

# The Criminologist

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# Ghost Guns: Straight to the Street

Dr. Cid Martinez, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of San Diego

Since 2020 gun violence rates have noticeably increased throughout the United States. For example, Sacramento, California, the site for my ongoing ethnographic fieldwork, saw the most significant increase in gun violence last year since 2008. Like most of urban America, Sacramento is a mid-sized metropolitan area and in many respects is a window into the rest of the country.

While Black and Brown disadvantaged communities continue to carry most of the burden of gun violence, it has begun to find its way into metropolitan areas that are typically immune to it. This year marked an increase in mass shootings, as recently evidenced by the mass killings in Uvalde, Texas, and Buffalo, New York. Spaces that in the past appeared to be safe, like schools and grocery stores, are no longer immune from gun violence.

Several compelling explanations have emerged regarding the causes of community gun violence, the focus of this work. Some argue that trust in the police has waned since the high-profile killing of George Floyd. Indeed, trust in police following the killing of Floyd has noticeably declined. Decreases in trust have created what's known as the Ferguson Effect, whereby people do not call the police and take matters into their own hands, increasing the likelihood that conflicts are more likely to be handled through gun violence (Desmond et al, 2016). Other scholars have suggested that the onset of the pandemic undermined social ties between individuals and institutions, thereby minimizing their collective capacity to address social ills that motivate gun violence, such as poverty, mental health issues, drug addiction, and conflict mediation (Rosenfeld et al, 2021). Finally, public health scholars and criminologists argue that increases in the availability of firearms directly affect the proliferation of gun violence. UC Davis researchers estimate that over 2.1 million firearms were purchased between March and May of 2020 and are now in circulation. Many believe the increased availability of guns has led to more violence (Schleimer et al, 2021). The idea that more guns in circulation lead to more fatalities is well documented in the literature and is often referred to as the "Availability Thesis" (Cook & Gross, 2014).

Recently, a new source of lethal weapons has increased the availability of firearms—Privately Made Firearms (PMFs), or what is often referred to in the media as "ghost guns." Increasingly PMFs have become part of the narrative regarding the sources of gun violence. Yet, little is known about the weapons' origins or how they appear to have suddenly burst onto the scene. In this piece, I lay out the historical roots of PMFs in Northern California based on over five years of ethnographic fieldwork with law enforcement, Alcohol, Tobacco Firearm (ATF) agents, and community-led street outreach violence interrupters in Sacramento.

I briefly touch on four factors that underpin the evolution of the PMF that have yet to be fully explored by researchers: 1) when PMFs first emerged in Northern California, 2) how Glocks evolved as the most dominant PMF on the street, 3) the major historical shift that led to PMFs rivaling serialized weapons as the most common firearm used in shootings and homicides, and 4) how PMFs now constitute the most lethal forms of firearms in the streets of America.

# The Criminologist

# The Official Newsletter of the American Society of Criminology

THECRIMINOLOGIST (ISSN0164-0240) is published six times annually---in January, March, May, July, September, and November by the American Society of Criminology, 921 Chatham Lane, Suite 108, Columbus, OH, 43221 and additional entries. Annual subscriptions to non-members: \$50.00; foreign subscriptions: \$60.00; single copy: \$10.00. \*\*\* PLEASE NOTE: Due to the fiscal challenges ASC is facing as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, until further notice, The Criminologist will be available online only \*\*\* **Postmaster**: Please send address changes to: The Criminologist, 921 Chatham, Suite 108, Columbus, OH, 43221. Periodicals postage paid at Columbus, Ohio.

Please send all inquiries regarding articles for consideration to:

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	University of CIncinnati

Editor: Ramiro Martinez - ramirom62@aol.com Northeastern University

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# Managing Editor: Kelly Vance - kvance@asc41.com

American Society of Criminology

Published by the American Society of Criminology, 921 Chatham, Suite 108, Columbus, OH, 43221.

Inquiries: Address all correspondence concerning newsletter materials and advertising to American Society of Criminology, 921 Chatham, Suite 108, Columbus, OH, 43221, (614) 826-2000, kvance@asc41.com.

#### ASC President: Janet Lauritsen

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice University of Missouri – St. Louis One University Boulevard St Louis, MO 63121 314-516-5427 janet\_lauritsen@umsl.edu

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# Background

What is a PMF or Ghost Gun? The two terms are often used synonymously. I use the term PMF throughout this work for the sake of convenience. A PMF is a firearm not serialized with a registration number during the act of production, which is required by federal law. Since no registration number is stamped on the weapon, it cannot be traced back to an owner. Additionally, when a crime is committed, such as a shooting or homicide, it is impossible to trace the weapon back to the source of origination, such as a seller or manufacturer. Thus, PMFs make it challenging to apprehend people who commit criminal acts.

There are at least two different types of PMFs commonly found in circulation and used in street violence in America. The most common is a firearm built from a kit containing 80% of a completed gun. These kits come with the gun's lower receiver but require the addition of the barrel and slide to be added and assembled. The receivers must be milled out so that the barrel and slide can be added to complete the weapon.

The second variety of PMF is 3D printed. These firearms are the second most common type of PMF. However, far fewer of these weapons are being produced or are in circulation in the United States, according to local law enforcement and the ATF. These firearms are produced through 3D printers and are manufactured with plastic material. The limitation with this type of firearm is that the material is not very durable, often leading to defects or malfunctions. The demand for these weapons is therefore limited. Many predict that as the technology and material needed to produce 3D PMFs advances, it is only a matter of time before they rival the number of completed guns assembled from lower 80% firearm kits.

Another variety of ghost guns are firearms that are stolen from manufacturers before they are stamped with a serial number. These weapons are not privately manufactured and do not have serial numbers. According to law enforcement, these weapons are the least common type of ghost gun. In theory, these firearms do not constitute the label PMF since they are not privately manufactured. Nevertheless, they are often lumped together in the same category by the media as 3D-printed firearms and guns made from lower 80% kits.

In this piece, I focus on the 80% PMF, given its popularity and widespread use in America.

# When and How Did Ghost Guns Emerge?

According to ATF interviews, PMFs emerged in significant numbers in Northern California in 2013. Although PMFs had been around before then, ATF agents emphasized that they began to recover a more substantial amount of AR-15 PMFs through undercover buys and warrants served that year. Interviews with ATF agents noted that the Obama administration's response following the Sandy Hook School mass shooting appears to have caused the uptick in sales of AR-15 PMFs. At the time, the Obama administration declared that AR-15 assault rifles would be banned (Shear, 2012). Of course, the ban never occurred.

Following the widespread belief that AR-15s would be banned, gun enthusiasts and others began to explore alternative means to acquire assault rifles. PMF assault rifles provided an alternative means to acquiring AR-15s. According to one of my ATF interviewees, "people began buying ghost gun kits because they feared AR-15s would be banned. These events jump-started the PMF craze in America." ATF agents further expressed that this period produced the most significant number of PMF investigations in the Northern California field office's history.

It is important to note what was distinct about PMFs and their distribution during this period. First, most manufactured PMFs following the Sandy Hook Shooting were AR-15 style. There were no PMF kits for pistols available at this time.

Second, the 80% lower receiver kits were made from aluminum, which required a drill press to remove the metal so that other parts could be attached. Therefore, the production process was somewhat complicated since it required access to machine shop tools and basic knowledge of operating them. The result of these factors was that it was difficult to mass-produce the AR-15 in large numbers.

The distribution of the early PMFs also produced a distinct form of black market. However, most gun-related homicides in Black and Latino communities during this era were committed using illegally obtained and serialized weapons. The early proliferation of PMFs produced another layer to the existing black market of firearms.

One unique feature of the PMF market was the profile of the individual who produced the weapons. The profile of the early PMF manufacturer was typically a white male gun enthusiast who lived in suburban or rural areas. These individuals typically had strong beliefs in their 2nd Amendment right regarding access to firearms. They usually had access to machine shop tools and the expertise needed to drill out the lower 80% of the firearm receiver. Finally, typical manufacturers of PMFs had some connection to the gun world. For example, according to ATF and local law enforcement, many PMF manufacturers worked in gun stores or ranges, creating

a clientele for their products.

Thus, it was primarily white male gun enthusiasts from the suburbs who produced AR-15 PMFs that created a pipeline into the streets of Northern California. More importantly, white male gun enthusiasts were also the middleman for the PMF AR-15. The Rise of the PMF Glock Pistol

From 2013 to 2016, the AR-15 is the dominant PMF on the streets in Northern California. However, two major changes occurred soon after this period that fundamentally altered the PMF scene. First, in 2016 the Glock PMF pistols became more common in circulation than the older AR-15. According to ATF and local law enforcement, the number of Glock PMFs seized outnumbered AR-15 weapons, as did the active investigations on the guns in question. The Glock pistol is considered the most popular handgun worldwide partly because of its reliability and the number of rounds that can be stored in the magazine. Many people, therefore, view this firearm as one of the most practical weapons to have on hand for self-defense and to use when one is engaged in a gun battle. It is, therefore, no coincidence that Glock pistols are commonly used in shootings and gun-related homicides. This view is corroborated by ATF, law enforcement, and street outreach workers I interviewed.

Second, in 2019, for the first time in ATF history in Northern California, the Glock PMF became nearly as common in street circulation as the serialized firearms that are typically obtained on the black market. These events marked the beginning of a significant change in how people illegally access firearms. For the latter third of the 20th century and the early 21st century, weapons used in community violence were overwhelmingly serialized from the black market.

What factors explain the proliferation of Glocks as the most common PMF, and how did this type of firearm rival the conventional serialized gun purchased on the black market? First, manufacturers of these 80% kits began to make the assembly process gradually easier for would-be gun builders. In contrast to 80% kits used for AR-15s, the Glock kits became manufactured with plastic rather than aluminum, making the production process more straightforward. Second, companies such as "P80," stationed in the state of Nevada, have simplified these kits so that they are now what one ATF agent referred to as "idiot-proof." By making it easier for customers to mill out the plastic, less knowledge and precision using machine tools is required. Thus, manufacturers of 80% kits bear part of the burden in the proliferation of Glock PMFs. Although technically their practices are legal, they have opened the gates so that Glock handguns flood many Black and Brown disadvantaged communities.

Third, information to assemble PMFs is now widely available. The internet is flooded with information with schematics for making PMFs. For example, a search on internet platforms like YouTube can easily yield countless videos with step-by-step instructions on how to assemble a PMF.

Finally, technological innovations have made it easier for the average person to produce a PMF. In the past, some basic machine shop knowledge was required to assemble PMFs, which limited production. Now with the advent of Computer Numerical Control (CNC) technology, machine tools have become automated and are controlled through software embedded in a microcomputer attached to the tool. CNCs have simplified and eased the production of PMFs so that a person with little or no machine shop knowledge can now mass produce these types of weapons. Moreover, this technology creates higher-quality PMFs.

#### Changes in the Black Market and the Profile of Manufacturers

The year 2019 is a watershed moment because it ushered in more Glock PMFs in Northern California and also laid out the contours of a new type of burgeoning black market. The profile of individuals producing PMFs in these black markets also changed significantly.

Until recently, most gun violence, particularly community violence, was committed with serialized firearms. While these weapons are legally manufactured, an overwhelming majority are obtained illegally through the black market.

From my previous research, I learned that most weapons obtained illegally in the black market related to shootings and homicides occurred in three ways: 1) burglaries and robberies, 2) robberies from gun stores known as "smash and grabs," and 3) interstate trafficking.

Of the options listed above, interstate trafficking was among the most common source of firearms used in gun violence in California. Because neighboring California states, such as Arizona and Nevada, have weaker gun laws, it is easier for individuals to buy firearms without an extensive background check. As a result of these weaker laws, individuals interested in obtaining a serialized firearm often work illegally with third-party associates in these neighboring states to buy weapons and bring them to California.

Interstate trafficking remains a significant source of illegally obtained weapons used in community violence. What is important to note about this source of firearms is the risk and how it may somewhat deter gun violence. During this period of firearm acquisition, risks were higher for individuals who obtained serialized weapons legally and illegally. There are risks of being identified when an

individual buys a gun legally since the documentation can be traced back to the sale of purchase. Additionally, there are risks of being apprehended by law enforcement for individuals involved in robbing homes or gun stores. Finally, there are risks associated with dealing with third-party associates to obtain firearms from neighboring states such as Nevada and Arizona. Gun sellers in the black market may rob, steal, and potentially kill buyers wishing to purchase firearms, just as in the illicit drug market.

I suggest the new black market used to access PMFs is fundamentally different, with lower risks. Now, people in the streets can produce PMFs due to the abovementioned factors. The PMF manufacturer's profile in the black market is no longer the white suburban gun enthusiast. The new profile is, as the ATF communicated to me, "anyone and everyone."

Therefore, no intermediary, such as the gun enthusiast who produced PMFs with machine shop access and technology, is needed. Also, there is less dependence on the middleman who buys weapons in neighboring states such as Nevada and Arizona, bringing serialized firearms to California for purchase. Instead, the newly emerging PMF black market increasingly has no layers between potential street criminals and manufacturers. PMFs can be pumped out directly to the streets and into the hands of criminal organizations with relative ease.

A good example of how the new black market operates is evidenced in my recent fieldwork. Recently two individuals involved in organized crime manufactured several Glock PMFs and used them to commit crimes, including robberies and shootings. Their example shows how individuals can directly access firearms without going through any third party.

The new black market has also grown via social media. Indeed, a full-blown black market has emerged where people actively sell the PMFs they produce via social media platforms. Instagram has become among the most common ways in which PMFs are purchased. These open PMF markets also have fewer intermediaries involved in the process.

These examples of the new PMF black market reveal a decrease in the risk of obtaining firearms. Anyone can produce PMFs, including those legally barred from having weapons. There is no risk that a gun can be traced back to them. Also, the risk in dealing with middlemen firearms sellers is minimized and potentially eliminated. Stated differently, the PMF black market reduces risk and enhances the possibility of reward.

### How PMFs Translate into Street Violence

The evolution of the PMF has important implications for understanding the current gun violence crisis facing America. I suggest the development of the PMF, as outlined in this piece, reveals two key points. First, lethal handguns, such as the Glock, are now more easily accessible than before and are being used more frequently in the streets. The violence associated with PMFs has now become the norm. Second, the proliferation of PMFs has opened the door for potentially more lethal guns to hit the streets of America, not seen since the 1930s when mobsters used machine guns.

During my time in the field, I have been exploring how the proliferation of PMFs has translated into shootings and homicides in Black and Latino disadvantaged neighborhoods. Based on preliminary interviews with suppression-oriented units and homicide detectives in Sacramento, anywhere from 30–50% of shootings can now be traced back to PMF handguns, most of which are Glock-style. These are crude estimates as most police departments do not keep good statistics on PMFs. I, therefore, rely on interviews with field officers, detectives, and command staff officials from different divisions in the city to understand the magnitude of the violence. What is important to note is that the shootings committed with PMFs are a relatively new phenomenon that has only occurred in the past three years. In the past, if an officer discovered a PMF used in a crime, it was considered a novel event. Now most officers view the use of PMFs in the streets as the norm. This constitutes a significant change in the source of weapons used to kill and maim in America.

Second, with the advent of the PMF, many individuals have become skilled in assembling firearms for mass production. They, therefore, know how to modify weapons to make them more lethal. According to interviews with ATF, many manufacturers in the black market have begun making fully automatic PMFs or machine guns. The PMF Glock can be easily modified during production so that an "auto sear" switch can be attached, making the firearm into a fully automatic weapon. The same holds for AR-15 PMFs as well. Auto sear switches transform a gun into a weapon capable of emptying an entire magazine with a single pull of the trigger. Recently, local law enforcement and ATF have witnessed an uptick in the circulation and use of fully automatic weapons in shootouts in Sacramento.

#### Conclusion

I have outlined four critical developments to understanding the emergence of PMFs and their relationship to gun violence in America. First, 2013–2016 saw the emergence of the AR-15 PMF. The black market was layered with mostly white suburban intermediaries, producing risk for users, which served as a deterrent. However, the technological limitations and expertise needed to make these

weapons limited their availability.

Second, the period from 2016–2018 saw the emergence of the Glock as the most common form of PMF in the black market. Changes in how manufacturers, such as the company P80, produced lower 80% receiver kits made from plastic accelerated the ease of producing these weapons. Also, the advent of CNC technology further simplified and allowed for the mass production of Glock firearms.

Third, and most importantly, in 2019, for the first time, PMFs rival serialized weapons as the most common weapon in the black market that is frequently used in shootings and homicides. The black market also changed during this era, so PMFs can now go straight from the manufacturer to the streets. Additionally, the profile of the PMF producer goes from the white suburban gun enthusiast to "anyone and everyone."

Finally, in 2020 fully automatic AR-15 and Glocks modified with auto sear switches begin to emerge in the streets of Northern California.

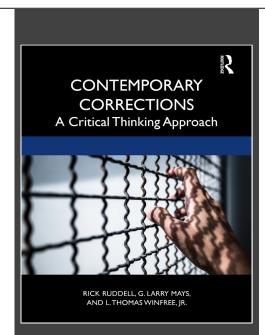
Thus, PMFs have ushered in a new era where it is easier to access firearms that are more lethal than in the past.

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October 2020: 7-3/8 x 9-1/4: 606pp

Pb: 978-0-367-02867-1 | List price: \$74.95 eBook: 978-0-429-01920-3

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# A New Classic from Trusted Names in Criminal Justice

# **Contemporary Corrections** A Critical Thinking Approach

Rick Ruddell, University of Regina G. Larry Mays, New Mexico State University L. Thomas Winfree Jr., New Mexico State University

Contemporary Corrections introduces readers to the essential elements of the U.S. corrections system without drowning students in a sea of nonessential information. Unbiased and accessible, the text includes coverage of the history of corrections, alternatives to incarceration, probation/parole, race/ethnicity/ gender issues in corrections, re-entry into the community, and COVID-19's impact on the field of corrections. The authors' practical approach, reinforced by contemporary examples, illuminates the role corrections plays in our society. This book offers a concise but comprehensive introduction to corrections with textual materials and assignments designed to encourage students' critical thinking skills.

#### What People Are Saying

"Authored by three accomplished scholars, this text offers an illuminating tour across the diverse features of contemporary corrections. The book's foundation rests on its conceptual and research rigor that provide essential details on correctional trends, populations, and system components. Most innovative, it is designed to engage students in the learning enterprise by offering real-world examples and challenging them to think critically. At once accessible and scholarly, Contemporary Corrections is ideal for classroom use."

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"I recommend the revised edition of Contemporary Corrections by Ruddell, Mays, and Winfree. Not only does the text provide an in-depth look into the essentials in corrections, the authors also contextualize the topics using examples from actual case studies. This approach provides an opportunity to launch class discussions and engage students in problem-solving activities. As a scholar in gender and justice, I appreciate the authors' coverage of the ways in which race, class, and gender intersect to impact justice."

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"Contemporary Corrections: A Critical Thinking Approach represents a needed addition to the extant stock of corrections texts, particularly those with an essentials or foundations orientation. It is concise enough to be thoroughly covered in a semester or abbreviated term and strikes the right balance between conveying the scope of the field and the depth of issues. It is written by seasoned authors who understand the complexities and challenges facing the field and know how to teach others to begin doing the same."

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# EDITOR'S CORNER

# *Criminology & Public Policy* Annual Update to the ASC Membership

# Cynthia Lum and Christopher S. Koper Editors in Chief

Thank you, ASC members, for your continued support and interest in *Criminology & Public Policy (CPP)*, as reflected in your submissions and willingness to review papers for the journal. *CPP* is thriving and continues to expand its reach to scholars, policymakers, and practitioners. After a few challenging years when COVID complicated research efforts, scholars are steadily moving ahead and looking to *CPP* to publish their work. Our priorities remain the same as when we started: to strengthen the journal's standing as the leading forum for advancing the role of scientific research in criminal justice policy and practice; to elevate the journal's academic status and rank; and to diversify and expand its use and reach among ASC members. We took early steps to accomplish these goals in 2019. These actions included moving to an online submission system (ScholarOne); making use of Early View for all publications; reducing the use of response essays and increasing original articles published; expanding and diversifying the editorial team, the editorial advisory board, and the pool of peer reviewers; and harnessing social media and other social networks to engage in translational activities.

In 2021, we made significant progress on these goals, which we reported in our annual update to the ASC Executive Board this April. We strived for a rigorous and responsive review process with quick turnarounds for the initial editorial review (for desk-rejection purposes) and peer reviews. We actively focused on increasing the journal's visibility by expanding our Twitter usage (@ cppjournal), employing the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy's well-established outreach connections, and working with ASC media resources. We tried a new webinar presentation format for the Vollmer Awards Lecture, which is traditionally published in *CPP* each year. In addition, we increased the breadth and diversity of peer-reviewers for the journal, taking full advantage of ScholarOne's search capabilities, the ASC and division membership lists, and our expanded editorial advisory board. Finally, we sought to encourage submissions and involvement from scholars of color through targeted special issues and more inclusive reviewer selection.

Our efforts continue to reap benefits. When we first began working on manuscripts (submitted in 2019 for the 2020 volume), submissions doubled and then grew another 40% in 2020. Even though the downstream effects of COVID stalled research for many, our submissions continued to increase in 2021 by almost 20%. In the most recent *Journal Citation Reports, Criminology & Public Policy* ranks 9th in Criminology and Penology, and our Impact Factor is 4.333.

A central part of our editorial philosophy is responding to current events with science. Since taking over the journal, we have published special issues and features on countering mass shootings (v. 19, issue 1); police reforms and new innovations (v. 19, issue 3); mitigating racial and ethnic disparities in criminal justice (v. 19, issue 4); the impact of COVID-19 on crime and justice (v. 20, issue 3); and the George Floyd protests and the justice system (v. 21, issue 1). Upcoming issues will include a special feature, edited by Ajima Olaghere and John Eck, on "Place, Crime, and Race," which will confront important research questions about place-based policies and research through the lens of race and ethnicity. Most recently, we released a call for papers on "Criminal Justice Responses to the Opioid Epidemic," with papers due in November 2022. In 2021, we also published original articles (not in special issues) on police use of force and de-escalation, extreme risk protection orders, guns in schools, racial bias, restorative justice, risk assessment, violence, expungement and wrongful convictions, counter-terrorism, probation and corrections; legal compliance, wrongful convictions, and overdose prevention.

We recently held *CPP*'s first webinar highlighting the Vollmer Award Address, published annually in *CPP*. Lawrence Sherman (2020 Vollmer Award winner) presented his address entitled "Goldilocks and the three "Ts": Targeting, testing, and tracking for "just right" democratic policing." Over 750 people registered for this event (see <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXcLyLFAhTg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXcLyLFAhTg</a>). We used this platform to encourage non-members (of whom there were hundreds registered) to join the ASC and learn more about the journal. In addition to publishing the Vollmer Lecture, *CPP* also publishes annual articles by the Stockholm Prize winners, celebrating their achievements in policy-relevant research.

We also seek to promote the journal and its contributors through our annual "Best Paper Awards." Winners of these awards, selected by the editorial team, are honored at our annual editorial board meeting and receive a \$500 award. We congratulate our winners from 2020, who were honored at the 2021 ASC conference:

• Best paper award for "earlier career" scholars: "Immigration enforcement, crime, and demography: Evidence from the Legal Arizona Workers Act" by Aaron Chalfin and Monica Deza (v. 19, issue 2).

• **Best paper award for "later career" scholars:** "Can Police training reduce ethnic/racial disparities in stop and search? Evidence from a multi-site UK trial" by Joel Miller, Paul Quinton, Banos Alexandrou, and Daniel Packham (v. 19, issue 4).

Looking ahead, we strongly encourage members to view *CPP* as their "first choice" journal for submitting their policy and practice research. For those interested in submitting to *CPP*, we welcome rigorous empirical studies that address various aspects of program and policy development, theory, operations, impacts, and cost efficiency pertaining to all areas of justice and crime prevention. We welcome studies using various quantitative and qualitative methodologies, original and replication studies, and systematic reviews or meta-analyses. The journal also publishes policy or reaction essays by invitation (and following peer review) for special issues or features. Submitted manuscripts must have a clearly articulated and direct connection to policy and practice.

We remain especially committed to publishing original research in under-developed and highly-needed areas of crime policy research that we established as priorities when we became the editors of *CPP*. These include:

1. **Evaluations of the sustainability and long-term consequences of evidence-based programs.** Current evaluation research commonly focuses on testing short-term implementation of programs with short-term follow-ups. More knowledge is needed as to how evidence-based interventions are sustained, institutionalized, and normalized into criminal justice practices over the long-term.

2. Outcome evaluations of interventions intended to reduce disparity in the criminal justice system. While studies have examined the occurrence and prevalence of disparity in the criminal justice system, the field lacks evaluations of programs intended to reduce or mitigate disparities. Such interventions can include programs, tactical and strategic approaches, legal remedies, policy adjustments, or other activities focused on the reduction of racial, ethnic, gendered, or other protected class disparities.

3. Efforts to counter the opioid epidemic. Many jurisdictions are currently experiencing an unprecedented increase in drug overdoses and deaths arising from the increased availability and use of illicit opioids and the misuse of prescription opioids. *CPP* invites papers that examine prevention and enforcement responses to this public health crisis.

4. **Countering extremism.** Despite efforts by nations and communities to counter violent extremism, very little knowledge exists on the most effective means to do so. Against the backdrop of rising nationalism and hate group criminality, the editors welcome empirical articles addressing this topic.

5. **Cybercrime.** Criminological knowledge continues to be very limited about crimes facilitated by or perpetrated in cyberspace. Empirical research is needed on cyber-crime topics ranging from everyday identity theft to the hacking and worldwide disruption of internet servers, organizations, and companies.

6. **Firearms violence and mass shootings.** How do we prevent and deter gun violence in all of its forms? What can mitigate harm to victims and their families? What are the best ways to respond? How can science in this area better inform national and state legislation, local policing, school practices, and mental health services?

Thanks to all who have made *Criminology & Public Policy* a continued success, including prior editorial teams, the founders of *CPP*, and the ASC membership. We especially appreciate the tireless work of our associate editors, Cody Telep (Arizona State University), Justice Tankebe (Cambridge University), Sue-Ming Yang (George Mason University), Ojmarrh Mitchell (Arizona State University), and Daniel Mears (Florida State University); our managing editor Catherine Kimbrell (George Mason University); our social media assistant Michael Goodier (George Mason University); our ASC media relations consultant Caitlin Kizielewicz; and the Wiley Editorial Team, led by Paul Dingman. We consider it a privilege to serve the American Society of Criminology as editors of *CPP* and look forward to another successful year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>See <u>https://cebcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CPPOpioid.pdf</u>

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# Congratulations to the University of Cincinnati Criminal Justice Doctoral Students!

We wish you the best in your new positions!

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# **Benefits of ASC Membership**

The American Society of Criminology is an international organization concerned with criminology, embracing scholarly, scientific, and professional knowledge concerning the etiology, prevention, control and treatment of crime and delinquency.

This includes the measurement and detection of crime, legislation, the practice of criminal law, as well as a review of the law enforcement, judicial, and correctional systems.

The Society's objective is to bring together a multidisciplinary forum fostering criminological study, research, and education. Our membership includes practitioners, academicians, and students in the many fields of criminal justice and criminology.

#### **Annual Meeting**

The Society sponsors an <u>Annual Meeting</u> with more than 1,250 sessions and events including development workshops, a publisher exhibit, an employment exchange, and numerous Society Division and ancillary organizational activities. The meetings attract over 4,000 attendees from some 50 countries and are a networking mecca.

Members receive a discounted registration rate and, if members do so choose, they receive a free candidate listing for the ASC Career Center's Employment Exchange at the meeting.

#### **Career Center**

The <u>Career Center</u> provides a web-based listing service whereby ASC members can publicize their availability for employment and their credentials. Candidate postings for current members are posted at no charge for up to three months. Active candidate posts can be viewed on the ASC Career Center's Candidate Postings page.

#### Committees

Members may serve on any of <u>over 30 Society-wide committees</u> and boards and in so doing, contribute to the growth and development of the field in every possible context.

#### Divisions

Members may join and become involved in any of <u>19 different divisions</u>, receive their newsletters and journals, and serve on their various committees and boards.

To join a division, please refer to the Divisions section of the membership form.

#### Publications

Society members receive two regular publications:

- Criminology: a journal that examines all areas of crime, deviance and justice (published quarterly)
- Criminology & Public Policy: a journal devoted to policy discussion of research findings in the field (published quarterly)

Society members receive email notifications of the online publication of the current <u>newsletter</u>:

• The Criminologist: a newsletter with short articles, news of the Society, notices of professional meetings, requests for proposals, calls for papers, job announcements, and general information pertinent to the field (published online six times a year)

#### Website

The Society has an extensive <u>website</u> with vast amounts of consistently updated information and resources related to the field world-wide.





asc

Current ASC members are eligible to be listed in the Mentor Directory. Simply send an email, with your requested to be included, to Kelly Vance at kvance@asc41.com

# LOGIN JOIN OR RENEW

MEMBER BENEFIT

Conducting research?

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Complete the Call for Research Participation Form to post your Call for Research Participation on the ASC website.

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Employers are looking to fill positions. How can they find you?

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# 2022 Election Results for 2023 - 2024 ASC Officers



# PRESIDENT

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Callie Burt, Georgia State University



# EXECUTIVE COUNSELOR

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# EXECUTIVE COUNSELOR

Min Xie, University of Maryland

# VISIT THE WEBSITES OF THE ASC DIVISIONS FOR THE MOST CURRENT DIVISION INFORMATION

BioPsychoSocial Criminology (DBC) https://bpscrim.org/

Communities and Place (DCP) <u>https://communitiesandplace.org/</u>

Convict Criminology (DCC) https://concrim.org/

Corrections & Sentencing (DCS) https://ascdcs.org/

Critical Criminology & Social Justice (DCCSJ) https://divisiononcriticalcriminology.com/

Cybercrime (DC) https://ascdivisionofcybercrime.org/

Developmental and Life-Course Criminology (DLC) <u>https://dlccrim.org/</u>

Experimental Criminology (DEC) (under construction)

Historical Criminology (DHC) https://dhistorical.com/

International Criminology (DIC) https://internationalcriminology.com/

People of Color & Crime (DPCC) https://ascdpcc.org/

> Policing (DP) https://ascpolicing.org/

Public Opinion & Policy (DPOP) https://ascdpop.org/

Queer Criminology (DQC) https://queercrim.com/

Rural Criminology (DRC) https://divisionofruralcriminology.org/

> Terrorism & Bias Crimes (DTBC) https://ascterrorism.org/

> > Victimology (DOV) https://ascdov.org/

White Collar and Corporate Crime (DWCC) <u>https://ascdwcc.org/</u>

> Women & Crime (DWC) https://ascdwc.com/

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# Criminology & Public Policy

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO OPIOID OVERDOSES

Call for Papers for 2023 Special Issue

In recent years, many jurisdictions in the United States have experienced an unprecedented increase in drug overdoses and deaths arising from the increased use of illicit opioids and the misuse of prescription opioids. How has the criminal justice responded, and to what effect? What have we learned about effective (or ineffective) justice and prevention approaches to reduce opioid misuse and mitigate its consequences? CPP invites papers that examine these topics for a special issue on the opioid crisis.

We particularly welcome empirical evaluations of legislative policies and efforts by criminal and juvenile justice agencies, including those undertaken with public health and other community partners, to address this ongoing crisis. Papers should have clear and direct implications for developing and evaluating justice-related policy and practice.

Papers for this special issue must be submitted through the ScholarOne online submission site for *Criminology & Public Policy* (<u>https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/capp</u>) by **November 30, 2022.** We anticipate publishing accepted papers in Issue 3 of 2023. All papers will go through *CPP's* normal peer-review process. For questions about this call for papers, please contact the Editors-in-Chief, below.

CYNTHIA LUM AND CHRISTOPHER KOPER Editors-in-Chief, *Criminology & Public Policy* George Mason University Department of Criminology, Law and Society Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy clum@gmu.edu; ckoper2@gmu.edu https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17459133

# **NEW EDITOR SOUGHT FOR**

# CRIMINOLOGY & PUBLIC POLICY

The American Society of Criminology invites applications for the position of Editor of Criminology & *Public Policy*, one of its official journals. The new Editor will be responsible for five volumes, beginning with the February 2025 issue through the November 2029 issue. It is anticipated that new manuscript submissions will transfer to the new Editor in the fall of 2023 or spring of 2024.

The Editor is responsible for the timely and substantive output of the journal, including the solicitation of manuscripts, supervision of the peer review process, and the final selection of articles for publication. The American Society of Criminology pays for copy-editing and final proofreading, typesetting, providing PDF files, and up to \$60,000 per year to support the journal. The Editor's supporting institution might propose to provide office space, file storage, equipment, and funds to cover additional expenses such as graduate student assistance and release time for the Editor. Supporting institutions may also propose to assume some of the expenses now provided by the ASC.

As stated on its website, *Criminology & Public Policy* is the premier policy journal of the American Society of Criminology. It is devoted to rigorous research and critical discussions of criminal justice policies and practices. The central objective of the journal is to strengthen the role of research findings in the formulation and implementation of crime and justice policy and practice by publishing empirically based, policy-focused articles. The journal is interdisciplinary and international in its scope. For additional details access the Journal's homepage at: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/17459133/homepage/productinformation.html

Interested applicants may contact the current Editors, Cyntnia Lum (clum@gmu.edu) for additional information regarding the logistics and/or operational details of editing and producing the journal. Applicants are encouraged to contact Lisa Broidy, Chair, ASC Publications Committee (lbroidy@unm.edu) to discuss their applications before submission.

Application materials should include (1) a statement of editorial philosophy, (2) resumes of all proposed personnel, including the Editor and Associate Editors, and (3) assurances and details of institutional support.

Application materials should be sent electronically (as a single pdf file) to Lisa Broidy (<u>lbroidy@unm.edu</u>) by January 15, 2023.

# Division of Victimology 2022 Call for Award Nominations

**Bonnie S. Fisher Victimology Career Award** – This award will be given to a scholar who has made a significant contribution in the area of victimology over the course of their lifetime. This may be in terms of scholarship or teaching. Nominations must include: 1) one letter of support (1 to 3 pages), and 2) an up-to-date vitae for the nominee. In the letter, the nominator must provide an explanation and evidence for why the nominee's lifetime achievements are significant contributions to the discipline of victimology.

**Robert Jerin Book of the Year Award** – This award will be given to the author(s) of a book published in the previous five years that has had a major impact on the field of victimology and/or serves to highlight a key issue in the field. Nominations must include: 1) one letter of support (1 to 2 pages), and 2) a description of the book and its relevance to the field of victimology. In the letter, the nominator must provide an explanation of why the book should be considered as a key text in the discipline of victimology.

<u>Faculty Researcher of the Year Award</u> – This award will be given to a scholar who has made a significant contribution in the area of victimology in the past 2 years (e.g., peer review publications or books published in 2020-2022). Nominations must include: 1) one letter of support (1 to 3 pages), and 2) an up-to-date vitae for the nominee. In the letter, the nominator must provide explanation and evidence for why the nominee's research has made significant contributions to the discipline of victimology.

<u>Faculty Teacher of the Year Award</u> – This award will be given to a teacher who shows excellence in teaching victimology and/or victimology related courses taught during the past two academic years (i.e., 2020-2021, 2021-2022). Nomination must include: 1) one letter of support (1 to 3 pages), and 2) evidence of teaching excellence. In the letter, the nominator must provide explanation and evidence for why the nominee's teaching is excellent. Evidence of teaching excellence could include (but is not limited to) letters from students or examples of assignments.

<u>Practitioner/Activist of the Year Award</u> – This award should be given to a practitioner or activist who has made a significant impact on the lives of victims or those who work with victims. Nomination must include: 1) one letter of support (1 to 2 pages), and 2) examples of impact on the lives of victims or those who work with victims. In the letter, the nominator must provide an explanation as to how this practitioner has made a difference in the lives of victims. Examples of impact can include (but is not limited to) evidence such as papers/publications, reports, expert testimony, organizational leadership, statements from victims, etc.

<u>Graduate Student Papers of the Year Award</u> – Two awards will be given to graduate students who have written an exceptional, published or unpublished, paper on a victimology related topic that was written or published during 2021-2022. Faculty co-authors are allowed, however, the graduate student *must* be lead/first author and any faculty co-authors must be in an advisory role *only*. Graduate student award recipients will receive \$300 each (if there are multiple student co-authors on a selected paper, the \$300 will be split evenly among them). Nomination must include: 1) one letter of support (1 to 2 pages), and 2) a PDF of the paper. In the letter, the nominator must provide a statement explaining why he/she believes the paper makes a contribution to the discipline of victimology.

#### Submission Deadline: September 1, 2022

- Please upload your award nominations here: <u>https://form.jotform.com/211443835378056</u>
- Please consolidate your award nomination documents into one PDF, when possible

#### Additional Notes:

- If you run into any issues with your submission, please contact Dr. Dana Radatz (dradatz@niagara.edu)
- Recipients of each award will be made aware that they have won the award by October 15th
- Winners will be honored at the annual DOV business meeting in Atlanta and receive a plaque
- With the exception of the Practitioner/Activist of the Year award, all award recipients must be members of the DOV
- Previous award winners are ineligible to be considered for the same award
- We hope you will self-nominate or nominate someone you know who you think is worthy of these awards. We are especially hopeful that you will pinpoint student papers that may be suitable for nominations for the graduate student paper awards.



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# American Society of Criminology 2022 Division on Women and Crime Student Poster Competition

The Division on Women and Crime (DWC) of the American Society of Criminology invites submissions for the 2022 Student Poster Competition. The graduate student winner will receive \$250.00 and the undergraduate student winner will receive \$125.00. For submissions with multiple authors, the award money will be divided among co-authors.

Deadline: Posters should be RECEIVED by the committee chair by September 19, 2022.

*Eligibility:* Any undergraduate or graduate student who is currently enrolled or who has graduated within the previous semester is eligible. Note, any co-authors must also be students, that is, no faculty co-authors are permitted. To document eligibility, every author/co-author must submit proof of student status. This eligibility proof may be in the form of a letter from your department chair or an unofficial transcript.

**Poster Specifications:** Posters should be of professional quality and must be about, or related to, feminist scholarship, gender issues, or women as offenders, victims, or criminal justice professionals. Submissions must conform to the American Society of Criminology poster guidelines. Posters should display relevant literature, data, methods, theoretical work, policy analyses, and/or findings in a poster format that is visually appealing. Posters should encourage questions and discussion about the material.

Research displayed on the poster may *not* be published, accepted, or under review for publication at the time of submission.

*Submission*: Posters and proof of eligibility must be submitted to the committee chair by the stated deadline. Submitters must prepare the poster for blind review; all identifying information (name, affiliation, etc.) should be removed from the poster itself and posters should then be submitted as a PDF file or PPT file. In the email subject line, students should include identifying information and indicate whether the submission is to be considered for the graduate or undergraduate competition.

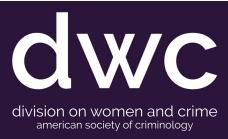
*Judging:* Members of the poster competition committee will evaluate the posters based on the following categories: 1. Content is relevant to feminist scholarship; 2. Makes a contribution to the knowledge base; 3. Accurately identifies any limitations; 4. Analytical plan was well developed; 5. Clarity/organization of poster was well developed; 6. Poster is visually appealing; 7. Poster encourages questions/discussion about presented material.

*Notification:* All entrants will be notified of the committee's decision no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>. We strongly encourage winners to attend the conference to receive their award.

# Committee Co-Chair: Andia M. Azimi, Ph.D.

#### Email all **poster submissions** to:

Andia M. Azimi, PhD | Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology | Sam Houston State University | Axa205@shsu.edu



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# American Society of Criminology 2022 Division on Women and Crime Student Paper Competition

The Division on Women and Crime (DWC) of the American Society of Criminology invites submissions for the 2022 Student Paper Competition. The graduate student winner will receive \$500.00 and the undergraduate student winner will receive \$250.00. For submissions with multiple authors, the award money will be divided among co-authors.

Deadline: Papers should be RECEIVED by the committee chair by September 19, 2022.

*Eligibility:* Any undergraduate or graduate student who is currently enrolled or who has graduated within the previous semester is eligible. Note, any co-authors must also be students, that is, no faculty co-authors are permitted. To document eligibility, every author/co-author must submit proof of student status. This eligibility proof may be in the form of a letter from your department chair or an unofficial transcript.

**Paper Specifications:** Papers should be of professional quality and must be about, or related to, feminist scholarship, gender issues, or women as offenders, victims, or criminal justice professionals. Papers must be no longer than 35 pages including all references, notes, and tables; utilize an acceptable referencing format such as APA; be type-written and double-spaced; and include an abstract of 100 words or less.

Papers may not be published, accepted, or under review for publication at the time of submission.

*Submission*: Papers and proof of eligibility must be submitted to the committee chair by the stated deadline. Submitters must prepare the paper for blind review; all identifying information (name, affiliation, etc.) should be removed from the paper itself and papers should then be converted to a PDF file. In the email subject line, students should include identifying information and indicate whether the submission is to be considered for the graduate or undergraduate competition.

*Judging:* Members of the paper competition committee will evaluate the papers based on the following categories: 1. Content is relevant to feminist scholarship; 2. Makes a contribution to the knowledge base; 3. Accurately identifies any limitations; 4. Analytical plan was well developed; 5. Clarity/organization of paper was well developed.

*Notification:* All entrants will be notified of the committee's decision no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>. We strongly encourage winners to attend the conference to receive their award.

#### Committee Chair: Andia M. Azimi, Ph.D.

#### Email all paper submissions to:

Andia M. Azimi, PhD | Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology | Sam Houston State University | axa205@shsu.edu

# Division on Queer Criminology (DQC) Sponsored Panels and Roundtables, ASC 2022

### DQC Sponsored Panel: Intersectionality and Queer Criminological Research

The papers on this panel center Black trans women and make the case for a greater consideration of intersectionality within queer criminology.

- Trans Black Women Deserve Better: Expanding Queer Criminology to Unpack Trans Misogynoir in the Field of Criminology
- #BlackTransLivesMatter: An Intersectional Analysis of Transgender Homicide Victims in the United States
- The Experiences and Conditions of Trans People in Prison: National Survey Findings

#### DQC Sponsored Panel: The Future of Queer Criminology

This panel responds to the ASC 2022 theme "The Future of Criminology" by bringing together criminologists who have been steadily publishing queer criminological work since the 2010s. Queer criminological scholarship examines LGBTQIA+ populations as victims, perpetrators, and victim/offenders and as actors within the crimino-legal complex. Queer criminologists have also attempted to reduce the invisibility of LGBTQIA+ people by recommending policy shifts and more inclusive survey metrics, and they have probed into theoretical, methodological, and pedagogical concerns. What does the future hold for queer criminology?

### DQC Sponsored Panel: Innovations in Queer Criminological Research

The papers on this panel explore queer social spaces (both IRL and virtual) through the lens of queer criminology and also how strain impacts those whose gender identities challenge cisheteronormative social structures.

- The Role of Queer Social Spaces in Shaping Some Queer Substance Use
- 'Trans'formations: How online spaces cultivate hope and resilience among trans people
- Queering Life-Course Criminology: Examining Queer Turning Points Among Justice-Involved LGBTQ+ Adults
- Queering Criminological Theory: A Case for Gender Identity and General Strain

#### **DQC Sponsored Panel: Meet the Authors**

This panel gathers together recently published books that are aligned with queer criminology theory and praxis.

- Queer Histories and the Politics of Policing, Emma Russell
- A Long Dark Shadow: Minor-Attracted People and Their Pursuit of Dignity, Allyn Walker
- Sex-Positive Criminology, Aimee Wodda & Vanessa R. Panfil
- Queering Criminology in Theory and Praxis, Carrie Buist & Lindsay Kahle Semprevivo
- Queer Criminology (2nd Edition), Carrie Buist & Emily Lenning

#### Roundtable: Navigating the Academy as a Queer Person

This roundtable features papers that consider a variety of issues including: identity as a queer activist within the academy, conflicting advice about outing oneself while on the job market, navigating hostile academic environments, and lurking in mainstream criminology as a queer criminologist.

- Hostile First, Friend Later (HFFL): Navigating 'midwestern nice' as an openly queer prof
- Lurking with/in mainstream criminologies as a queer criminologist: learnings and reflections
- Outing myself on the job market: Competing advice from well-meaning mentors

#### Roundtable: Navigating the Graduate Experience as a Queer Person

Considering that queer criminology is an emerging discipline and LGBTQIA+ students face unique challenges in the field, the purpose of this roundtable is to have a discussion about navigating graduate school as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community.

There will be 3 parts to this forum. The first will be a discussion about "queering" criminology and challenging heteronormativity in criminological discussions. This will include how to be sensitive to queer issues and identities in research and teaching. The second will be a discussion about how departments can be better allies and more LGBTQIA+-friendly. Participants will be encouraged to talk about what has worked in their own departments and ways they can improve. This will also include a discussion about being "out" in one's department and how to stay safe doing so. Lastly, considering the high rates of mental health issues in the queer community, the final discussion will center around creating and maintaining a support network for queer criminology students/ faculty and ways to manage mental health. The goal is that at the end of the roundtable, participants will have tangible solutions for making departments more LGBTQIA+ friendly and create a network of queer-informed individuals in criminology.

# Roundtable: Methodological and Terminological Issues in Queer Criminology

Outside of queer criminology, there has been little discussion of the methodological nuances that are crucial to gaining a full understanding when researching LGBTQIA+ populations. This panel explores methodological and terminological issues that arise when researching queer populations, across a variety of areas and theoretical frameworks with the goal of prompting queer and mainstream criminologists to more deeply consider these issues.

- "A Giant Question Mark": Inclusive Measurement of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation
- Measuring SOGIE within the Context of Teen Dating Violence Research with Sexual and Gender Minority Youth: A Quantitative Examination and Commentary
- Navigating Academic and Real World Terminological Differences

# Introducing the New



**Mentor & Mentee Connection** 

ASC would like to introduce the new Mentor & Mentee Connection webpage on the ASC website https://asc41.com/resources/mentor-mentee-connection/

The new page provides publication of submitted resources for mentors and mentees, as well information related to the new ASC Mentor Directory https://account.asc41.com/mentor

The ASC Mentoring Committee would like to encourage ASC members interested in mentoring to contact Kelly Vance, ASC Associate Director (kvance@asc41.com). Once designated as a mentor in the directory, the mentor's contact information, as entered in their member portal (name, title, affiliation, email address, website, [social media handles by member request only]) will be made public on the Mentor Directory. people development inspiration mo on MENTORING te mentor team definition on successful skiller oucate corporate



In search of a mentor who aligns with your specific goals?

Have questions related to research, theory, methodology, relevant literature, or, related to challenges, accessing resources, etc...?

**Try searching the ASC Mentor Directory** 

Mentor & Mentee Connection Mentor Directory



# Mentoring Program 2022-2023

We welcome participation from potential mentees and mentors at ALL career phases (i.e., undergraduate students, graduate students in master's and doctoral programs, pre-tenure and non-tenure track faculty, tenured faculty, administrators, and alt ac scholars) from ANYWHERE in the world! We prioritize LGBTQ+ scholars, allies, and DQC members.

The program is designed to build community through mentorship by matching members based on goals and needs. We support all types of mentorship (peer-to-peer, early career scholars to more advanced scholars) depending on preference and needs. We also seek to support transformative mentorship by focusing on LGBTQ+-specific issues.

#### Structure:

- · Applicants will be matched based on shared goals/needs and areas of interest.
- The program will be facilitated for one-year (November November), but we hope your connections last far beyond the duration of the program!
- The committee will offer virtual meetings/socials to support the cohort.

How to apply: Mentors and mentees can sign up via the form posted on the DQC website: <u>https://queercrim.com</u>

Applications are due by September 2.

Please direct questions to DQC's Mentoring Committee Co-Chairs: Suzy Avalos (they/she) <u>s1avalos@odu.edu</u> and Breanna Boppre (she/her) <u>bxb078@shsu.edu</u>

# DIVISION of CONVICT CRIMINOLOGY

# Mentoring Program 2022-2023

The **Division of Convict Criminology (DCC)** believes that the voices of the formerlyincarcerated and system-impacted have been ignored in the disciplines of criminology, criminal justice, and corrections research, policy and practices. The purpose of DCC is to provide an intellectual home for all scholars/scientists who are interested in the study of Convict Criminology. DCC advocates for progressive justice reform for formerly incarcerated individuals and all of society.

# The DCC Mentoring Program:

Mentorship is a key foundation to DCC. Our mentoring program seeks to connect DCC scholars from all over the world. We welcome participation from potential mentees and mentors at ALL career phases (i.e., undergraduate students, graduate students in master's and doctoral programs, pre-tenure and non-tenure track faculty, tenured faculty, administrators, and alt-ac scholars). We prioritize system-impacted scholars and DCC members. We also strive to support diversity and inclusion within the program and beyond.

The mentoring program is designed to build community through mentorship by matching members based on goals and needs. We support all types of mentorship (peer-to-peer, early career scholars to more advanced scholars) depending on preference and needs. We also seek to support transformative mentorship by focusing on convict criminology-related issues and system-impacted scholars.

- Applicants will be matched based on shared goals/needs and areas of interest.
- The program will be facilitated for one-year (November November), but we hope your connections last far beyond the duration of the program!
- The committee will offer virtual meetings/socials to support the cohort.

# How to Apply:

Applicants can sign up via the form posted on https://concrim.org by September 2, 2022.

Please feel free to reach out to DCC's Mentoring Committee Co-Chairs with any questions: Bree Boppre <u>bxb078@shsu.edu</u> and Alison Cox <u>alison.cox@uni.edu</u>

# KEYS TO SUCCESS

# The Importance of Informal Mentorship

### Jason Williams, Cathy Marcum, Sue-Ming Yang, Joshua Cochran, & Gregory M. Zimmerman

Mentorship was born within academia (Marino, 2021). Research has consistently shown how close relationships and mentorship from seasoned scholars are essential for the development of pipelined scholars (Raposa et al., 2021). Formal mentoring involves the pairing of mentors and mentees with explicit developmental milestones and outcomes for the mentee. The purpose of formal mentorship is about sharing experiences, hardships, and knowledge to help mentees manage, measure, and fulfill programmatic objectives (Marino 2021).

Carey and Weissman (2010) suggest that the ideal mentor should be "credible, trustworthy, reliable, altruistic, generous, and possess qualities the protege wishes to emulate. Experts who study mentorship generally agree that it is important for mentees to first think through the idea of mentorship and develop a clear sense of their own values, needs, goals, knowledge, and skill gaps (Sastre, 2017; Carey and Weissman, 2010; Zerzan et al., 2009).

Yet, academic institutions do not always play a purposeful role pairing mentors and mentees. Rather, Marino (2021) argues that this process is often left to chance and luck. To overcome this challenge and to expand one's support network, building informal mentorship is critical—and sometimes matters more than formal mentorship. Relative to formal mentorship, informal mentorship is far less structured. Mentors and mentees pair more organically, and the relationship can often seem more casual than transactional. In addition to helping mentees to fulfill programmatic outcomes, informal mentorship provides additional support. Below, we discuss the benefits of informal mentorship and potential tips to surround oneself with informal mentors.

### Mentorship without Boundaries

It is not uncommon for graduate students or early-career scholars with unique backgrounds or research interests to have difficulty identifying in-house mentors: with relevant experiences; who connect with them; or can help their career development in substantive ways. Moreover, minoritized scholars often need specific kinds of mentorship that are inclusive of their divergent realities (Berg & Bing, 1990). However, there remains a lack of diverse faculty present on all levels to help provide role models and respond to the burgeoning need of students. Current events have also played a distinct role in the type of mentorship junior scholars seek. For instance, anecdotally, we have attended panels and division meetings where students have spoken about their quest to contextualize their research agendas alongside current social movements like Black Lives Matter. However, these young scholars are missing mentors at their home institutions with which they can interface. Fortunately, mentor options are not limited to individuals at your institution or organization, or even in your discipline.

Your circle of trust—individuals to confer with, vent frustrations to, and get advice from—can come from a variety of backgrounds and unexpected places. This requires effort on your part, however. If you are an assistant professor, be proactive and invite a senior faculty member from another department out for coffee or lunch. Or look outside of academia. One of the best ways to meet individuals outside of your home department or organization is through committees, clubs, and organizations sponsored by regional or national organizations. Serving on awards committees is generally not time-intensive, but gives you the opportunity to meet professionals in your field. Community advisory boards for non-profit organizations allow young scholars to meet practitioners in their field of interest. Take advantage of attending events in your geographic area or online (the Internet can be a great thing!), and meet people who have a wealth of experience and ideas.

# Conference-Based Mentorship

Professional conferences provide a natural forum to meet scholars with shared research interests, to expand one's social and professional network, and to develop informal mentorship. This opportunity is even more valuable for scholars from underrepresented groups or with niche research areas. For instance, I (Jason) have facilitated many roundtables with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) students, which underscores their distinct status in the field. Some roundtables reflected academic achievement, and others focused on their status as minoritized people navigating graduate school. These panels served the purpose of building a community for BIPOC students that they would not otherwise have at home. The panels also can create a safe space for graduate students to vent and ask for help. As such, this may also serve as a form of mentorship given the interfacing that occurs on such panels.

Utilizing conferences to foster mentorship can include a range of activities. For instance, attending or presenting at academic panels

# **KEYS TO SUCCESS**

allows students to converse with seasoned scholars, to receive on-the-spot feedback, and to polish research frameworks. Participating in division-sponsored meetings and social events is a great way to meet senior people in your research area. The casual atmosphere of the social events makes it less intimidating to initiate a conversation. And, you can ask people who you know to facilitate meetings. Moreover, divisions in the American Society of Criminology (ASC) provide student membership (\$5 only!), while many divisions have students as board members. Finally, conference attendance in and of itself often leads to opportunities to initiate conversations with potential informal mentors. Connect with a scholar in your area of interest and ask to meet for coffee at a conference to discuss ideas. It is amazing what collaborations can grow from these meetings. Even more surprising are the research projects that are born with a chance meeting or introduction by a friend. Two unconventional ways to connect could be at the book exhibition or in the hallway. A serendipitous encounter could lead to great informal mentorship down the road. Seize the opportunity to start a friendly conversation when you attend a conference!

#### Taking advantage of Technology Advancement

During the pandemic, many graduate students have entered the field without having in-person opportunities for mentorship (Bapat et al., 2021). Professional conferences were canceled during the peak of the pandemic, and many people are still hesitant to attend in-person conferences. While this poses a new challenge, the situation also presents new opportunities for graduate students and junior scholars with limited resources to seek out mentorship. In the past, in-person conferences were the primary means for graduate students or junior scholars to socialize and network with other scholars. While we recognize the values of in-person events, we also acknowledge that students or scholars from non-research emphasized schools tend not to have the financial support to attend the events. Consequently, the financial burden of attending conferences creates unequal access to informal mentorship.

This has all changed with the availability and broad adoption of technology, especially since the pandemic began. Many professional organizations have launched (partial or fully) virtual conferences. To compensate for the lack of personal touch, we have also seen professional conferences host virtual social events, or facilitate distance mentorship via a digital medium. The advancement in technology is especially valuable for people from universities with limited support or people who have practical difficulties being away from home for a period of time. The availability of technology and virtual options also helps shrink the gap between students and faculty from different types of academic programs to promote equality. With the advantages that come with technology, it is important to keep in mind that digital mentorship still requires commitment from both parties, just like in-person mentorship (Gottlieb et al., 2017). Thus, having regular contact and follow up is key to a successful mentorship.

In sum, we have offered a few tips for graduate students and early career scholars to develop informal membership. As a professional organization, the ASC should continue to provide a welcoming atmosphere to cultivate effective mentorship, especially for the underserved population. Moving forward, having both in-person and virtual opportunities for people to connect and network also facilitates the development of informal mentorship. Nonetheless, we want to reiterate that it is important for graduate students and early career scholars to first evaluate and assess their own needs and goals when seeking out possible mentorship. Knowing the areas you need help with will make it easier for you to identify the "ideal" mentor when you reach out to seasoned scholars. Unlike formal in-house mentorship, there is often a physical distance between mentors and mentees that are connected informally. Thus, it is important to follow up all virtual or in-person conversations with a written summary to help provide structure in mentorship and serve as a reminder for the next step. When there is a chance, having in-person meetings could always deepen the mentormentee relationship. Given current constraints around the reach of higher education, new methods of mentorship may need to be established to meet the needs of graduate students and early career scholars alike.

# **KEYS TO SUCCESS**

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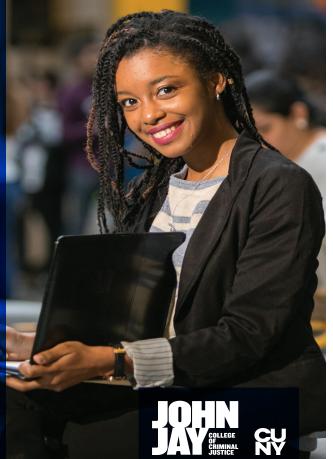
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# DOCTORAL STUDENT FORUM

# The Importance of Friendship During Graduate School

William M. Casey, Florida State University College of Criminology and Criminal Justice

#### Introduction

Over the past two years, nearly 1 million people in the U.S. have died from COVID-19 (The New York Times, 2022). Aside from the physical effects, evidence indicates that having been infected by COVID-19, concerns about the virus, and social isolation have negatively impacted people's mental health (e.g., Vindegaard & Benros, 2020). For some, the weight of the pandemic has been combined with another stressful endeavor, the pursuit of a doctoral degree. On its own, graduate training is stressful (Wyatt & Oswalt, 2013), and there is evidence that being a student may increase levels of pandemic-related stress (e.g., Wang et al., 2020). In fact, Ogilvie et al., (2020) conducted a survey to assess graduate student experiences during the pandemic and found "concerning" levels of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). High levels of stress can also negatively impact a person's physical health. For example, research indicates that high levels of stress can negatively impact the functioning of a person's endocrine system, gastrointestinal system, cardiovascular system, and immune system (see Larzelere & Jones, 2008).

Given this backdrop, being a graduate student during the pandemic may contribute to high levels of stress as well as worsened physical and mental health. This leads me to ask, what can graduate students do to optimize their physical and mental health? Fortunately, there are many actions we can take, including exercise, meditation, eating healthier, and working with a mental health counselor. While these possibilities are excellent and play a role in the pursuit of better health, here I highlight the benefits of friend-ship that have been established in the scientific literature. I begin with a discussion of why people seek friendship and how friend-ship can impact our health and close with a brief review and discussion of "best practices" for establishing friendships.

### The Need to Belong

Social psychologists argue that underlying our search for friendship is the fundamental need to belong in society (Baumeister & Leary, 1995). In their development of the "belongingness hypothesis," Baumeister & Leary, (1995) argue that:

Human beings have a pervasive drive to form and maintain at least a minimum quantity of lasting, positive, and significant interpersonal relationships. Satisfying this drive involves two criteria: First, there is a need for frequent, affectively pleasant interactions with a few other people, and second, these interactions must take place in the context of a temporally stable and enduring framework of affective concern for each other's welfare. (p. 497)

In other words, to find a sense of belonging, people need close, caring, and consistent relationships. When this does not happen, it can increase levels of stress as well as physical and mental health issues (Baumeister & Leary, 1995). Because friendships are not randomly distributed in society, most graduate students will form bonds with other students and these relationships will play a key role in the person finding their sense of belonging and ultimately their success in graduate school. This seems especially important in graduate school, given that many students experience "imposter syndrome" and feel as if they do not belong.

#### **Physical & Mental Health**

Applied to the graduate school context, the belongingness hypothesis argues that we make friends with other students to establish our sense of belonging within our academic program. If we are unable to do so, it can result in high levels of stress, as well as physical and mental health issues. Research examining the impact of social isolation (i.e., a lack of friendships/relationships) on physical and mental health supports this hypothesis (e.g., Heffner et al., 2011; Kiecolt-Glaser et al., 1984; Kintzle et al., 2018; Ueno, 2005). For example, Kiecolt-Glaser et al. (1984) studied the association of stressful life events and loneliness with a person's immunocompetence (i.e., ability to fight disease). They found that stressful life events and loneliness were associated with lower levels of natural killer cell activity, which help fight against tumors and viruses. In another example, Heffner et al. (2011) examined the impact of social isolation on C-reactive protein (a marker of inflammation) and death from coronary heart disease (CHD). They found that social isolation was positively associated with both.

Switching focus to mental health, Kintzle et al. (2018) studied the association between social connectedness and PTSD among service members transitioning out of the military. They found an inverse relationship between feelings of social connectedness and PTSD symptoms. When veterans felt less socially connected, they experienced higher levels of PTSD symptoms. Finally, Ueno (2005)

# DOCTORAL STUDENT FORUM

examined whether those who are integrated into social networks have better mental health. He found that adolescents who were integrated within friendship networks reported fewer depressive symptoms. Moreover, the effect of friendship operated through a person's sense of belonging. When a person is integrated within a friendship network, it positively influences their sense of belonging, which reduces depressive symptoms.

### **Concluding Thoughts**

A lack of friendship can negatively impact a person's health. To optimize our health, which will ultimately impact our performance as students (see Ruthig et al., 2011), we should work on developing high quality friendships with other students. Doing so will provide both short- and long-term benefits (e.g., improved health, future collaborations). In what follows, I present a few practical tips/reminders on how to make and keep friends. They include: (1) be nice, (2) be humble, (3) be willing to give, and (4) be forgiving.

First, friends may not always be nice to one another, however, being nice is a fundamental aspect of friendship. If you are not nice to other people, you will not make or keep very many friends. Second, be humble. Most graduate students are intelligent and highly ambitious, and as such, many will set and achieve impressive goals. My recommendation is to not let it go to your head. You should be proud of your accomplishments, but do not be a jerk because of them. Third, be willing to give. This might include helping another student with a question about their homework or helping someone prepare for their comprehensive exams. Another option is to help someone prepare for their ASC presentation by watching them practice and providing feedback. This is a great way to provide social support to fellow graduate students, which can help reduce levels of stress (Johnson et al., 2008). Finally, everyone makes mistakes and, as such, forgiveness is a key element of friendship. If a friend has wronged you, try to forgive them. Doing so will help both of you, and it may allow you to maintain a mutually beneficial relationship. If we can follow these simple recommendations, it will improve our ability to make friends and maintain friendships, which can positively impact our physical and mental health, as well as our overall performance as graduate students.

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#### Please welcome the new editor of "Criminology Around the World"!

Marijana Kotlaja is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her research interests and prior work includes crosscomparative criminology, juvenile justice and multiculturalism. She currently serves as the Division of International Criminology (ASC) Secretary/Treasurer, as well as having served as the DIC Inter-Newsletter Editor. She has been an invited presenter at the United Nations Crime Commission, Ryokoku University in Kyoto, Japan, as well as in multiple countries such as Spain, Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia. Please send your ideas for future submissions to "Criminology Around the World" to her. Thank you to Vesna Markovic for her service in this position over the last six years.

# A Comparative Study of Police Changes during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Sanja Kutnjak Ivković, Michigan State University Jon Maskály, University of North Dakota Peter Neyroud, University of Cambridge

After the COVID-19 pandemic was officially declared by the World Health Organization (WHO, 2020) on March 11, 2020, countries around the world have quickly embarked on dramatic changes to curb the spread of COVID-19 and protect their citizens. Within a short period of time—less than a month—about four billion people from 90 countries were ordered by their governments to stay at home (Sandford, 2020). The world has changed: citizens stayed at home, businesses closed, employees switched to remove work, and crime rates decreased. Over the next two years, additional waves of COVID-19 infections spread throughout the world, resulting in the tightening or the relaxation of the government restrictions (Oxford Covid-19 Government Response Tracker, 2022).

As first responders, the police found themselves at the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. On the one hand, the police had to protect their own from exposure to COVID-19, while, on the other hand, they had to provide police services to the public. In many countries, the police were also assigned the new task of enforcing the COVID-19 governmental restrictions, often with only very limited training (e.g., Matarazzo et al., 2020; Warren et al., 2020) and sparse personal protective equipment. During a two-month period in 2020, the police in the United Kingdom issued more than 17,000 fines (BBC, 2020). Italy has charged more than 40,000 people for violations of the lockdown (Tondo, 2020) and Spain issued more than 1 million fines for violations of lockdown regulations during the first peak of the COVID-19 pandemic (Palmer, 2020).

As time passed, various NGOs, including the Police Executive Research Forum (2020) and Vera Institute of Justice (2020) offered suggestions and provided examples of types of changes that police agencies might consider as they adjust to the pandemic. Only a handful of empirical studies measured the extent and nature of these changes across the U.S. and Canadian police agencies (e.g., Alexander and Ekici, 2020; Lum et al., 2020).

Our research team sought to capture empirically the diversity and similarity of the changes in police agencies across the world. To what degree is what we have been reading about the nature and extent of changes in some of the police agencies (e.g., Police Executive Research Forum, 2020; Vera Institute of Justice, 2020; Warran et al., 2020) representative of the changes occurring in other countries, be they countries from the Global North or Global South? To answer this question, in Spring of 2020 we designed a questionnaire geared toward police administrators. Our survey instrument expanded upon the ideas articulated in the recommendations to the U.S. police agencies by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF, 2020) and the early data collection efforts (e.g., Lum et al., 2020).

We planned to distribute the questionnaire to police administrators in different countries to obtain a breadth of experiences (Kutnjak

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Ivković et al., 2022). One of the challenges of our research was to determine the method by means of which the questionnaires will be administered. The challenge was exacerbated by the fact that the lockdown was still ongoing in many places, police officers were overburdened with their regular and additional COVID-19 related activities, and we were not allowed to travel to carry out international research projects. We opted for an online survey and distributed the Qualtrics link and the associated password during the summer and early autumn of 2020 (Kutnjak Ivković et al., 2022; Maskály et al., 2021a, 2021b). The survey was distributed to all United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNDOC) member states, as well as to police administrators through various professional organizations (i.e., Police Chief's Associations in the United States, European Agency for Law Enforcement Training in Europe [CEPOL], National Police Chiefs Council in the United Kingdom). We received responses from police administrators residing in 29 countries (e.g., Kutnjak Ivković et al., 2021a, 2021b), including countries as diverse as Australia, China, Colombia, Mexico, South Africa, South Korea, Uganda, and the United States.

We discovered (Maskály et al., 2021a) that the most consistent changes across the police in these countries were related to the organizational risk reduction (e.g., police training, use of PPE, public access to the police facilities), risk mitigation (e.g., remote work, use of vacation time), crime-prevention strategies (e.g., community policing activities, use of directed patrols), and some reactive policing (e.g., taking people into custody, traffic stops). However, we were not interested only in the nature and extent of the changes, but also whether the health threat was the main factor driving the police changes. We assumed that, the stronger the COVID-19 health threat in the country (e.g., COVID-19 infection rate, COVID-19 death rate), the more extensive changes police agencies would perform to protect their employees. Indeed, we found that the changes in police organization and operation during the first wave of the pandemic in Summer 2020 were only partly related to the severity of the health threat (Maskály et al., 2021b). In addition, these changes were negatively related to the constraints on governmental power (World Justice Project, 2020), suggesting that, perhaps, the countries with governments less restricted by the rule of law might have relied on the pandemic to relax further the rules about their own accountability.

We were surprised to learn that the police administrators in our study expected only a few negative consequences of these organizational and operational changes and offered a highly optimistic view of the potential long-term consequences of the pandemic on both the police organizations and the police-community relationship (Maskály et al., 2021a). To counterbalance these views, we have originally sought to capture the views of different stakeholders—police supervisors, police officers, and community members—as well. Our research team, composed of scholars from across the world, is continuing this project by collecting the data from police administrators, police officers, and citizens in a number of countries (e.g., Croatia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, United States). Please stay tuned for our subsequent updates and feel free to contact us with any questions.

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The Lithuanian Association of Criminologists (Lietuvos kriminologų asociacija LKA) was founded in 2010. Its mission is to nurture the traditions of Lithuanian criminology and promote the scientific research of criminologists, mobilize them and represent the interests Association members.

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- Every four years the seminar of Baltic criminologists takes place in Lithuania. LKA is one of the organizers.
- The 27th of May is The Lithuanian Criminologists' Day, during which scientific discussions and other events are organized.
- LKA is also a cofounder of the scientific journal "Criminological studies", which is open for national and international authors: <u>Kriminologijos studijos (vu.lt)</u>
- LKA also initiates discussions on crime and penal policy issues with representatives of governmental institutions and other related organizations.

# Contacts:

Website:www.kriminologija.ltE-mail:kriminologija@kriminologija.ltAddress:Ankštoji str. 1A, LT-01109 Vilnius, Lithuania



# WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY



2023 Annual Conference February 3-4, 2023

**The Sheraton Wall Centre** Vancouver, B.C.

**1000 Burrard St** Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2R9 Canada (604) 331-1000

People wishing to present at the conference will be able to submit proposals through our online abstract submission system between August 1 and October 7, 2022. We encourage the submission of complete panels of three (3) to four (4) papers.

# PANEL TOPICS

- COURTS AND JUDICIAL PROCESSES (INCLUDING SENTENCING)
- CORRECTIONS
- CRIME ANALYSIS (INCLUDING GEOGRAPHY & CRIME AND SOCIAL NETWORKS & CRIME)
- CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY
- CYBERCRIME
- DRUGS/SUBSTANCE ABUSE & CRIME
- FORENSIC SCIENCE
- SEX, GENDER, SEXUALITY, & CRIME

- JUVENILE JUSTICE
- LEGAL ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (CRIMINAL LAW, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, & EVIDENCE)
- ORGANIZED CRIME & GANGS
- PEACEMAKING CRIMINOLOGY
- POLICING
- SEX CRIMES
- TEACHING & ASSESSMENT IN JUSTICE EDUCATION
- TERRORISM
- WHITE COLLAR CRIME

All proposals must be electronically submitted through the WSC's online Abstract Submission System http://westerncriminology.org/conference-3/abstract-submission-gateway/.

The portal will open on August 1, 2022 and close on October 7, 2022, the deadline for submissions.

In deciding the most appropriate topic area for your abstract, think about the main focus of your paper or presentation and how it might fit within a panel organized around a larger topical theme. For example, if your paper examines both race and juvenile issues, think about whether you would like to be placed on a panel with other papers discussing race issues or other papers dealing with juvenile issues and then submit it to the topic area in which you think it fits best.

All presenters are asked to submit an abstract of 1,100 characters or fewer to only one of the panel topics listed above. In addition to the abstract, please include the name, mailing address, email address, and phone number for all authors on the submission for the participant directory.

Please note that all presenters are required to preregister and prepay the nonrefundable conference fees no later than Friday, December 23, 2022. Failure to do so will result in presentations being removed from the final program.

# CRIMINOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

# **Conferences, Webinars & Workshops**

# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE REFORM OF CRIMINAL LAW

*Thinking Beyond the Bars: New Approaches in Sentencing, Corrections and Restorative Justice* July 18-21, 2022; Website: <u>https://isrcl.com/thinking-beyond-the-bars/</u> Vancouver, Canada

# 13th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIAN CRIMINOLOGICAL SOCIETY

July 20 23, 2022; Website: <u>http://acs002.com/</u> Gujarat National Law University; Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

# 25th NGCRC 2022 INTERNATIONAL GANG SPECIALIST TRAINING CONFERENCE

August 1-3, 2022; Website: <u>https://ngcrc.com/2022.conference.html</u> Chicago, IL

# 31st ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL POLICE EXECUTIVE SYMPOSIUM (IPES)

Integrating Science, Technology, and Higher Education into Policing: Interdisciplinary & International August 14 - 19, 2022; Website: <u>www.ipes.info</u>

# EUROPEAN GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL

50th Annual Conference: Dynamics of Harm and Social Control in the Transformation of Capitalism September 7-9, 2022; Website: <u>http://www.european-group.org/2022/02/25/eg-50th-annual-conference/</u>Torino, Italy

# **ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME & GENDER SEMINAR**

September 21, 2022; Website: <u>https://www.eur.nl/en/events/environmental-crime-gender-2022-09-21</u> Malaga, Spain

# 22nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

September 21-24, 2022; Website: <u>https://esc-eurocrim.org/</u> or <u>https://www.eurocrim2022.com/</u> Malaga, Spain

# ICC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CRIMINOLOGY

October 6-7, 2022; Website: <u>https://waset.org/criminology-conference-in-october-2022-in-tokyo</u> Tokyo, Japan

# 2022 AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY (ANZSOC) CONFERENCE

Transforming Criminology for the 2020's and Beyond November 28–30, 2022; Website: <u>https://anzsocconference.com.au/</u> Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin NT

# ICHT 2022: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

December 15-16, 2022; Website: <u>https://waset.org/human-trafficking-conference-in-december-2022-in-barcelona</u> Barcelona, Spain

# ICHRT 2023. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND TERRORISM

May 24-25, 2023 Website: <u>https://waset.org/human-rights-and-terrorism-conference-in-may-2023-in-london</u> London, England

# The Criminologist

Official Newsletter of the American Society of Criminology Vol. 47, No. 4

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

921 Chatham Lane, Suite 108 Columbus, OH 43221 ISSN 0164-0240

# **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** FUTURE ASC ANNUAL MEETING DATES

2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035	November 15 18 November 20 23 November 19 - 22 November 18 - 21 November 17 20 November 15 18 November 14 - 17 November 20 - 23 November 20 - 23 November 12 - 15 November 17 - 20 November 16 - 19 November 11 - 19
2034	November 10 – 18

San Francisco, CA Washington, D.C. Chicago, IL Dallas, TX New Orleans, LA Philadelphia, PA San Francisco, CA Washington, D.C. Chicago, IL Washington, D.C. New Orleans, LA Chicago, IL

Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia Marriot Downtown San Francisco Marriott Marquis Washington D.C. Marriott Marquis Palmer House Hilton Dallas Anatole Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hilton Philadelphia Marriott Downtown San Francisco Marriott Marquis Washington, D.C. Marriott Marquis Palmer House Hilton Washington, D.C. Marriott Marquis New Orleans Riverside Hilton Palmer House Hilton



# **2022 ASC ANNUAL MEETING**

Venue: Atlanta Marriott Marquis

Location: Atlanta, GA

Date: 11/16/2022-11/19/2022

Chairs: Bianca Bersani & Stephanie DiPietro

**Theme:** The Future of Criminology

Visit the <u>2022 Annual Meeting</u> page on the <u>ASC website</u> for additional details.