated thus far.

For more information, please contact Dr. Walter S. DeKeseredy, Director of the Research Center on Violence at West Virginia University, [walter.dekeseredy@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:walter.dekeseredy@mail.wvu.edu) and Dr. Amanda Hall-Sanchez, West Virginia University, [aksanchez@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:aksanchez@mail.wvu.edu).

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# TEACHING TIPS

## Using Literature to Develop Empathy and Reflective Judgment in Criminal Justice Students

by

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### Why Empathy and Reflective Judgment?

It is essential that criminal justice students understand the nuts and bolts of the criminal justice system. Yet, it is also crucial that students, as future professionals, are able to appreciate the humanity of criminals and victims and the complexity of the system. Teaching the nuts and bolts of the criminal justice system is the easier task. There are textbooks and scholarly articles to accomplish that goal. It is more difficult to teach students about why someone commits a crime, how they are feeling when they engage in that action, or how it feels to be victimized. Engel (2003) writes, "If we want our students to be aware of how the criminal justice system affects the individuals who come into contact with it, then we must foster in them the ability to consider things from the other's point of view" (pg. 345). This need for students to have empathy, to be humanistic, is an essential component of a liberal arts education, of which criminal justice is a part.

The ability to be empathic also fosters the development of practical wisdom or reflective judgment skills in students. Reflective judgment is the ability to be thoughtful and comprehensive while making decisions based on the best evidence available. This is an essential skill for criminal justice students. They should appreciate the complex relationship between crime and victimization, and that justice is dynamic and entangled. The use of literature (novels) and/or memoirs has been identified in past research as a method by which criminal justice students can develop these skills. The use of this type of text in an academic classroom may be viewed by some as misleading, as peer reviewed scholarly research that yields quantified results is more useful for drawing conclusions and drafting policy and programs. The anecdotal story, fictional to make it worst, is simply one person's experience. However, I suggest that this is the whole point of using novels in the criminal justice classroom.

Using a novel or memoir in a classroom, in addition to traditional course materials (textbooks, scholarly articles, and reports) allows for looking at an issue at a personal level. Something that is often lost in many criminal justice classrooms as we focus on "the system". Pairing the text with reflective essays and class discussion enhances the academic rigor of the assignment and the impact of the novel on the student's development of empathy and reflective judgment. Nussbaum (1995) refers to this process as public reasoning via novel reading. She writes "...the reasoning involved is not only context-specific but also, when well done, comparative, evolving in conversation with other readers whose perceptions challenge or supplement one's own" (Nussbaum, 1995: 9). Similarly, Ferguson and Musheno (2000) tout storing telling in criminal justice classes as a way to promote "discursive democracy," which they define as "...creating a space and tools for citizens to reason about the right thing to do" (pg. 150).

### Dead Man Walking and Forgiving the Dead Man

The use of literature to develop empathy and reflective judgment in criminal justice students was experimented with by using the memoir "Dead Man Walking" by Sister Helen Prejean in a death penalty seminar. And by using the memoir "Forgiving the Dead Man Walking" by Debbie Morris in a victims of crime course. Both of these memoirs were utilized as supplemental materials in these upper division undergraduate courses. The main course materials consisted of both traditional textbooks and scholarly articles. These memoirs were utilized for the sole purpose of addressing the theme of "victimization" and helping students connect to victims. The students were required to write a reflective essay in which they answered a series of questions about the reading. The students in the death penalty seminar course answered two questions: 1) What new understanding about the experiences and needs of murder victim's families did you gain from reading the book? 2.) What new understanding about the experiences and needs of the families of the person on death row did you gain from reading this book? The students in the victims course answered three questions: 1.) What did you learn about how the criminal justice system treats victim and how important they are in the criminal justice process? 2.) What did you learn about the stigma of sexual assault?, 3.) What did you learn about forgiveness and punishment/justice?

### Reflections on the Needs of Victims

The students viewed the needs of crime victims in three dimensions as opposed to just a checklist on a victim services flyer. The students referenced the cost of victimization. This included the physical, emotional, and financial cost of being the primary or

## TEACHING TIPS

secondary victim of a crime. Also, the students expressed a realization that once the criminal justice journey is finished the healing process for many crime victims is just beginning. Further, the students identified the criminal justice system as contributing to the consequences of criminal victimization. They cited in their essays examples from the books in which the victims of crime were forgotten or questioned by the criminal justice system, as well as the general public.

Another theme evident in the reflective essays written by students in both courses concerns the search for justice and the role of forgiveness for victims. Some students commented on the different meanings and perspectives of justice for individual victims. They also commented on the importance of forgiveness for some victims, as part of the healing process for those individuals. Further, the students recognized that the dynamics of crime, victimization, and the criminal justice process is not simple because it involves human beings, whose thoughts and emotions are extremely complicated. Finally, students expressed a more focused awareness of the special needs of sexual assault victims. These victims frequently deal with unique believability issues, public scorn, humiliation, and physical and emotional trauma that many victims of other types of crime do not experience.

### Conclusion

Most criminal justice students have no experience with crime, victimization, criminals or the criminal justice process; therefore, it can be difficult for them to see the world through the eyes of those who have had experience with the criminal justice system. It is important that criminal justice students engage in some type of experiential learning to formulate the ability to be reflective and to be empathic. While this was a small and limited experiment, the outcomes indicate that the students did make advancements in their ability to be empathic and in their ability to be reflective in judgments about issues of crime, victimization, and justice. This was further apparent as the views of these students were noticeably more complex about issues of victimization both as evident in their reflections, but also in their interactions/responses in subsequent criminal justice courses.

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## Assistant Professor Positions School of Criminology and Justice Studies

The School of Criminology and Justice Studies at the University of Massachusetts Lowell is seeking applications for up to 2 positions at the assistant professor level. The appointment is expected to begin at the start of the Fall, 2016 semester, although the start date is negotiable.

The School of Criminology & Justice Studies is among the largest and most robust units of the University. The School enrolls over 1,200 students across its various academic programs, which include a Bachelor's degree, two Master's degrees, a Ph.D. degree, and graduate-level certificates in six specialized areas. The School features an interdisciplinary cadre of 19 full time faculty, with expertise in a wide range of criminology and criminal justice domains and a collective track record of extensive research productivity. Faculty research is currently supported by several million dollars in external grants from the National Institute of Justice, the Department of Defense, and other major funding agencies, and the School is home to four top academic journals.

Successful candidates will have a record of peer-reviewed publications, a clearly articulated research agenda, and demonstrated long-term capacity to produce high-quality scholarship and generate research funding. Research specialization is open, although the School is particularly interested in expanding its capacity in the areas of general and sexual violence, victims of crime, courts and sentencing, and the nexus of crime and mental health and/or substance abuse. Candidates must be able to teach core Criminology and Justice Studies courses at both the undergraduate and graduate (master's and doctorate) levels.

A Ph.D. degree in Criminology, Criminal Justice, or a closely related social science field is required. A Juris Doctorate (JD) degree is not sufficient. Current ABD candidates are encouraged to apply, although the Ph.D. degree must be in hand by appointment date. Recommendation letters for ABD candidates should specifically address when the candidate is expected to defend his or her dissertation.

*The School is committed to increasing the gender and racial/ethnic diversity of its faculty to match that of our student body. Candidates who can contribute to that goal are strongly encouraged to apply, and should identify in their cover letter how their personal and professional experiences can help us achieve this goal.*

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Review of applications will begin on September 10, 2015, and will continue until the position is filled.

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# CRIMINOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

*If you have news, views, reviews, or announcements relating to international or comparative criminology, please send it here! We appreciate brevity (always under 1,000 words), and welcome your input and feedback. – Jay Albanese jsalbane@vcu.edu*

## **Violence Against Women and Police Reform: Notes and Reflections From a Symposium in India**

by

**Farrukh Hakeem**, Shaw University  
**Manish Madan**, Richard Stockton State College of New Jersey  
**Mahesh Nalla**, Michigan State University  
**Hanif Qureshi**, University of Cincinnati  
**N. Prabha Unnithan**, Colorado State University  
**Arvind Verma**, Indiana University

The six of us are criminologists who have antecedents in India and who, as can be seen by our affiliations, work in American higher education. Over the past two decades, we have organized and participated in many panels on crime and criminal justice in India at various Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) and American Society of Criminology (ASC) Conferences. These panels and presentations resulted in many collaborative publications (see, for example, Unnithan, 2013). From a comparative perspective, both countries have much in common. However, we have also perceived a vague sense of inadequacy and incompleteness in our efforts. As a group, on numerous occasions, we confronted the question: What are we doing in concrete terms to use our social scientific training to assist the development of criminology and criminal justice in the country we continued to remember, travel to, and write about? After numerous lengthy conversations at both ASC and ACJS meetings over the past few years, we decided on the following endeavor.

### ***The Symposium***

At the initiative of one of us (Verma), our thoughts and plans crystalized into a symposium held in Gurgaon, India, in August 2014, to discuss two issues: violence against women and police reform. Both these topics had figured prominently in the recent past in India's many uninhibited and often sensationalistic media outlets. Specific cases of gender-related violence included numerous reports on the notorious "bus gang rape" in November 2012 in New Delhi (Harris, 2013a). This was coupled with perennial coverage of many instances of police brutality (Neemuchwala, 2014) and corruption along with the criminal justice system's non-responsiveness to violence against women (Harris, 2013b)



The symposium was hosted by Indiana University's (IU) Gateway India office; it was co-sponsored by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI, a New Delhi-based non-governmental organization) and the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University. Since there were vast differences in the backgrounds and perspectives of the attendees, planning such an event was fraught with many challenges; logistical, political and cultural. Logistically, bringing together around sixty busy professionals (including the six of us from the United States) a cross-section of high-ranking police officials, academics, human rights activists,

## CRIMINOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

representatives from the private sector, bureaucrats and concerned citizens drawn from various parts of India, along with their “care and feeding” was an overwhelming challenge eased somewhat by the professionalism of IU’s Gateway office staff. Politically, given the controversial nature of the topics we were going to be discussing and the variance in views among the participants (activists versus academics versus bureaucrats) we expected discussions to get argumentative and heated, if not caustic. Finally, our own cultural duality which included easy familiarity with Indian society and traditions coupled with time, distance and experiences apart from it was also a source of concern.

On the first day, we addressed the issue of violence against women in India. This was highlighted first, by presentations from Ranjana Kumari, Director of the Center for Social Research in New Delhi and Maja Daruwala, Director of CHRI, both prominent human rights activists. The former reflected with dismay that in a democratic society such as India, half the population was not being permitted to participate as equals. Daruwala lamented the fact that Indian women continued to be faced with violence and deliberate discrimination in many areas of Indian society. Second, a paper from two of us, Madan and Nalla, on rural-urban differences in women’s empowerment and its relationship to domestic violence, underlined the conference-related themes of this problem and how preventive measures and helpful responses could be sought. Spirited discussion followed each of these presentations. Female participants, especially those from the police, noted that with only around 5% of police officers in India being women, much needs to be done to improve the situation even for personnel within the criminal justice system.

The second day was devoted to police reform. We heard from Prakash Singh, a former high-ranking police official, who had initiated court cases (see Prakash Singh v. Union of India, 2006) that led to legal backing for much needed, but still stymied, changes to Indian policing. In outlining his campaign, he suggested that while politicians and the civil service bureaucracy were deliberately blocking these reforms, in order to maintain their control, the police were also culpable because they often succumbed easily to outside pressures. Moreover, Singh pointed out that there were many policing problems that could be solved internally without the need for pressure from outside the police organizations. From our group, there were three presentations. Verma enumerated several examples of what he referred to as “untested assumptions” in India’s police functioning. Specifically, regarding political interference, he commented that often police officials themselves used this as an excuse for being unwilling to change questionable practices. Unnithan provided a perspective on the role of accreditation and standard operating policies/procedures in reforming American police departments. It was gratifying for us to learn that similar initiatives were underway in India that would incorporate some of the information detailed. Hakeem discussed a book that he co-authored (Hakeem, Haberfeld & Verma, 2012) on policing Muslim communities which had been translated and published in Urdu. Given that 14% of India’s population is Muslim, the issues relating to understanding and policing this minority group were discussed extensively.

### *Our Reflections:*

This was the first time most of us had attended an “academic” conference along with Indian practitioners and it was quite an experience. There are stark differences in the culture of meetings and discursive traditions of India when compared to the United States. The prevailing style of the symposium was that of a short presentation by our Indian colleagues or one of us followed by a relatively unstructured, free –form discussion that sometimes lasted more than the allotted time and ran into scheduled breaks (not that anyone one complained). Of course, for those of us used to the strict time-defined format of most U.S. scholarly meetings, this was slightly unnerving.

During the course of the two-day event, it was clear that this diverse group of participants had strong opinions and divergent perspectives on the topics at hand and did not hesitate to state them, often bluntly. In spite of these strong views and emotions, all members were gracious in conceding that they had to respect each other’s opinions and views. The sagacious and diplomatic leadership of S. Subramanian, a veteran Indian police luminary who served as symposium moderator, was very helpful. The traditional Indian practice of gently deferring to those who were “senior” (by age or experience) also served to smooth over disagreements even when these were stated forcefully.

Finally, from a comparative perspective, it occurred to us that India is a younger colonial cousin of the United States in adhering to English Common Law traditions. In fact, Lord Cornwallis, after surrendering to the American revolutionaries at Yorktown eventually ended up in India in 1786, and designed much of Britain’s colonial administrative apparatus there. There is much to be learned and gained from examining how the criminal justice systems of these two countries have evolved from this common heritage.

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**CRIMINOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD**

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***Post-Symposium Outcomes***

After the symposium concluded on the second evening, we emerged from the IU Gateway India office elated, energized and enthused rather than exhausted (the alliteration is unintentional). These feelings were based on what we had achieved. First, we had organized and participated in a major professional meeting that had utilized our training and expertise in tangible ways to help India's criminal justice system as it emerged from a long period of relative stagnation. Second, we had accomplished this without much by way of infrastructure and from a long distance. Will we be able to repeat this accomplishment? Given the vagaries of travel budgets and professional obligations, that is a difficult question to answer. However, we have agreed to try to organize similar meetings in the future, keep in touch with each other on a regular basis, continue individually and collaboratively to further a research agenda that actively focuses on India, and to use future ACJS and ASC meetings to explore forming an organization devoted to the study of crime and criminal justice in India. Lastly, in the tradition of the Magnificent Seven, we have also taken to calling ourselves the Gurgaon Six!

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## CRIMINOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

**An Oasis in a Neo-Liberal Land:  
*The Inaugural Asia-Pacific Conference on  
Gendered Violence & Violations***

by

Walter S. DeKeseredy, West Virginia University



February 10 to 12, 2015 will be days for progressive scholars, activists, practitioners, and policy makers to remember for years to come. Organized by the Gendered Violence Research Network and the University of New South Wales, The Inaugural Asia-Pacific Conference on Gendered Violence & Violations took place on those dates and it was a firecracker of an event. Truly international and feminist in nature, the Conference was a dynamic response to the ongoing call to end one of the world's most compelling social problems.

Many well-known and influential speakers were in attendance, including Rashida Manjoo, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences. Also there were numerous path-breaking researchers, affiliates of Australia's National Research Organization for Women's Safety, and a host of other people deeply committed to preventing rape, beatings, torture, stalking, and many other types of gendered violence.

In this current political era characterized by a rabid anti-feminist backlash, it was refreshing to repeatedly hear attendees call for gender-specific and broad definitions of violence. As well, critiques of abstracted empiricism, Conflict Tactics Scales data that attempt to show that violence is sexually symmetrical, and other anti-feminist phenomena were warmly received.

I left the conference with much hope and energy. The struggle to alleviate gender violence is very much alive and well due to the efforts of those who participated in the Conference and to the thousands of other feminist people around the world who work hard on a daily basis to alleviate much pain and suffering.

Special thanks must go to Co-Convenors Drs. Jan Breckenridge and Annie Cossins. They worked tirelessly to make the Conference a major success. Colleagues, please try to attend the next one. I promise that it will amaze you.



## CRIMINOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

### The International Investigator Course in The Hague

by

Harry Rhea, Florida International College of Law

I attended the 20th International Investigator Course, which is a biannual course offered by the Institute for International Criminal Investigations in The Hague. It is designed to provide experienced criminal investigators and related experts with the additional skills necessary to the successful investigation of serious violations of international humanitarian law, including war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. Theoretical work is combined with practicable exercises, which include checkpoint-training exercises and mock investigations of torture chambers and mass graves sites. Practical exercises are conducted at the Royal Netherlands Army School for Peace Missions in Harskamp. Few Americans have attended the course.

The first part of the course consists of classroom lectures on the four international crimes *stricto sensu* – genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression. These are the only international crimes based on their severity, as they shock the conscience of the international community. Aggression is not covered extensively as it violates *jus ad bellum* (the law of initiating war). The course focuses on crimes that violate *jus in bello* (the law of conduct during war). The class was separated into two teams prior to departing to Harskamp to conduct training exercises at the Royal Netherlands Army School for Peace Missions. I was voted captain of Team Alpha.



Harry Rhea at The Hague

The first training exercise included how an investigative team should attempt to pass through a military checkpoint to enter a country in armed conflict to investigate war crimes. For the second exercise, the teams investigated an abandoned shed where victims had been tortured. Teams hurriedly collected evidence with fear the militia may return. The last training exercise was an excavation of a mass grave where there was evidence of civilians killed by a military team. The teams had been taught how to excavate evidence for criminal prosecution as well as for a humanitarian effort to collect bodies for proper burials. The teams had also conducted a GPS training exercise to mark locations of war crimes so they could be located by subsequent investigative teams or by international satellite.

The teams presented their findings to the class as a preliminary investigative report with recommendations for further investigations, which could include international commissions of inquiry.

#### Did You Know?

#### THE UNODC-WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME

Each year an estimated 600 million container movements, accounting for some 90 per cent of the world's cargo, take place globally. Half of these containers have their origin, transit route or destination in the countries of Southeast Asia. The large volume of containers is a challenge to the law enforcement agencies trying to identify illicit shipments in this supply chain. In principle, most of the containers are virtually uninspected, allowing consignments of drugs, weapons and other illegal goods to enter countries undetected.

In 2004, the UNODC (UN Office on Drugs and Crime) - World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Programme was established to assist in countering these threats. Viet Nam became the latest country to formally join following a signing ceremony held at the Vietnamese customs headquarters in Hanoi in 2015.

The global Container Control Programme was established to tackle shipments of illegal goods by pooling the strengths of customs and other law enforcement bodies. The Programme operates through the establishment of specialized port control units, which work to better secure the global supply chain. Since its inception, the Programme has established more than 30 control units, leading to significantly increased detections and confiscation of drugs and other illicit goods, including cigarettes, luxury cars, medicines, electronic waste, hazardous materials and wildlife. see <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/horizontal-initiatives.html>



## CRIMINOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

### New International Books of Interest

Maria João Guia. *The Illegal Business of Human Trafficking*. (Springer, 2015).

Valsamis Mitsilegas, Peter Alldridge, Leonidas Cheliotis, eds. *Globalisation, Criminal Law and Criminal Justice: Theoretical, Comparative and Transnational Perspectives*. (Hart Publishing, 2015).

Andrew Novak. *The International Criminal Court: An Introduction* (Springer, 2015).

Michael J. Shapiro. *War Crimes, Atrocity and Justice*. (Polity, 2015).

Elin Skaar, Camila Gianella Malca, Trine Eide. *After Violence: Transitional Justice, Peace, and Democracy*. (Routledge, 2015).

Kam C. Wong. *Policing in Hong Kong: History and Reform*. (CRC Press, 2015).

### Announcement of a New Journal

A new journal has been established that is based at Vilnius University in Lithuania. "Criminological Studies," which will be published semi-annually, is an academic journal devoted to strengthening research collaboration of criminologists in Lithuania and abroad. The journal aims to empower academic interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers representing different social sciences. The Editorial Board welcomes empirical, analytical, theoretical articles and reviews from a wide thematically range, reviews of research monographs, other research publications and academic events. For more information, contact the Editor-in-Chief, Laima Zilinskiene (laima@viseo.lt)

### International Criminology Meetings and Conferences

#### British Society of Criminology Annual Conference 2015

Plymouth University, June 30 - July 3, 2015

The theme for this year's British Society of Criminology annual conference, to be held at the University of Plymouth in the south west of England, is: 'Criminology: Voyages of Critical Discovery'. This reflects the spirit of Plymouth as a point of departure for numerous voyages of discovery. Plymouth has a history of discovery, given that the Pilgrim Fathers set off for the 'new world' from what is now known as the 'Mayflower Steps' on Plymouth's Barbican. Those voyages of imperial conquest are now viewed with ambivalence: the source of heroic myth and pride for some, a prelude to genocide and enslavement for others. Other journeys (such as the transportation of the Tolpuddle martyrs) were made unwillingly, in a context of mass repression.

The British Society of Criminology annual conference 2015 aims to take criminology on a reflexive and critical voyage that explores our ambivalence over the past, the present and the future. With the spirit of adventure comes the necessity of critical reflection, debate and contestation. With this in mind the BSC 2015 conference is organised around a set of plenary panel discussions that provide keynote speakers (including Professor Ben Bowling, Professor Elliot P Currie, Professor Kathleen Daly, Professor Mary Bosworth, Professor Kieran McEvoy, Professor Sharon Pickering, Professor Joe Sim and Professor Rowland Atkinson) with the opportunity to present their ideas and discuss them in the round. This exciting format for the conference is intended to encourage and motivate discussion and debate in subsequent panel and paper sessions. This will provide an excellent forum for an inclusionary dialogue and therefore promote a dynamic conference environment from which numerous voyages of critical discovery may be made.

For further information see the conference website <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/your-university/about-us/university-structure/faculties/business/british-society-of-criminology-annual-conference-2015>

July 5-9, 2015

15th International Symposium of the  
World Society of Victimology  
Perth, Western Australia

July 7 -10, 2015

Crime, Justice and Social Democracy International Conference  
Brisbane, Australia  
<http://crimejusticeconference.com/>

September 2-3, 2015

15th Annual Conference of the  
European Society of Criminology  
Porto, Portugal <http://www.eurocrim2015.com>

November 25-27, 2015

Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology  
Adelaide, Australia  
<http://www.anzsoc.org/cms-conferences/index.php>

# The Journal of Crime & Justice

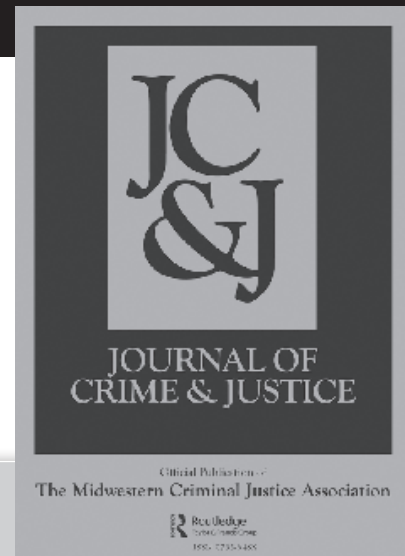
## Call for Papers

The *Journal of Crime & Justice*, the official publication of the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association, is a peer-reviewed journal featuring original scholarly work in the area of crime and criminal justice. Published four times a year *JC&J* welcomes quantitative and qualitative articles, and theoretical commentaries. Special topic issues are also welcomed.

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Shaun L. Gabbidon, Penn State Harrisburg, and Kareem L. Jordan, University of Central Florida:  
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Tracy Sohini, University of Maryland, Ray Paternoster, University of Maryland, Jean Marie McGloin, University of Maryland, and Ronet Bachman, University of Delaware:  
**"Hen's teeth and horse's toes": The adult onset offender in criminology"**

Bradford W. Reynolds, Weber State University, Melissa W. Burek, Bowling Green State University, Billy Henson, Shippensburg University, and Bonnie S. Fisher, University of Cincinnati:  
**"The unintended consequences of digital technology: Exploring the relationship between sexting and cybervictimization"**

Jeffrey A. Bouffard, Sam Houston State University, and Melissa A. Petkovsek, Sam Houston State University:  
**"Testing Hirschi's integration of social control and rational choice: Are bonds considered in offender decisions?"**

### Recent Topic Issues:

Dr. Terrance J. Taylor, on **Youth Violence Prevention**

Dr. Anita Blowers, on **Elderly Offenders and the Justice System**

Dr. Faye Taxman on **Key Issues of Science Based Supervision**

### Forthcoming Topic Issues:

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**Human Trafficking: Contexts and Connections to Conventional Crime**

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June 24 - 26, 2015

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CRIME & JUSTICE SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE: BROADENING PERSPECTIVES & PARTICIPATION

July 6-24, 2015

Columbus, OH

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS (SSSP)

August 21-23, 2015

Chicago, IL

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FORENSIC RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY" (FORENSIC RESEARCH-2015)

September 28-30, 2015

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ICCA CONFERENCE

November 8 - 11, 2015

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2016	November 16 -- 19	New Orleans, LA	New Orleans Hilton
2017	November 15 -- 18	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia Marriott Downtown
2018	November 14 -- 17	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta Marriott Marquis
2019	November 20 -- 23	San Francisco, CA	San Francisco Marriott Marquis
2020	November 18 -- 21	Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C. Marriott Marquis
2021	November 17 -- 20	Chicago, IL	Palmer House Hilton
2022	November 16 -- 19	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta Marriott Marquis
2023	November 15 -- 18	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia Marriott Downtown
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