



The Criminologist

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Norms and Ethics in Academic Journal Publishing: Perspectives from Members of the 2024 ASC Ethics Committee

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In criminology and criminal justice, publishing in academic journals is the main mode by which science is advanced and careers are built. Publishing in flagship or high-impact journals can enable individuals' works to reach wider audiences (Roth, 2005). Journal publications also predict the likelihood of being invited for an academic job interview or being granted promotion (Applegate et al., 2009; Fabianic, 2012). The high stakes that are attached to academic publications can have unintended consequences, as when researchers work to "please" editors to increase the chances that their work will be disseminated (Lawrence, 2003). There thus is the potential for tension between the honest production and reporting of science, the strategies used by individuals to accumulate peer-reviewed publications, and the actions of journal editors and other publication gatekeepers.

The practices of authors, editors, and reviewers are addressed in several professional codes of ethics, including the American Society of Criminology's Code of Ethics (ASC Code). These codes describe the roles and responsibilities of various parties in the publication process. Although the codes provide guidance on the responsible dissemination of research, they rarely establish specific metrics for determining whether ethical principles in publication have been followed. One example of this ambiguity involves codes' calling for timeliness in review and editorial processes; although this on its surface may be a desirable element of the codes, without concrete definitions of "timely," it is difficult to judge when this element is met. This reality suggests a need for discipline-specific efforts to define "prompt," "timely," and other abstract language in the codes.

In this article, three members of the 2024 ASC Ethics Committee highlight the potential role of professional norms in evaluating publishing practices—that is, we describe the possible utility of evaluating actions based on common practice (i.e., descriptive norms) rather than solely on abstract principles (i.e., injunctive norms). Although publishing behaviors may change in response to discipline-wide shifts in practice (e.g., migrations to electronic submission of articles, or fluctuating submission volumes), it is possible that they are consistent enough to permit identification of descriptive norms. The article first reviews the ASC Code and related ethics codes, identifying abstract language that may hamper adherence to them. It then provides a potential definition of timely editorial decision-making by describing typical review times for the ASC's peer-reviewed journals. Our logic is that deviations from the abstract standards set out in the ASC Code cannot be identified without first establishing what review times are descriptively normative (i.e., common), assuming regularities in journal outcomes do in fact exist. To generate this definition of what is normal at ASC journals, the article illustrates publishing norms across multiple metrics. The article represents a consideration of the topic through the joint lenses of formal guidelines and informal customs in the discipline.

The Content of the Codes

There are many commonalities across the codes of ethics of the major professional organizations

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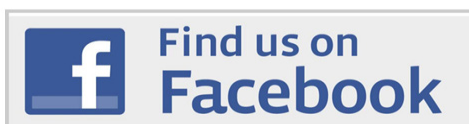
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in the social sciences. The codes often cover responsibilities related to topics such as the proper assigning of credit; fairness and honesty in all actions related to the dissemination of science; and timely responses between authors, reviewers, and editors.

Credit. The ASC Code calls for authors to give credit to individuals who have contributed to scholarly works. It also states that the listed orders of authors and acknowledgements should accurately reflect the magnitudes of individuals' efforts. Beyond giving credit to direct contributors, the ASC Code also states that it is essential to provide credit through citations when utilizing someone else's work, including findings and methodological techniques. Similar ethical standards are found in the codes of ethics of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) and of the American Sociological Association (ASA). Although on their surface these standards appear straightforward, they leave room for multiple interpretations and for differences in opinion. For example, people may disagree about the specific degree of contribution needed to warrant authorship credit and the relative weight given to research and writing when assigning authorship orders (Gibson et al., 2024). Also unspecified in the ASC Code is the appropriateness of assigning credit to individuals whose contributions were made solely as intensive research advisers, such as doctoral dissertation advisers (Gibson et al., 2024).

Fairness. The ASC Code also states that ASC members must review others' submitted works fairly. This means in part that they must not be reviewers when they have a conflict of interest. This includes work written by friends, colleagues, teachers, and research that is not within their areas of expertise. When work is reviewed, the review should be professional, thorough, and fair. Comments and critiques should be productive, constructive, and confidential since these comments are an important determinant of manuscript submission outcomes (Tewksbury & Mustaine, 2012). Honesty is essential; an ASC member must inform an editor if they have previously reviewed material that they have been asked to review, they may not share material they are reviewing with anyone without author or editor permission, and they are not allowed use of the material being reviewed for their own. With respect to these standards, potential areas of ambiguity include the requirement for expertise in the work's subject matter; what is the threshold of expertise below which an invited reviewer should decline an invitation to review?

Unlike the ASC Code, the ACJS code of ethics explicitly states that "journal editors... should monitor the work of associate editors and other referees so that delays are minimal, and reviews are conscientious." This highlights two issues: the need for the editors to ensure that reviews of manuscripts are conscientious, and the need to ensure that they are prompt. The use of the word conscientious enhances the clarity of what is expected. Clarity in editor and reviewer ethics and practices is essential.

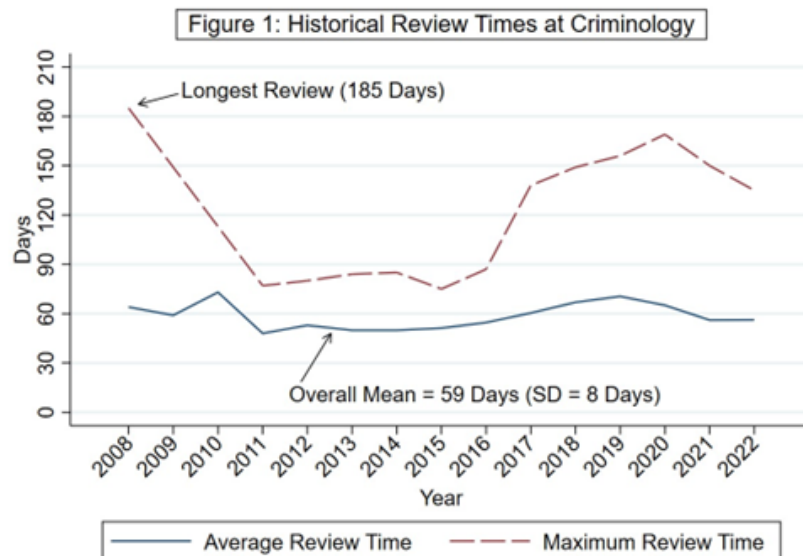
Timeliness. The ASC Code also calls for authors, reviewers, and editors to respect review timelines. For the author, this means respecting the timeline given by the editor, and only reaching out for updates after it has lapsed. For the editor, this involves maintaining communication with authors on the status of their manuscript, especially if review times are delayed. This communication is important because journal review times may vary depending on the number of submissions received, the availability of reviewers, cash incentives, and other factors (e.g., Chetty et al., 2014). Many societies' codes also state that editors are to make "prompt", "timely", or "expeditious" decisions on submissions. The dilemma is that the terms "prompt" and "timely" are vague, and it is difficult to determine when the wait has become excessive or lengthy.¹ There is the potential for conflicts between the need to publish work in a timely manner and the responsibility of editors to avoid sacrificing the quality or integrity of both the journal and the research that it publishes.

An Illustration of Professional Norms in Publishing

The ASC, ACJS, and ASA Codes all reference prompt and/or timely decisions by journal editors. The uniformity of these requirements belies the abstraction of these terms. Some past discussions of the appropriateness of publishing practices have relied on surveys of perceptions and ideals (e.g., Nguyen et al., 2015). The remainder of this article presents a norms-based evaluation of the timeliness of editorial decisions regarding submitted manuscripts. The logic is that descriptive norms must be established to evaluate whether editors are abiding by them (i.e., whether they are "prompt"). It is only when benchmarks for normal review times are identified that deviations from typical practice will become visible. With the assistance of the ASC Executive Director, members of the ASC Ethics Committee created a dataset of submission volume, time to decision, and other metrics for the journals *Criminology* and *Criminology and Public Policy* from 2007 to present. We used this dataset to determine whether regularities in review times exist and if there are outliers. We interpret these findings in the contexts of submission volume, desk rejection rates, reviewer promptness, and other factors.

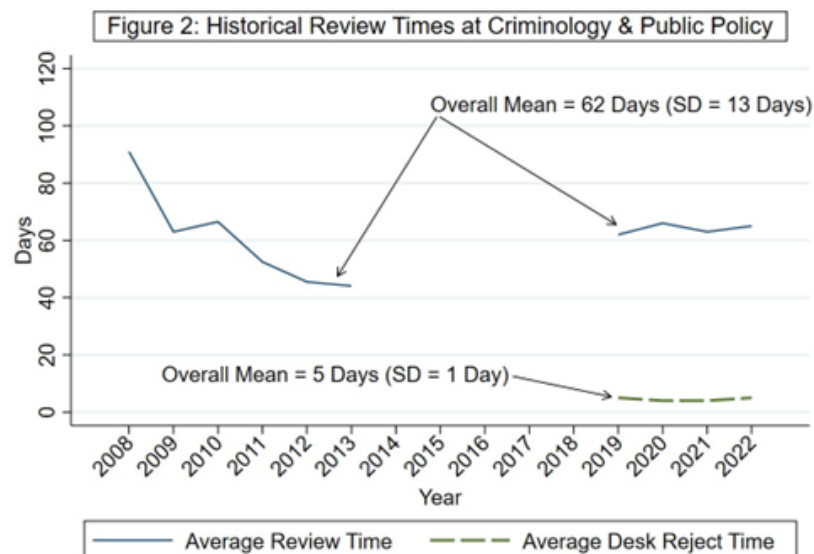
Historical Review Times at *Criminology*

From 2008 to 2022, the annual reports for *Criminology* included the average time to first decision for manuscripts sent out to review (i.e., those not desk rejected). In all but two years, they also included the longest time to decision. We plot this data in Figure 1. Overall, the average review time for manuscripts sent out to review between 2008 and 2022 was 59 days. Across these years, the maximum review time for submitted articles averaged 118 days. During the entire 16-year period, the single longest review time was 185 days. In that case, which happened in 2008, the editor contacted the corresponding author and explained the delay.



Historical Review Times at *Criminology* & Public Policy

The historical data available from *Criminology* & *Public Policy* differ in three ways. First, review-time statistics were not reported between 2014 and 2018. Second, in their formal reports to ASC leadership, the editors did not provide the longest review time for any year. However, the current editors provided Ethics Committee members with the data since 2019; the longest review time was 143 days. Third, beginning in 2019, the editors started reporting average desk-rejection times as well as average time to first decision for manuscripts sent to review. The review-time statistics available between 2008 and 2022 are shown in Figure 2. Overall, the average review time for manuscripts sent to review between 2008 and 2022 was 62 days. The average time it took for desk rejections between 2019 and 2022 was 5 days.



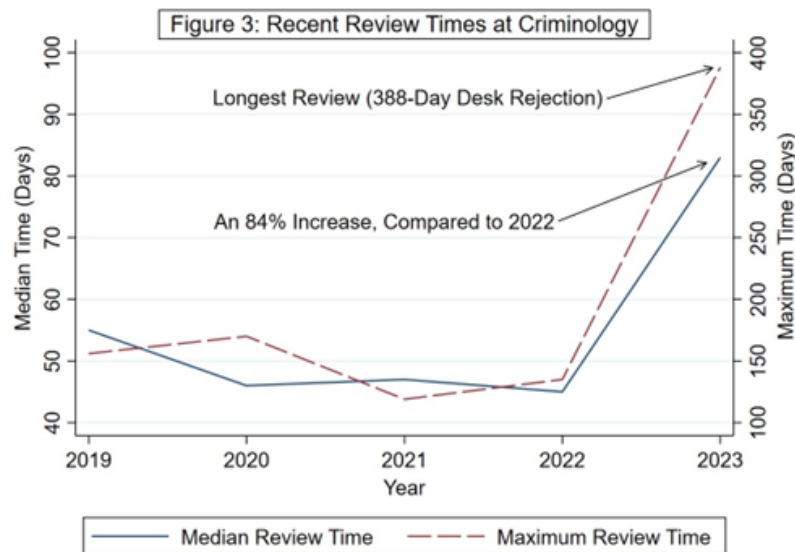
Summary of Historical Review Times: ASC's Descriptive Norms

Combining the 2008-2022 data across both ASC journals, we arrive at several descriptive norms. Desk rejections have normally taken less than a week. Decisions on articles sent out to review normally took about two months, and rarely exceeded four months. These descriptive norms provide historical context clarifying the meaning of "prompt" and "timely."

Current Review Times at *Criminology*

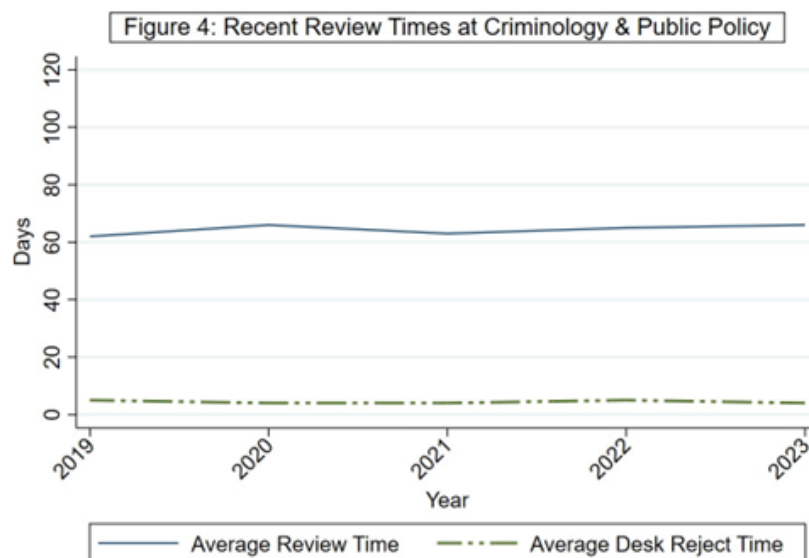
Because only the median, but not the mean, review time for *Criminology* was reported in 2023, current review time information is shown in a separate set of figures. As shown in Figure 3, the longest review time in 2023 was 388 days, more than double the previous 16-year maximum (i.e., 185 days). That 388-day decision was a desk rejection. On average, desk rejections in 2023 took about as long as full reviews in previous years (two months) and several took over four months.² For manuscripts sent out to review, the median and maximum times to decision also exceeded those from prior years. The longest review time for an article sent out to review was 353 days. Between 2022 and 2023, the median review time for all articles (including desk rejections) increased by

jumping from 45 to 83 days. The median review time for articles sent to review increased 83% (from 54 to 99 days). To increase comparability with previous years and with CPP, we emailed the editors and requested the average review time in 2023 for articles sent to review, but they declined to provide it.³



Current Review Times at *Criminology & Public Policy*

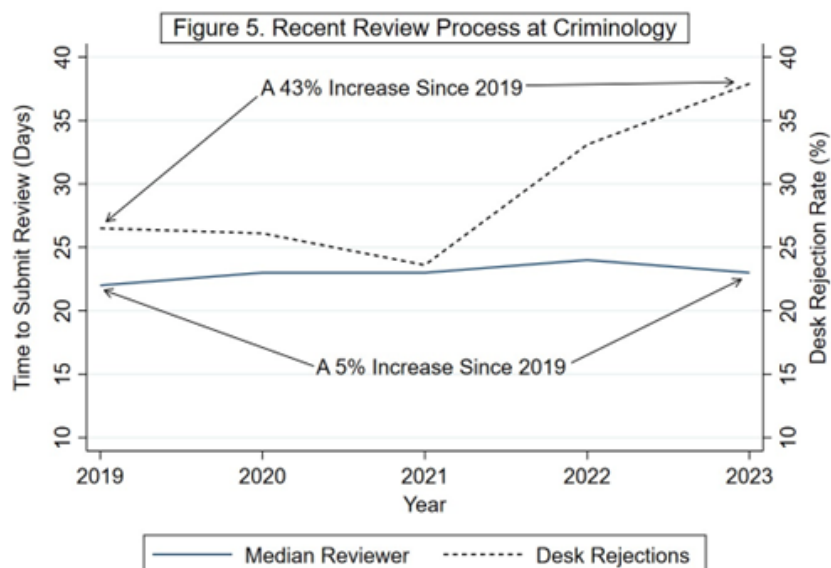
As shown in Figure 4, there were no noticeable changes in review times at *Criminology & Public Policy* in recent years. In 2023, the average desk-rejection time at the journal fell by one day, compared to 2022 (falling from 5 days to 4 days). In both years, over half of submissions were desk rejected. For articles sent out to review, the average time to decision in 2023 was 66 days, which was only one day higher than in 2022 (65 days). The maximum review time in 2023 was 119 days, down from 142 days in 2022. Finally, the median review time for manuscripts sent out to review at *Criminology & Public Policy* in 2023 was 54 days, down from 60 days in 2022. (Recall that the *Criminology* editors reported the median instead of average review time in 2023, so we asked the *Criminology & Public Policy* editors for this same information.)⁴



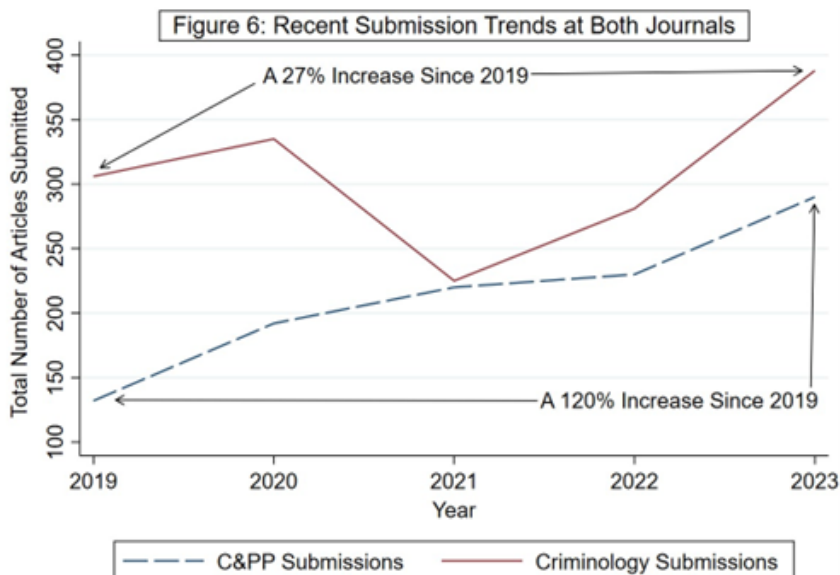
Why Reporting Statistics is Important

When editors report review statistics, it provides transparency, accountability, and information about descriptive norms. It also permits an investigation of potential explanations for any changes in review time. One factor that might increase review times (for articles sent out to review) would be a decline in desk rejections, which would require a larger number of articles to go to reviewers. As Figure 5 shows, however, the desk rejection rate at *Criminology* (for new submissions) increased by 43% between 2019 and 2023. In other words, fewer manuscripts were sent to review in 2023 than in many previous years (e.g., than in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022; see Table 2 of the 2024 annual report). As the *Criminology* editors emphasized, if they had not increased the desk rejection rate, and thus sent fewer manuscripts to review, "it is safe to say that ... manuscript timelines would have been further slowed down" (p. 3 of the 2024 report).

Another factor that might increase review times would be reviewers taking longer to complete their reviews after agreeing to serve as reviewers. However, this was not the case at *Criminology* (see Figure 5). In 2019, the median reviewer took 22 days to complete their review; in 2023 it was 23 days, which was lower than in 2022 (24 days). It could also be that it became harder to find reviewers—something that, in part, reflects editorial effort and decision-making. Data from the publisher does indicate that it became about 12% harder between 2022 and 2023 to find willing reviewers. This, however, would not explain the long desk rejection times at *Criminology*, and, apparently, did not affect review times at *Criminology & Public Policy*.



A final possible explanation for increased review times would be an increase in new submissions. As Figure 6 shows, *Criminology* experienced such an increase recently. In 2023, there were 388 new submissions. This represented an increase of 27% over 2019, when there were 306 new submissions.⁶ By comparison, the editors of *Criminology & Public Policy* dealt with a much larger increase in submissions (120%) between 2019 and 2023. As we saw previously, however, review times remained mostly stable at *Criminology & Public Policy* between 2019 and 2023—desk rejections took less than a week, on average, and full reviews took about two months.



ASC's Code of Ethics provides an injunctive norm to editors about ethical review times, stating that they must "provide prompt decisions to authors of submitted manuscripts." Our analysis of historical review times at *Criminology* and *Criminology & Public Policy* reveals the discipline's descriptive norms: an average of one week for desk rejections and two months for full reviews, with a maximum review time (in very rare cases where complications arise with specific submissions) of five months. These results indicate that consistent descriptive norms for review times at these two journals do in fact exist.

Writing as three individual ASC members asked to serve on the 2024 Ethics Committee, we believe that there are three key takeaways from our analysis. The first is that editors should abide by ASC's injunctive and descriptive norms. The second is that the annual editorial reports submitted to ASC's Executive Board should be made public each year. There is no good reason to keep them from ASC members. The third is that those reports should include a standard set of statistics. In our view, it is important that averages be reported, not just medians, because the former are more transparent about long review times. To illustrate, imagine

a sample of 100 editorial decisions. If 51 decisions take 60 days, but the other 49 take 730 days (2 years), the median review time (60 days) would entirely conceal the lack of promptness. By contrast, the average (388 days) would make it clear. Therefore, we (the authors) recommend that editors report all the following: 1) total new submissions, 2) total number of desk rejections, 3) average review time for desk rejections, 4) longest review time for a desk rejection, 5) average review time for full reviews, 6) longest review time for a full review, and 7) average time for reviewers to complete reviews. This practice would publicize the journals' descriptive norms to the field at large. Finally, it would also increase transparency and accountability if editors, in their decisions on individual submissions, provided authors with a processing timeline. Here is an example from a recent decision on a submission to the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*:

Transparency on peer-review process:
Submitted: 7/1/2024
Assigned to me, after internal screening: 7/15/2024
Three reviewers agreed: 8/1/2024
Last review returned: 8/21/2024
My decision: 8/22/2024

Ultimately, reporting statistics like this clarifies what is going on behind the scenes at journals, provides editorial accountability, and helps to minimize ethical issues/concerns with authors. The ASC Code includes statements about credit, fairness, and timeliness. Reporting statistics quantifies ethical issues related to fairness and timeliness. As stated previously, publications are needed for both tenure and promotion. Reporting statistics on review times provides authors with a general idea of when they should expect a decision. This is extremely important considering that for many this could impact their employment status or circumstances. The publishing of statistics allows authors to select journals to which to submit their work based on their own career timelines and research agendas. Additionally, the routine reporting of statistics provides valuable feedback to editors, and it may encourage them to improve their own timeliness if needed. This will ultimately improve the review process and ensure these processes remain in line with the ethical codes published by the American Society of Criminology.

¹The lack of clarity highlighted in the ASC Code regarding timeliness was consistent with the ethical codes of other professional organizations including the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the American Sociological Association (ACJS, 2000; ASA, 2018). It is also consistent with COPE, which uses vague terms (e.g. "timely").

²The current editors took over on December 1, 2022. However, they declined to provide statistics on desk rejections in their first four months. Thus, the desk rejection average is for April to December 2023.

³They were only willing to provide it for more recent six-month periods (e.g., 10/1/2023 to 3/31/2024 = 79.1 days). It does appear that the average review time at *Criminology* has shortened in 2024 (to about 56 days).

⁴Whenever possible, we rely on the numbers included in the editors' official annual reports to ASC leadership. We only use numbers from other sources (e.g., editors' emailed responses to our questions), when information is needed that was not included in their official reports.

⁵The editors' calculations in Table 2 of the 2024 report, which use total submissions (new plus revisions) in the denominator, yield different desk rejection rates and an even larger (82%) increase since 2019.

⁶Technically, there were 350 new submissions in 2023, but the editors emphasized in footnote 19 (p. 9) of their 2024 report that they processed 388 new submissions, because they took 38 from the previous editorial team.

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Ojmarrh Mitchell recused himself from editorial decisions on this article due to his role as co-editor-in-chief of Criminology & Public Policy, one of the journals discussed in the essay.

The Lifecourse of a Criminology Article (and How to Think About the Ethics of Review Times)

Volkan Topalli and Thomas Loughran

A funny thing happened on the way to the Editors' Corner.

This article is one that we have been preparing for about a year. It was originally motivated by senior criminologists suggesting to us that it would be helpful for beginning scholars to understand how the review process at *Criminology* works. Around the time we were completing this piece, we became aware of an essay under preparation by Justin Pickett, Sonja Siennick, and Daniel Scott (appearing in this issue). Their essay's stated aims are admirable, "...[to] highlight the potential role of professional norms in evaluating publishing practices." However, we disagree with numerous statements and claims in the essay. Rather than prepare a traditional rejoinder we elected to adapt the current piece to address some of their contentions by situating our responses within the broader context of *Criminology*'s review and publication processes. Thus, without abandoning the original purpose of our essay, we speak to some important issues raised by our colleagues in theirs, providing some critical context along the way. But first...

How does the editorial process at *Criminology* work?

Academic journals are the lifeblood of science. On the one hand, editors must ensure that what is disseminated conforms to the highest standards of scientific scrutiny, thereby ensuring that future researchers can rely on a given finding to direct scholarly inquiries or make sound policy judgments. Published research also may be used to support scholars' theoretical arguments and analytical decisions in their own subsequent work. The demands to produce and disseminate rigorous, replicable, and reproducible scholarship have increased alongside the growing expectation of the academy and mandate of many funders to [implement data transparency and open science](#).

On the other hand, there are also pressures to disseminate science promptly, and for two reasons. First, there is the argument that postponing the circulation of findings through an overly lengthy review process means that a particular discovery will fail to have a positive impact on society (science delayed is science denied, so to speak). This is most evident in the case of advancing discovery during a period of societal exigency; for example, the study of the coronavirus and dissemination of research that guided the development of the COVID vaccine (Bagdasarian et al., 2020; Palayew et al., 2020). However, this concern is rarely justified in social science research, including criminology, as the ramifications of findings in our field usually play out over longer periods (e.g., the length of time it takes to implement a particular policy or pass legislation). Second, however, is the importance placed on publications as an essential determinant of the professional success of those who produce science in the first place, academics.

In the US, university scholars are evaluated annually, with untenured professors additionally reviewed prior to tenure (the pre-tenure review) and at the year of tenure. This creates stressful time pressures for academics, particularly early career scholars, to demonstrate their value to their home institution by publishing articles at an ever-brisker clip (Clear, 2024). The average number of articles expected to achieve tenure in criminology has risen noticeably in recent decades, as has how we think about the "publish-or-perish" ethic (Cohn et al., 2017; Frost, 2007). Furthermore, there are now [similarly \(disturbingly?\) strong demands on graduate students to publish](#) in order to be considered eligible for a position at a typical R1 institution (see, e.g., Copenheaver, 2020).

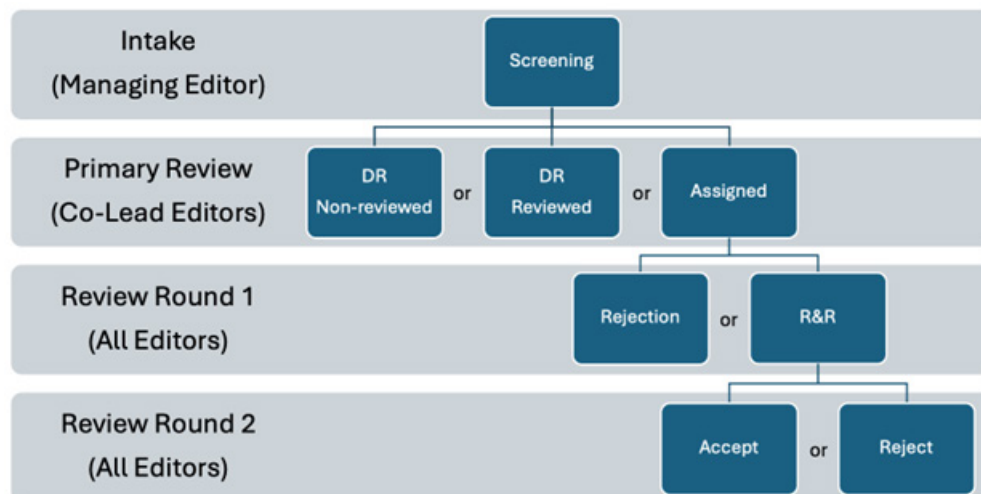
Such opposing pressures place conflicting strain on journal editors to get the science right while also providing rapid, high-quality feedback. The dilemma is compounded by recent developments in the publishing ecosystem, including [the advent of papers produced by artificial intelligence](#), the proliferation of publishing cartels (Barta, 2022), and the post-COVID reviewer crisis (Isom, 2025; Tropini, 2023; Horta et al., 2024). Moreover, academic publishing is a lucrative endeavor. Wiley, our journal's current publisher has a market cap of \$1.9 billion and revenues of \$448 million in the fourth quarter of 2024 for example. Unsurprisingly, [there has been an explosion in the number of scholarly journals](#) in circulation [with a significant number of those outlets deemed predatory](#). The proliferation of scholarly outlets, legitimate and illegitimate, places grater strain on the existing pool of potential reviewers for papers.

Criminology is the flagship journal of our Society. Because of this, and the journal's history as the top outlet in our field, publication in its pages is highly sought after and considered by many to be a ticket to tenure, promotion, and professional advancement. The journal maintains various important policies, expectations, and principles as determined by the Society and, since 2022, in guidelines set forth by the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#). These are designed to balance the dissemination of sound science with timely decisions for publication. The journal received 352 submissions in 2023 and 302 in 2024. As of this writing we currently hold a 91.2% rejection rate. The current team's first completed volume was 2024 (Volume 62, with 27 published manuscripts).

Processing a *Criminology* manuscript from submission to...?

When you submit an article to *Criminology* through ScholarOne, it first goes through an intake process where the ME evaluates the paper for objective criteria such as page length, formatting, etc. The manuscript then goes into a queue, where it is assessed by both Co-Lead Editors to determine whether it is reviewable. The standard for review is that the article must be empirical, include

the application, testing, or development of theory, and demonstrate the potential to make a unique and significant contribution to the field. If both Co-Lead editors independently deem a paper reviewable, it is assigned to an appropriate editorial team member (Co-Editor or Co-Lead Editor) based on workload and expertise, and allowing for potential conflicts of interest. If both Co-Lead editors deem the paper non-reviewable, it is desk-rejected (DRed; see below). If the Co-Lead editors disagree about whether a paper is reviewable, a Co-Editor is asked to serve as a tiebreaker. If the Co-Editor agrees it's reviewable, the paper is assigned to that Co-Editor. If they agree it should be DRed, it is kicked back to the Co-Lead who wanted it DRed in the first place, and that editor writes the letter rejecting it.



Our editorial team identifies two kinds of desk rejections: non-reviewed DRs and reviewed DRs. Non-reviewed DRs are wholly out of bounds for the journal for various reasons. These include submissions that fall outside our field's conceptual boundaries, including law review articles, philosophical essays, political opinion pieces, forensic science, etc. We provide the authors with a short letter indicating a desk reject and sometimes suggestions for more appropriate outlets. Alternatively, a manuscript may be well written and conform to the expectations outlined in the guidance above but may be too narrow in focus or not compelling or novel enough to warrant consideration for formal review. Such papers, termed DR-reviewed, receive a full review from one of the Co-Lead editors who explains the reasoning behind the DR in a letter sent to the author(s) after discussion with the other Co-Lead Editor.

An assigned reviewable manuscript is managed by a single editor overseeing the process until a paper is rejected or accepted. The editor reads the manuscript thoroughly and then identifies appropriate reviewers. Because the [percentage of potential reviewers agreeing to review papers has decreased in recent years](#) we now invite 6-8 reviewers in the hopes of securing three, whereas, in previous years, we typically invited 4-5 (see also, Isom, 2025). Reviewers are asked to respond to an invitation within 7 days. They receive a reminder three days later, then 5 days after that. If they do not respond within 3 weeks, the system will label them an "auto-decline." We then move on to new potential reviewers with the same timeframe to respond. The process repeats until three reviewers are secured.

Reviewers who agree are asked to complete their review in three to four weeks, but this often takes longer. When all the reviews are returned, the editor reads through the paper again as well as the reviews to render a decision. If a paper is rejected, we require editors to provide a detailed letter (2-4 pages) explaining the decision and referencing the reviews. Though it does not happen often, it is the prerogative of the editor to go against the recommendations of the reviewers. So, a paper liked by all the reviewers may still be rejected, and a paper not liked by them may receive a R&R. This is because the editor may see something in the paper that addresses (or fails to address) the larger aims of the journal. Upon receiving an invitation of R&R, the author(s) then address the reviewer's and editor's comments and return the revised manuscript, hopefully within a month. Once an R&R is received, the editor typically asks the original reviewers to offer a second opinion. The paper may then be accepted, rejected, or sent back for a second R&R. Following a second R&R, the editor makes the final decision without further evaluation from the reviewers, who have already put in a significant amount of effort for us. The decision at that point is a straight-up accept or reject with no further reviews except under extraordinary circumstances.

The *Criminology* Review FAQ:

Does an R&R guarantee acceptance? No. An R&R is good news, but it's not a guarantee of publication. Roughly a quarter of the papers we send out for R&R are eventually rejected.

Can I appeal a rejection? Yes, but such requests are very rarely granted, given the amount of work that went into the initial review (three qualified reviewers plus a seasoned editor).

Do I have to share my data? In 2022, we implemented a multi-year policy rollout on data sharing (see, Sweeten et al., 2024).

Why have Desk Rejections increased? Prior to our taking over the journal, the DR rate was 29%. We increased that to 45% in year one and are now approaching 52%. The reason for this has to do with the changing nature of the review landscape. In 2023, we processed 390 manuscripts (352 for 2023 plus 38 from 2022, the highest number ever for the journal). The journal's acceptance rate was roughly 9.8%. The delta between that acceptance rate and the 29% DR rate is therefore 61.2% and represents all the manuscripts that would have gone through full review but ended up rejected anyhow. Retaining the 29% DR rate in 2023 would mean we would have had to fully process 239 manuscripts, requiring 716 reviews (roughly 1,400 review invites). That's an enormous number of reviews for papers that will never be published in the journal, and it places a strain on the pool of available reviewers especially when you consider the proliferation of other journals competing for referees. Thus, we committed to increase the DR rate and expand the Editorial Board (from 44 to now, 85), with a requirement that board members would have to conduct 5 reviews per year for the journal. With a 52% DR rate, the delta drops to 38.2% (from 61.2%). Using 2023 numbers, we would, therefore, fully process 149 manuscripts (rather than 239), requiring 447 reviews (rather than 716). Our goal is to achieve a 65% DR rate by 2027.

In the current issue, Pickett et al. criticize the journal's review times. What are the reasons for this?

New Procedures and Growing Pains. In the journal's first year (2023) under the new editorial team, we experienced longer than desirable wait times. Some of this was due to having to get up to speed on how the journal operates and some was due to our implementation of a more transparent and ethical submission process in compliance with COPE guidelines, the introduction of Research Notes, the establishment of a new process for DRs, and the creation of a data repository for the journal through [Harvard Dataverse](#). This period additionally coincided with Wiley Publishing going through leadership changes and a corporate reorganization which left us without a publisher contact for over a month. We also performed two time-consuming investigations of articles (one published in 2013 and another that came up at the end of our first year. Finally, our editorial team handled the largest number of manuscripts in the journal's history in our first year (352 in 2023), including an additional 38 manuscripts left from the prior editorial team's 2022 submissions (who themselves had just contended with the difficult task of managing the journal through the pandemic) for a total of 390 manuscripts. As a comparison, the previous editorial group processed 242 manuscripts in 2022.

Reviewer Responsiveness. The majority of our reviewers are, simply put, amazing scholars. They take the review process seriously, get their reviews in on time, and are a credit to our field. That said, a single reviewer can cause serious delays by taking too long to review, not submitting their review at all, or submitting a subpar review that needs to be discarded. There is a reviewer crisis right now, particularly in the social sciences, and the pandemic likely exacerbated it. According to our publisher, the average number of requests an editor needed to make to get to 3 completed reviews was 4.8 before the pandemic. Just after the pandemic, the number rose to 7.7. Last year, it was 8.2 in the first half of 2024. In some cases, we have sent out more than 20 invitations to get three agreements. On rare occasions, reviews come in that are wholly unsatisfactory, meaning they are too short, contain offensive remarks, or are simply subpar. We rescind those, flag the reviewer in the system, and send out new requests (which, again, restarts the clock). Our way of avoiding this problem has been to send out many more review requests than normal (up to eight at a time) in the hopes of getting three agreements in the first round of invitations. This has greatly reduced the review time clock.

We are not the only journal experiencing this. In a recent Editors Corner piece (2025) Deena Isom, the Editor of *Race and Justice* (RAJ), notes, *"While our average time-to-first decision [in 2024] was a respectable 54 days, that number masks a troubling reality: on average, we had to send six invitations just to secure two reviewers."* Further confirmation of this came up in recent discussions with the editors of *Justice Quarterly*. According to one editor, *"It wasn't easy to get reviewers in 2024, especially near the second half of the year. JQ had to send 7+ invitations per manuscript. Several manuscripts required 12, 13, and sometimes 14 invitations to meet the required reviewer threshold... Delays become compounded when 7+ invitations have to be sent out for a single manuscript over several weeks."*

Apples and Oranges. The essay by Pickett et al. is, unfortunately, not particularly helpful for understanding either the ethical issues in publication reviews or why review times are what they are. To begin, they acknowledge that the standards for review times are a combination of informal and formal expectations or "codes" (e.g., *"Although the codes provide guidance on the responsible dissemination of research, they rarely establish specific metrics for determining whether ethical principles in publication have been followed. One example of this ambiguity involves codes' [sic] calling for timeliness in review and editorial processes..."*). They then go on to define "objective" metrics based on previous performance which seems contradictory. Moreover, this ignores the context (e.g., the reviewer crisis) that we have provided in this essay and presented to Pickett et al. in a series of email exchanges. It also ignores the fact that the journal's 60-day standard was established more than a decade ago when the average amount of submissions to *Criminology* were in the low 100s. Further, Pickett, et al.'s focus on "ethics" seems overdramatic given their emphasis on a single parameter (i.e., review times). COPE guidelines establish that the ethics of reviewing are about much more than the amount of time to get a review, including [review quality, privacy, anonymity, conflicts-of-interest, etc.](#) Isolating review times away from the latter issues is therefore reductionistic. Another point. We engaged in several exchanges with Pickett et al. in response to requests they made of us regarding review data. We were, despite their suggestions, very accommodating. Moreover, we took great pains to explain the logic behind numerous procedural and policy changes we implemented to improve the fairness and ethical operations of the journal, which regrettably contributed to an initial slowdown of the review times in our first year. These were ignored by

Pickett et al., who focused heavily on outliers and selective presentation of data and failed to contextualize the numbers properly. For example...

- The comparison between Criminology & Public Policy and Criminology lacks appropriate context. Both journals have the same number of editors (in fact, we had one less than them from 2022-2023), yet *CPP* processes fewer manuscripts than we do (27% fewer in 2024, 36% fewer in 2023). This means the average workload per editor (total manuscripts processed divided by number of editors) is much greater for *Criminology* (60.0 manuscripts/editor in 2024, 78.0 in 2023) than for *CPP* (36.5 manuscripts/editor in 2024, 41.4 in 2023). Equally important, *Criminology* is a generalist journal with no editor-solicited special issues. *CPP* includes special topics issues, response pieces, and solicited commentaries. As such, not all manuscripts processed by *CPP* go through a typical peer-review process and some are quickly desk *accepted* in the system without peer review.
- Overreliance on outliers and cherry-picked indicators. Pickett et al. focus on individual outliers in their essay where reviews of some papers were greatly delayed. While these are unfortunate and regrettable, they are also highly atypical. In fact, the data for review times, DRs, and time in R&R are all positively skewed due to outliers, which is why we use means and medians to report journal performance. That said, in cases where a manuscript was unnecessarily delayed, we communicated with authors to resolve issues¹ and have only received one formal complaint in three years (which was resolved to the complainant's satisfaction). Meanwhile, our DR review times have plummeted since our first year due to process changes we made last year. So, while the point is now moot (see table below) it is still instructive to note that the median scores show our performance on DRs to have been far less problematic than the Pickett et al. claims would seem to indicate; our median of 2.4 days is about as fast as one could hope for and we frequently desk reject on the same day. We would note that we calculated the most up-to-date DR mean for them at the time, which Pickett et al. chose to not report². For the benefit of our readers here are our most recent numbers.

3- and 6-Month Desk Rejection Statistics, <i>Criminology</i>					
Dates	Time period	Mean days to process	Median days to process	Skew Statistic	Skew Meaning
Oct 1, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024	Months 1-3	19.1	5.8	0.930123	Moderate
Oct 1, 2024 to Mar 31, 2025	Months 1-6	11.8	3.0	1.860918	High
Jan 1, 2025 to Mar 31, 2025	Months 4-6	5.9	2.4	2.2013	Very High

- Although they do not mention it in their article, we responded to Pickett et al.'s essay with detailed feedback, context, and corrections, a good deal of which they chose to ignore or buried in footnotes (e.g., footnote 3 of their essay). We did so in the interest of collegiality and transparency. Yet, there is the implication throughout the essay that we were asked for data and information but "refused" or "declined" to provide it (see footnotes 2 and 3 in their essay). They were, in fact, in possession of all our previous reports to the publications committee and the proposal we submitted in 2022. Although we were in no way obligated to do so, we responded to several of their requests for additional information. In any case, Pickett et al. clearly state that they valued the results we provided them less than what was in the official reports (see footnote 4 in their essay).

Where is the journal now?

The first quarter of 2025 reveals the journal's performance as follows: The mean number of days to decision is 40.8 (against the Society expected 60-day turn-around), the median number of days to decision is 44.1, the mean days for a desk reject is 5.9, and the median number of days for a desk reject is 2.4.

That doesn't mean we are perfect, however, and we continue to seek new ways to maintain efficiency while promoting scientific integrity. For example, we are currently expanding the size of the editorial team to maintain timely reviews and to make the transition of the journal from the old ScholarOne system to the new ReX system as smooth as possible. That said, the journal will always prioritize scientific integrity over speed and efficiency.

On a final note, our editorial philosophy is one of "adversarial collegiality," (Loughran and Topalli, 2025) meaning we believe it is critical to question one another and have accountability but that it should always be within the context of science as a collaborative and collegial exercise. We believe, this kind of forum and the annual meeting, rather than social media or other non-academic outlets, are where issues about scholarship should be debated and resolved. Although social media seems to be a preferred outlet for some (including Dr. Pickett), [we find the limitations of 140 characters and the anonymity afforded online polemicists – whose motivations are often at odds with the scientific enterprise – to be counterproductive](#) in the pursuit of scholarly understanding. For that reason, we as editors of the journal never engage in debates with others on such platforms. We appreciate the theme of Pickett et al.'s essay and applaud them for introducing to the ASC membership a topic of interest that will become more important as the

publishing landscape continues to change and as the association explores the future of our journals with Wiley. At the same time, we felt it necessary to take a detour from our essay to provide our own views on these issues.

¹This includes an instance with the lead author of a manuscript co-authored with Dr. Pickett in year 1 where their paper (a Research Note) proved difficult to obtain reviewers and where two reviews were deemed wholly inappropriate and had to be rescinded. His response was to publish a series of “tweets” on the X platform (November 22, 2023), which seem to have formed the basis for the essay currently appearing in this issue.

²In fact, Dr. Pickett was quite complimentary regarding the at-that-time current DR number (5.6) we reported to him. On 12/18/24 he responded, “I should have said in the last email that it is fantastic that you have gotten both the average review time and the average desk-reject time down so much in 2024. That is certainly something that we should discuss in the report, along with the elevated difficulty of getting reviewers (per the statistics on reviewer requests per agreement that you sent).” Despite this assurance however, he and his co-authors failed to note this in their essay.

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ⁱ As of July, 2024, Wiley began transitioning Criminology off ScholarOne (formerly Manuscript central) to their new proprietary submission and review system, ReX. We reference ScholarOne here because it is still the system of review for us until July of 2025.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/06/13/peer-review-crisis-creates-problems-journals-and-scholars>

ⁱⁱⁱ We pointed this out to Pickett et al., in an email but they declined to note this in their essay.

^{iv} Personal correspondence with Co-Chief Editor, Dr. Bryanna Fox, backed up by the official editorial publications report for the journal. 4/29/2025.

The ASC Executive Board has been aware of concerns raised about the review times for Criminology. In response, the Board assessed review times and, following a dialogue with the Editors of Criminology, is in the process of taking corrective steps.

Virtual reality: What is it and should criminologists pay attention?

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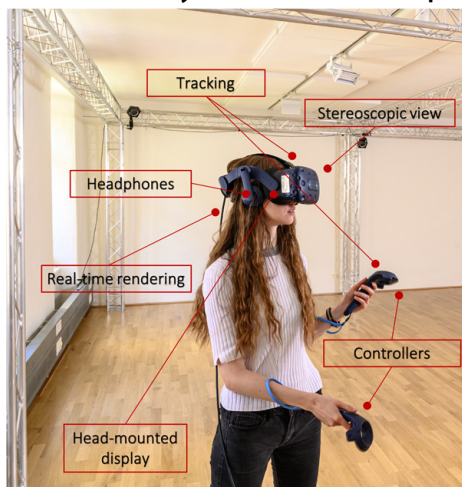
Carefully constructed questionnaires, encompassing observation and interview schemes, large-scale registration data, and cleverly designed longitudinal panel studies have long been commanding approaches to data collection in criminology. The field has made tremendous progress in improving our understanding of criminality through the use of such methods and reached an impressive degree of both qualitative and quantitative sophistication. However, conventional methods are particularly suited to study characteristics of delinquents, such as their dispositions, the families and neighborhoods they come from, their social networks, life-courses, and their educational and criminal trajectories. By design they can offer only limited insight into behavior during crime events and the decision making that underlies those events.

A recent technology that allows for gaining insight into offending processes and, by implication, our understanding of crime and how to prevent it, is virtual reality (VR). In this essay, we provide a brief and non-technical primer on VR and explain what this technology has to offer to criminologists. By way of illustration, we discuss two ongoing criminological research programs using VR. The virtual environments on which both programs are based are made available to the research community to encourage replication efforts and to promote Open Science practices. We conclude by sharing the results of a short survey that was conducted as part of a "VR pop-up booth" set up at the 2023 ASC Annual Meeting and discuss plans to establish a new Division in ASC.

VR: a brief primer

VR refers to interactive and immersive environments that envelope the user and aim to generate the impression that they have stepped inside the virtual world. VR is generally experienced through a head-mounted display (HMD), which provides stereoscopic view allowing for depth perception and three-dimensionality. HMDs are equipped with trackers that trace the location of the user and sends it to the rendering computer. The computer, in turn, feeds the appropriate imagery back to the user through the HMD. This continuous flow of data running from the computer to the user and back, provides the latter with (near) real-time updating, which results in a naturalistic viewing experience (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Virtual reality hardware and basic properties



By shutting the user off from all real-world visual information and replacing it with the computer-generated input, VR perceptually submerges users in the virtual environment, which, if successful, is experienced as effectively real. Although the visual aspect of VR is also its critical feature, it can be complemented with software and hardware that render it more immersive, including spatialized sound which makes users hear sounds as if they are emanating from the surrounding three-dimensional auditory space. Furthermore, devices such as hand-held controllers, gloves, and kinetic suits that provide haptic feedback, and incorporated scents, can add additional layers of immersion to the experience.

The level of immersion a user experiences is often referred to as 'presence' in the VR literature. Presence refers to a user's *subjective* sense of 'being there', i.e., in the virtual environment, and the tendency to respond to virtual events and environments

as if they are real (Slater et al., 2006). The higher the degree of presence experienced by the user, the higher the anticipated correlation between their behavior in a real and an equivalent virtual situation (Bombari et al., 2015). To be sure, the user remains aware that the environment they are seeing is not the real world but, provided certain conditions are met, this does not prevent them from responding to it in realistic ways.

Virtual reality in criminology

Virtual reality technology allows for the creation of realistic situations that closely resemble their real-world analogues and allows for the real-time observation of behavior while providing access to the cognitions, motivations, and emotions underlying it (Van Gelder, 2023). Furthermore, VR allows for developing experimental settings that are easy to manipulate, consistent, replicable, ecologically valid, and rely on hardware and software that are increasingly coming within reach of the median research budget. Whereas these affordances of VR apply to the study of social behavior in general, for research on criminal behavior the technology yields additional potential because crimes generally do not lend themselves to direct observation or manipulation, because there is often an incentive for offenders to misrepresent the facts as they occurred, and because crime is generally too unethical or too risky to study using conventional methods.

Virtual environments can be modeled after contexts that are relevant for crime researchers, such as classrooms, courtrooms, prison settings, bars, streets, neighborhoods, etc. Within such simulated environments, it is possible to stage activities that mimic their real-life equivalents, e.g., a burglary, violent incident, or court proceeding, and implement them as part of assessment, measurement, or intervention strategies (Haberman et al., 2024). By virtue of the possibility to develop criminogenic virtual environments that resemble their real-world counterparts and the possibility of real time measurement of behavior under customizable circumstances, VR allows for the observation of criminal conduct *as it takes place* (Van Gelder et al., 2014; Van Gelder, 2023) rather than having to rely on introspection and retrospection. Furthermore, virtual scenarios conform to the demands placed by controlled lab experiments, yet do not suffer from the problem of low ecological validity or contextual realism that typically characterizes such experiments. By way of illustration of what VR technology has to offer to criminologists, below we briefly discuss two ongoing research programs that make use of virtual reality technology in different ways.

The 360° Virtual Scenario method

The 360° Virtual Scenario Method that is being pioneered by researchers at the Department of Criminology of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law aims to address some of the limitations of traditional written scenarios. This method is based on the assumption that written scenarios are unlikely to capture the more visceral and emotional aspects typically involved in real-world offending and aggression, which commonly occur during “hot” and altered states of mind. Additionally, written scenarios struggle to reflect real-life situations in all their complexity and realistically incorporate important nuances of social experience. Rather than asking people to imagine themselves in a specific situation based on a short description, VR scenarios perceptually immerse them in the situation to enhance the validity of responses.

In recently published work (Van Gelder, 2019, 2022), we developed an immersive 360° video version of a “bar fight” scenario commonly used in criminology (e.g., Exum, 2002; Mazerolle, Piquero, & Capowich, 2003) and compared responses to the virtual scenario with responses to the written version. After either experiencing the conflict in VR or reading about the situation, participants were subsequently asked about their intentions and then responded to a series of survey questions relating to their perceptions and emotions, as well as experienced presence and realism. Overall, results indicate that participants found the virtual scenario to be more realistic, experienced higher presence, and reported more anger, and a higher likelihood of behaving aggressively.

In a larger scale follow up, the MAXLab Aggression and Bystander Intervention Scenario Set (MAXLab_ABISS) was developed to advance the study of decision-making in situations of interpersonal violence (Van Gelder et al., 2024; Herman et al., 2024). MAXLab_ABISS includes scenarios related to aggressive behavior and bystander responses to sexual harassment in barroom settings and allows for addressing a series of research questions related to these phenomena (Figure 2).

Furthermore, it allows for in-the-moment measurement of behavioral intentions, perceptions, and emotions. The linear nature of the scenarios means they can be combined with the real-time measurement of physiological reactions (i.e., cortisol and heart rate) to capture stress responses of participants, as well as eye-tracking. The aim of MAXLab_ABISS is to offer crime researchers a standardized method to study decision making using immersive technology. The stimulus set is freely available for research purposes.¹ For more information, see Van Gelder et al. (2024).

Figure 2. Screenshots taken from sexual harassment scenario of MAXLab_ABISS



Virtual Burglary Project

Another ongoing research program, the Virtual Burglary Project, uses virtual reality versions of residential neighborhoods and houses to study the behavior of burglars. In this research program, incarcerated burglars explore virtual neighborhoods for burglary opportunities or commit a burglary in VR (e.g., Nee et al., 2019; Van Sintemaartensdijk, 2021; McClanahan et al., 2025a). During this process, the VR system tracks their behavior – such as gaze and spatial patterns, which target they select, which entry points they use, and how they go about committing a burglary once inside the target – in real time. In combination with the experimental variation of relevant features of the environment, such as the intensity of street lighting or the presence/absence of guardians, levels of disorder, or house characteristics, this approach provides an unprecedented level of insight into burglary behavior and illustrates some of the potential of VR research to contribute to crime prevention and to inform policy.

A first wave of studies using virtual environments on a laptop computer already showed that burglars tend to perform a burglary in a virtual replica of a house in similar fashion as they burglarize the real house. Furthermore, these studies replicated established findings of earlier research using interviews and surveys among active burglars. In a second wave of studies, immersive virtual neighbourhoods were used to both test theory and the effectiveness of an intervention to deter burglars (e.g., Van Sintemaartensdijk et al., 2021, 2024). These studies focused on the scouting process of burglars and experimentally tested the effect of different levels of guardianship, both physical guardianship with virtual humans acting as guardians, and symbolic guardianship through signs indicating the presence of neighborhood prevention in the neighborhood or increased police surveillance (Van Sintemaartensdijk et al., 2021, 2024). This work, for example, showed that the mere presence of a guardian makes a neighbourhood significantly less likely to be burglarized, but that the behavior of the avatar, hence the level of guardianship, is irrelevant in this context.

A recent study (McClanahan et al., 2025a) that was conducted in prisons in Pennsylvania explored how environmental features influence burglar decision-making. The virtual environment used for this study was modeled on a residential neighborhood typical of Pittsburgh. The researchers recruited incarcerated burglars with varying levels of burglary experience who explored houses with different risk and reward factors related to burglary (e.g., a car in the driveway or a 2nd amendment sign on the lawn). The results show that offenders adjust their perceptions based on these environmental cues, and their proficiency in burglary influences how they assess risks and rewards.

Other current work aims at testing what we term 'dynamic guardianship' in which the environment dynamically responds to the presence of individuals. In different experimental trials, streetlight, sound, and 'Watching Eyes' signs are experimentally manipulated to examine their deterrent effect on burglars, with a view to informing future interventions. The Pennsylvania and dynamic guardianship virtual environments are currently being made available to the research community and can be obtained by sending

an email to maxlab@csl.mpg.de.

ASC 2023 Meeting VR pop-up booth

Criminologists who have had the opportunity to experience VR tend to be enthusiastic about the possibilities the technology offers for their field. At the 2023 ASC meeting in Philadelphia, the authors set up a “VR pop-up booth” at which attendees could experience either a scenario from the 360° Virtual Scenario method or engage with the virtual environment used in the Virtual Burglary Project – Pennsylvania (VBPP) described earlier (Figure 3). In total, 58 attendees at different career stages and from a diversity of institutions, filled out a brief survey about their VR experience. Results of the survey among this (highly selective) sample are reported in Table 1. Respondents found the experience highly realistic, felt strongly immersed in it, and believed the technology holds much potential for criminology and should be incorporated.

Table 1. Responses to VR survey at ASC pop-up booth

Item	Range	Mean	SD
To what extent did this experience feel realistic to you? 1 (not at all realistic) - 5 (very realistic).	2-5	4.34	.690
To what extent did you feel fully engaged or immersed in the presented situation? 1 (not at all immersed) - 5 (highly immersed).	2-5	4.24	.757
To what extent do you believe visual scenarios offer an enhancement over hypothetical written scenarios commonly utilized in criminology and criminal justice research? 1 (not at all) - 5 (very much).	3-5	4.60	.674
To what extent do you believe virtual reality holds potential for advancements in criminology and criminal justice? 1 (not at all) - 5 (very much)	3-5	4.69	.537
To what degree do you believe criminologists should incorporate virtual reality technology into their research practices? 1 (not at all) - 5 (very much).	3-5	4.58	.625



In closing: Promoting Open Science and towards a Division of Virtual Reality within ASC

Virtual reality holds promise as a novel research modality in criminology and we would be thrilled to see it being applied in research across the field and making its way into (under)graduate programs. Given the expertise and costs required for developing virtual environments, collaborations between researchers from different departments seem imperative to achieve this goal. We also see this as a tremendous opportunity. An important advantage of VR is that virtual environments can be easily shared and sent across the globe with a click of a mouse button. This allows for perfect replications, as exactly the same environments are tested by different research groups. However, specific virtual environments can often also be used to address other research questions than the ones they were initially designed for (see McClanahan et al., 2025b, Van Gelder et al., 2024). Virtual environments can, and arguably should, therefore have a shelf life that exceeds a single study. Beyond the scientific imperative of sharing research materials as part of good Open Science practices, investing time and effort into developing high quality environments can also lead to a methodologically stronger field of virtual reality-based research.

With these goals in mind, the authors of this essay have begun discussing ways to improve the collaborative network of VR scholars in criminological spaces. A priority for this group is to establish a Division of Virtual Reality within the ASC that will fulfill various important purposes as virtual reality continues to grow. The proposed Division could, for example, serve as a forum for both established criminologists and new students alike to discuss their VR research, strategies, and findings. The Division will also strive to alleviate the financial and knowledge requirements that are necessary for VR research by channeling resources, such as scholarships and workshops, to those interested in utilizing the technology. Similarly, the Division will work to establish a repository

of simulations (i.e., VR scenarios) that have been used in previous research. This repository would be available to other researchers, allowing for the type of replication efforts that were discussed above. Alternatively, these simulations could be utilized in ways that support entirely new projects and ideas.

In closing, criminologists share an interest in the same or similar outcome variables. Although contexts vary strongly between countries and cultures, there is also much that is shared. For example, the scenarios of the *360° Virtual Scenario method* are situated in an Irish Pub, which are commonly found all over the world and tend to have similar features irrespective of location. This enables the use of the scenarios in different countries. Finally, VR devices are increasingly mobile, which allows for on-site data collection among relevant samples. In the virtual burglary project, for example, researchers set up their field labs in prison facilities and recruit inmates as study participants. For criminologists, this idea of bringing the relevant environment to the target group offers many novel and exciting opportunities.

¹ The scenario set is currently available in the German, Dutch and English language and can be obtained by sending an email to: maxlab@csl.mpg.de

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Criminology & Public Policy Annual Update to the ASC Membership by Current Editors

Ojmarrh Mitchell and Jacinta Gau
Editors in Chief

Few areas of public discourse require sound, credible research as urgently as criminology and criminal justice. Policymakers and the general public are frequently confronted with a steady stream of misinformation regarding the causes of, and best responses to, crime and injustice. This misinformation not only distorts public understanding but also hinders the development of effective policies.

In this context, it is critical to have scholarly outlets that offer fact-based, empirical research on pressing crime and justice issues. *Criminology & Public Policy (CPP)* serves precisely this function. As the leading policy journal dedicated to crime and justice issues, and the premier policy journal of the American Society of Criminology (ASC), *CPP* plays a pivotal role in connecting research with policy. Its mission is to publish rigorous, empirical, and policy-relevant research in order to strengthen the evidence base for criminal justice policy and practice.

In this essay, our first as editors-in-chief of *CPP*, we wish to share our vision and goals for the journal. We believe that fulfilling *CPP*'s mission requires achieving four specific objectives. First, *CPP* must continue to publish research that is not only empirically rigorous but also directly relevant to persistent and emerging criminal justice issues. Second, the integrity of the journal must be maintained by ensuring that all published articles are methodologically sound, reproducible, and offer unique contributions to the literature. Third, to maximize the journal's impact, we must actively disseminate and promote its articles to scholars, policymakers, and the public. Finally, *CPP* must be a leader in promoting intellectual and demographic diversity by publishing research from a range of methodological traditions and by scholars representing a wide array of academic disciplines and backgrounds. Cumulatively, progress toward these goals will further elevate *CPP*'s standing and reinforce its role as an essential resource on crime and justice policy.

We are fortunate to follow Drs. Cynthia Lum and Christopher Koper, whose leadership advanced *CPP*'s mission in significant ways. Under their tenure, *CPP* rose in the rankings, substantially reduced review times, and experienced a dramatic increase in submissions. As we take the helm, we inherit a journal that is already among the best in the field. *CPP* is currently ranked among the top five journals in criminology and criminal justice, with an Impact Factor of 3.5.

In our first year as editors, we have continued the tradition of providing timely editorial decisions. Desk rejections are issued, on average, in under seven days. For manuscripts sent out for peer review, the average time to an initial decision is 69 days. We are committed to streamlining these processes even further while maintaining the journal's high standards for scholarly rigor.

Looking ahead, we are enthusiastic about *CPP*'s future. While we plan to build on the strong editorial practices established by Cynthia and Chris, we will also introduce new ideas to ensure the journal evolves in response to shifting challenges, emerging topics, and technological advancements in the field. Our work is supported by an outstanding team of associate editors: Drs. Amanda Geller, Justice Tankebe, Cody Telep, María Vélez, and Steven Zane. We also extend our gratitude to Dr. Dan Mears for his past service and wish him the best in his new editorial role. B Henderson serves as our managing editor, and the editorial board reflects a balance of experienced members and newly appointed scholars chosen for their credentials and demonstrated commitment to high-quality peer review. Collectively, the editorial team brings a wide range of substantive, methodological, and professional perspectives, ensuring that *CPP* continues to publish rigorous and relevant research across a broad spectrum of crime and justice topics.

While we welcome all policy-relevant research, we are particularly interested in studies that address critical and under-researched areas, such as the role of public discourse in shaping criminal justice policy; responses to the opioid epidemic; the policing of homelessness and interventions addressing trauma, substance abuse, and housing insecurity; firearm violence and interventions to disrupt illicit gun markets and reduce shootings; efforts to reduce disparities within the criminal justice system; and evaluations of criminal justice reforms aimed at improving fairness and effectiveness.

We also plan to publish special issues that focus on timely and important topics. Two are currently in development. The first, titled "Looking Behind the Veil: Studying Prosecutors and Their Decision-Making," is slated for publication in early 2026. This special issue aims to illuminate prosecutorial decision-making through empirical research on key areas such as charging decisions, case transfers,

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dismissals or declinations, plea bargaining, and decisions related to bail and sentencing. The second special issue will honor the legacy of Ronald V. Clarke. More details on this issue will be shared in the coming months.

We are also expanding *CPP*'s presence on social media. You can connect with us on LinkedIn and Instagram (@cppjournal) to stay informed about newly published articles, special issue announcements, and more. We encourage you to follow, like, comment, and repost. Please also tag us in any posts about your published work in *CPP*. Our social media presence is managed by Geldy Nuñez, our dissemination coordinator, who is helping us broaden the journal's reach beyond academia to practitioners, legislators, and other key policy audiences.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributes to *CPP*. We approach our editorial responsibilities with humility and commitment, recognizing that a journal's quality depends on the strength of its authors and reviewers. Your continued support sustains the journal's vitality, and we hope you will consider *CPP* your journal of first choice for publishing work that speaks to crime and justice policy. It is a privilege to serve this community.

POLICY CORNER

Artificial Policing

Ashley K. Farmer, Illinois State University

In a public government meeting I attended several months ago; a police chief presented a year-end report with updates about current technologies. When asked if the department was looking into potential uses of artificial intelligence (AI), he responded that they were already participating in a trial through Axon's Draft One, which uses recorded audio from body-worn cameras to transcribe police reports and then produce a summary of the incident. Even further, he noted that they were training their officers to narrate what was happening when they arrived at a scene, to make the AI report-drafting clearer. It is not surprising that police are turning to AI for ways to make aspects of the job easier- and they have, in fact, been doing this for decades with differing results. What is surprising is the way AI is implemented without deeper consideration of how it changes other aspects of the job and impacts the criminal justice system more broadly.

The Draft One software costs approximately \$70 per body-worn camera per month⁶, and it is referred to as a 'force-multiplier' by Axon, which is simply rhetorical marketing language to convince police departments it is worth the investment. Officers are required by the system to read the draft report before filling in any missing information and then checking off that it is sworn testimony⁴. Axon does not allow for officers to add commentary. In Elgin, IL, officers using the AI reported that it decreased time spent on writing reports by up to 50 percent, a statistic also proudly touted by Axon. However, one study found that AI assistance had no effect on the duration of time spent writing reports.¹ While this included only one police department it does highlight that perhaps the revolutionization of policework promised by AI is not fully realized.

Police reports have been a core part of policework. They allow the officer to document what has happened, when and where an incident occurred, and include eyewitness comments. Critical decisions--such as prosecution pursuing charges- are made based on these reports. There remain questions about the accuracy and completeness of AI-drafted reports. For instance, the technology does not work well in spaces with extensive noise, such as crowds¹⁰. Seeing an AI-generated report based on audio captures could potentially lead to automatic agreement out of habit or routine. Instead of producing an independent report to compare to AI-generated reports, police officers receive an initial incident summary. While they have the ability to add or enhance that report, they might also assume the report is complete as is, and not be critical about additional information. While writing reports is time consuming, it requires officers to use critical thinking to engage with an incident. Part of the process is knowing how and what to write, which most officers can complete relatively easily after some experience on the job. There are concerns when we become too dependent on technology to provide information and do our work for us. This is especially true for AI, which has been known to create false information and fake citations (though not necessarily with police reports, as far as we know).

Training officers to narrate what is happening so body camera audio can more easily write reports also raises questions, and this is apparently common. In a report from *The Guardian*⁶, police officers discussed that they purposefully talk about what is happening during an incident. While perhaps unlikely, this means officers could potentially narrate something that is not entirely accurate or true. For example, when officers yell "stop resisting!" to someone who is on the ground and already subdued. An officer's job is not to interpret the event, that is for the courts to decide. Draft One requires officers to acknowledge when a report is generated with technology, in addition to stating they have reviewed the report and will testify to its accuracy. Aside from this, there currently seem to be few guidelines proposed in how police use this AI technology. In terms of ethics this is surely concerning, but not for Axon. Axon is a business that holds a near monopoly when it comes to technology in policing, whose interest is in convincing departments these are tools they should purchase.

While Draft One currently only uses audio from body cameras, according to the *AP News*¹⁰ Axon did experiment with analyzing and summarizing visual images from footage. While this technology was not ready because some of the responses were insensitive, it does signal a future direction for AI-generated reports. It means more surveillance over the public through the body-worn cameras that police in many districts are required to wear.

Report-writing is not the only aspect of policing and criminal justice turning to AI. New York-based Massive Blue's *Overwatch* product helps police deploy AI-powered bots to talk to suspects. This could range from sexual predators to activists and protestors⁸. Also referred to as a force-multiplier, it establishes virtual agents to engage with suspects on social media channels. While claims state no arrests have resulted from *Overwatch*, the surveillance inherent in such technology is actually more of an overreach. The technology begins chatting with "protestors" who may have done nothing but express their First Amendment rights. Massive Blue boasts on its webpage about ethical AI usage, and claims, "We believe innovative technology is inherently neutral, possessing the potential for

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both positive and negative applications.” This is the problem. While AI is often referred to as neutral technology, it cannot be. AI, such as Draft One and Overwatch, uses machine learning based on human-generated data to make further predictions without needing programming. Humans create the technology, and humans are biased.⁹

Artificial intelligence is not at all a new phenomenon in policing. Facial recognition, automated license plate readers, predictive policing software, and acoustic gunshot detection sensors also use machine learning AI. Geolitica, formerly known as PredPol, is the most commonly used place-based predictive policing software in the U.S. that estimates the times and locations of property crimes using the same algorithm for predicting earthquakes. Once hailed as technology that creates efficiency, it has been subject to criticism. For one, the software does not tell police anything they do not already know—like where certain crimes most often occur. Major police departments such as Los Angeles and Chicago have stopped using Geolitica. Some cited costs as the reason, but the major takeaway is that they simply did not work as intended. Promises about reducing crime through predictive policing were not accomplished. Some evidence noted the software had a less than one percent success rate.¹²

ShotSpotter was also adopted in large cities. This gunshot detection system uses AI algorithms to analyze and filter out sounds that could be mistaken for potential gunshots, such as fireworks. The technology aims to notify police sooner about gunshots, before they are reported, so they can get to the scene faster. While the company claims this is effective and 97% accurate, critics note that most ShotSpotter alerts do not result in any evidence of gun-related crimes or investigatory stops.⁷ The software is also quite costly, averaging an estimated \$77,500 per square mile. Chicago paid almost \$9 million per year before ending their contract in 2024. What technology like predictive policing models and gunshot detection systems actually do is reinforce existing disparities through the criminal justice system.⁵

There are numerous other examples of how AI is pushing into the sphere of criminal justice. From robots patrolling the New York City subway system, to a recent instance in which a man killed in a road rage incident ‘appeared’ in court to give a victim impact statement with the help of AI. The ethical implications are vast. In the latter example, the defendant was convicted and sentenced on manslaughter charges. While it is unlikely the artificial intelligence video depiction of the victim affected the outcome, it is also not possible to know definitively.

The ways in which people use AI to further surveillance is a public concern. As Tokson¹³ noted, AI further concentrates power among fewer and fewer people, leading to authoritarian drift. These systems operate with minimal human input, by simply marking something as suspicious—such as a car parked in a lot after a store has closed. The few who oversee AI ultimately make consequential decisions that replace human officers with automated rules that lack discretion and empathy. AI will not hesitate to follow orders, even if those orders are problematic.

Aside from these considerations, there are even broader ethical concerns with the environmental and labor impact of AI. Water usage and electricity consumption required to run AI, through data cooling centers, is significant, causing up to 9 liters of water to evaporate per kWh of energy used.¹¹ This stands against a backdrop of freshwater scarcity for the world’s growing population. Another obvious effect of AI involves creating more job scarcity, while workers in non-industrialized countries such as the Philippines and Kenya have been laboring for less than \$2 an hour in digital sweatshops to train AI models.²

The novelty of artificial intelligence has led police departments and other criminal justice entities to rush to adopt new technologies, asking questions about how it can improve efficiency, decrease crime, or make aspects of the job easier and more streamlined. None of the technologies using AI are without consequence.

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TEACHING TIPS

Teaching health disparities in the context of the U.S. carceral system

Katherine A. Elder, University of California – Santa Barbara (UCSB)

It is unlikely to surprise readers of this column that incarcerated people experience significant health disparities, defined by the National Cancer Institute as “a type of preventable health difference that is closely linked with social, political, economic, and environmental disadvantage.”¹⁰ While health outcomes are understudied in incarcerated populations², there is evidence to support claims that inmates are at higher risk of chronic and infectious disease^{2,14}, mental health disorders¹⁵, and victimization¹, among other negative health outcomes. For example, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention³, in 2021, HIV infection rates were three times higher in incarcerated persons than in the general U.S. population. These patterns were on display during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, where the case rate was 5.5 times higher in correctional facilities than in the community.¹³

Even though the research and data surrounding health disparities is largely published in medical and public health outlets, finding solutions to address these troubling trends requires an interdisciplinary approach. Indeed, I myself arrived at this area of instruction through a combination of experiences in public policy, health sciences, and doctoral studies in health communication. That is precisely why I come to you, readers of a criminology publication, to offer this perspective on collaborative and interdisciplinary pedagogy to promote an important message to our students: no single discipline has all of the answers to confronting society’s toughest problems.

In an effort to 1) illustrate the phenomenon of health disparities beyond asking students to read a variety of research reports, and 2) encourage students to examine health disparities through an interdisciplinary lens, I reached out to a Los Angeles Deputy Public Defender in 2020 to see whether they would record a guest lecture for a class of undergraduate Health Communication students. In this lecture, we explored their experiences with incarcerated clients accessing their health care options in addition to discussing at length how carceral Covid protocols fell short of protecting incarcerated people (and, ultimately, how these protocols impacted defendants’ right to a speedy trial). The lecture was popular with my students: time and again they would reflect on the lecture in their course evaluations, and I still get emails from former students who took my class years ago but whose time since then has provided opportunities to reflect on this guest lecture. Complementing public health content with a legal perspective helped my students to understand that there were many avenues to addressing these disparities.

Assessing student engagement with the guest lecture content involved two activities. First, students were asked to identify and detail three takeaways that health communication scholars and practitioners could benefit from hearing in the lecture. This was an effort to reinforce the interdisciplinary nature of – and potential solutions to – these problems. Second, students were asked to read from a variety of interdisciplinary experts on topics related to carceral health disparities. A particularly meaningful excerpt comes from Paul Farmer’s (MD and medical anthropologist) indelible 2005 work, “Pathologies of Power” This chapter, “A plague on all our houses? Resurgent tuberculosis inside Russia’s prisons,” tells the story of Sergei, a Russian prisoner who tested positive for pulmonary tuberculosis early in his sentence. After being transferred to a TB colony and (at least initially) successfully treated for the disease, Sergei would relapse, and the carceral health system would crumble under the weight of managing the disease crisis unfolding in its prisons.⁵ Other readings explored carceral health disparities during the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic, which saw the legal system grapple with the threats and consequences of another infectious disease. These drew from best practices in two other disciplines – public policy and criminal justice reform – and explored different approaches that might protect prisoners and reduce the incarcerated population.^{6,7,11}

There is a lack of outcome research on the impacts of interdisciplinary teaching. The study of interdisciplinarity in the classroom has variously been deemed a “black hole” (pg. 18)⁹ and “largely ignored” (pg. 6).⁴ However, there is some evidence that addressing course content in a holistic way not only allows students to develop new competencies, but also engages and motivates them to explore concepts with which they may have previously been unfamiliar.⁸ As we train our students to enter a complicated world, it is incumbent upon us to push the bounds of our disciplinary comfort zones. Suggested steps include attending academic conferences and talks outside of our respective fields, setting up interdisciplinary research collaborations, or engaging with community-based organizations addressing needs related to our respective fields. In drawing from each other’s expertise and experiences, we can help to ensure that a new generation is prepared to tackle our most complicated challenges.

TEACHING TIPS

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AROUND THE ASC

2025 Election Results for 2026 - 2027 ASC Officers



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AROUND THE ASC

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AROUND THE ASC

International travel to the ASC Annual Meeting

We look forward to welcoming international students and scholars from around the world at our Annual Meetings in Washington, D.C. this November.

As you finalize your travel plans, please review current Visa and Customs policies by the U.S Government as these change periodically.

For more information please visit:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html>
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Please keep in mind that the appropriate US visa for participants at academic conferences is the B-1 visa. The B-2 visa is primarily for tourism, but it also allows for participation in certain types of activities, including attending seminars or meetings. Countries with current visa waiver programs are exempt from these requirements.

When entering the United States, we recommend:

1. Printing your conference registration confirmation.
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Digital Privacy and US Immigration

As part of the current U.S immigration process, government officials may review your electronic devices, social media accounts, and overall online presence during the visa application process, entry to the US, or at other points of your immigration process or travel. This can include requests for social media handles, searches of publicly available information, and, in some cases, a review of devices in border crossings. Some of these protocols may apply to U.S citizens as well.

We encourage students and scholars to be mindful of their digital presence and to ensure compliance with all visa and immigration regulations.

Whether you are applying for the B-1 visa or traveling to the United States as a citizen of a Visa Waiver country, you may need a letter of invitation to attend a professional conference. ASC supports **conference presenters** with an official letter of invitation, which validates the purpose of your travel to the United States. To request a letter of invitation, please email meetings@asc41.org, and attach a copy of your submission acceptance email and institutional/university affiliation. Please note that the letter of invitation does not represent an offer of financial support for travel or lodging.

AROUND THE ASC



Annual Meeting Childcare Grant Lottery

The American Society of Criminology is happy to announce that childcare grants of \$250 per family are available to assist ASC member participants who are attending the Washington, D.C. Annual Meeting in-person and bringing young children.

The application portal will be open from **September 1st** until **September 30th** and will be accessible from the [Annual Meeting](#) page during the same dates. We only have modest funds available for this year and can only give to up to 40 families. The grant recipients will be chosen by lottery. If less than 40 families apply, then no lottery will be necessary.

Please note the following:

- Must be a 2025 ASC member before applying
- Must be registered for the Annual Meeting before applying
- Must be attending the Washington, D.C. Annual Meeting in-person and bringing your own young children (aged 14 or under)
- Must be participating in the meeting as a session chair and/or a presenter (ie, panel, round table, lightning session, author meets critic, poster).
- Only one parent of a child/children may apply for the grant.

There are no ASC sponsored childcare services on-site. While ASC neither sanctions nor recommends any particular childcare provider, and does not assume responsibility or liability for child care services provided by the listed childcare providers, a general list of possible childcare providers in the Washington, D.C. area can be found on the ASC Annual Meeting page (see <https://asc41.org/events/asc-annual-meeting/>). We stress that it is the responsibility of the parents to thoroughly investigate all childcare providers.

Contact the ASC Executive Office at asc@asc41.org ; 614-826-2000 per any questions.

AROUND THE ASC

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

BioPsychoSocial Criminology (DBC)

<https://bpscrim.org/>

Communities and Place (DCP)

<https://communitiesandplace.org/>

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)

<https://dlccrim.org/>

Experimental Criminology (DEC)

<https://expcrim.org/>

Feminist Criminology (DFC)

<https://ascdwc.com/>

Health and Disability Criminology (DHDC)

(website coming soon)

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/>

Qualitative Research (DQR)

(website coming soon)

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)

<https://ascdwcc.org/>

Visit the [ASC Divisions](#) page on the ASC Website for additional details

To donate to a division, visit the [ASC Donations](#) page on the ASC Website

AROUND THE ASC

Division of Cybercrime



Division of Cybercrime

American Society of Criminology

Join the Division of Cybercrime!

All are welcome! Our members include researchers, practitioners, and students specializing in a wide assortment of computer-related subjects concerning crime, victimization, criminalization, and criminal legal systems.

At the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, we are sponsoring featured panels and roundtables. Members may also attend our social event. Reserve your spot when you register for the conference!

In addition to offering opportunities for meaningful disciplinary service, our division also distributes awards to its outstanding members including:

- ❖ Lifetime Achievement Award
- ❖ Early Career Award
- ❖ Outstanding Contribution Award
- ❖ Outstanding Practitioner Award
- ❖ Best Peer-Reviewed Publication Award

For details about our awards and for any other information related to the division, please go to our website at <https://ascdivisionofcybercrime.org/>.

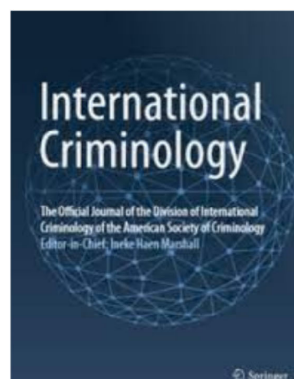
AROUND THE ASC

Division of International Criminology



DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINOLOGY
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

JOIN OR RENEW WITH DIC NOW!



Journal access is free with membership

SUBMIT

Manuscripts at any time

<https://link.springer.com/journal/43576>

BENEFITS



ACCESS TO DIVISION NEWSLETTER

Stay in the loop with exclusive insights, member spotlights, and the latest trends in international criminology. Our newsletter is your gateway to valuable knowledge!



LEARN ABOUT CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

Be at the forefront of innovation! Access groundbreaking research, trends, and discoveries that shape the future of criminology. Empower your mind with the knowledge that matters.



NETWORK WITH AWESOME PEOPLE!

Connect with like-minded individuals passionate about international criminology. Forge valuable professional relationships, share experiences, and collaborate on projects that make a difference.

TO JOIN OR RENEW, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:

<https://bit.ly/3vwvC96>



**DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART
OF A THRIVING COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO
ADVANCING INTERNATIONAL CRIMINOLOGY
JOIN OR RENEW TODAY**

EXCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS!

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American Society of Criminology - Division of International
Criminology

SAE

AROUND THE ASC

Division of Feminist Criminology

**DFC STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION
Call for Nominations****Submission Deadline: September 21st, 2025**

The Division of Feminist Criminology (DFC) of the American Society of Criminology invites submissions for the 2025 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 21st, 2025.

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 material.

Notification: All entrants will be notified of the committee's decision no later than October 19th. 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, Ph.D. | Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology | Sam Houston State University |
axa205@shsu.edu

AROUND THE ASC

Division of Feminist Criminology

**DFC STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION**
Call for Nominations**Submission Deadline: September 21st, 2025**

The Division of Feminist Criminology (DFC) of the American Society of Criminology invites submissions for the 2025 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 21st, 2025.

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 19th. We strongly encourage winners to attend the conference to receive their award.

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

Email all **poster submissions** to:

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

AROUND THE ASC

Division on People of Color and Crime



Division on People of Color and Crime (DPCC)

Celebrate 30 Years with the Division on People of Color and Crime (DPCC)!

Since 1995, the Division on People of Color and Crime (DPCC) has served as a vibrant community within ASC.

DPCC unites scholars, practitioners, and advocates dedicated to addressing the concerns and issues of people of color in the study of crime, justice, and the crime-processing system.

DPCC 30th Anniversary Luncheon & Awards Ceremony

Busboys and Poets, 450 K St NW, Washington, DC 20001
Thursday, November 13, 2025
12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Celebrate three decades of scholarship, advocacy, and community-building.

Tickets: \$25 students; \$45 DPCC members; \$50 non-DPCC members. Register early for the ASC Annual Meeting and secure your DPCC Luncheon ticket to receive a commemorative DPCC 30th Anniversary t-shirt!

DPCC Awards: DPCC offers 9 awards recognizing outstanding contributions to the study of race, crime, and justice. Visit our website for details on application requirements. Nominate someone or apply by **September 5, 2025**. For more info visit ascdpcc.org.

Serve on the DPCC Executive Board: We are soliciting nominations for Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, and Executive Counselor (Open Rank). All terms are two years. Nominate yourself or someone else (with permission) by contacting ascdpcc95@gmail.com. Nominations are due by **October 10, 2025**.

Race and Justice: An International Journal

Race and Justice is an international quarterly forum that features scholarship and critical discourse on race, ethnicity, and justice.



Learn more about DPCC
<https://ascdpcc.org/>

AROUND THE ASC

Division of Rural Criminology

The Division of Rural Criminology



“Speed Dating” Networking Event

The Division of Rural Criminology will hold its first “Speed Dating” Networking Event.

Anyone with an interest in rural criminology can come meet researchers working on rural issues or in rural spaces. This will be a great way to meet collaborators, share ideas, and connect with others in the field!

We’ll conclude with our business meeting and the presentation of our 2025 awards.

Sponsored Panels & Roundtables

The Division of Rural Criminology will sponsor:

*4 Thematic Panels
2 Roundtables
1 Author Meets Critic*

Details to come after the 2025 program is available!

Call for Award Nominations & Applications

The Division of Rural Criminology has two awards:

Early Career Award

Ralph Weisheit Lifetime Achievement Award

We are accepting 2025 nominations and applications through **August 29th!**

Send to Joe Donnermeyer
donnermeyer.1@gmail.com

Interested in Rural Criminology?

Join our network and meet other scholars who are interested in or doing work in rural justice studies! Scan the QR code and add your name to the list!

Find us on Twitter (X) and LinkedIn! Contact Jessica Peterson (Chair) for inquiries at petersonj@sou.edu.



AROUND THE ASC

Division of Rural Criminology

READ & PUBLISH RURAL CRIME & JUSTICE



The IJRC publishes two general and special issues each year, and welcomes theoretical, empirical, and practice-oriented manuscripts, research notes, and notes from the field.

The Bristol *Research in Rural Crime* book series welcomes sole or joint authored and edited collections that are jurisdictional specific or related to themes that transcend political and juridical boundaries.

The Routledge *Studies in Rural Criminology* book series is dedicated to innovative research that has implications for crime prevention, policing, and criminal justice policy in rural areas.

International Journal of Rural Criminology

Open Access Peer-
Reviewed Journal



Research in Rural Crime

Bristol University Press
Book Series



Studies in Rural Criminology

Routledge Book Series



Keep up with the field of rural criminology via the:
DIVISION OF RURAL CRIMINOLOGY

divisionofruralcriminology.org

RESEARCH DOCTORATES IN CRIMINOLOGY, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AND RELATED DISCIPLINES

Crawford, James, *"Unrestrained Voices: A Qualitative Thematic Analysis on Formerly Incarcerated Trans People's Perceptions of Safety During Incarceration."* Chaired by Dr. Grace Telesco, May 2025, Nova Southeastern University.

CRIMINOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

Conferences, Webinars & Workshops

BRITISH SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

Event type: Conference

Location: University of Portsmouth, UK

Date: July 1 - 4, 2025

Contact: bsc2025@port.ac.uk

<https://www.britsoccrim.org/conference/>

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF POLICE STUDIES

Event Type: Conference

Location: Royal Police Cadet Academy, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand

Date: August 6-9, 2025

<https://aaps.info/information/2025-aaps-conference/>

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY MEETING

Event Type: Meeting

Location: Athens, Greece

Date: September 3 – 6, 2025

<https://esc-eurocrim.org/v2/>

15th BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Event Type: Conference

Theme: Risks, Crime, Policing, Courts, Prisons and Security in the Post-COVID-19 Times – Challenges and Opportunities

Location: Ljubljana, Slovenia

Date: September 8 – 10, 2025

<https://www.fvv.um.si/conf2025/>

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR			
FUTURE ASC ANNUAL MEETING DATES			
2026	November 18 - 21	Chicago, IL	Palmer House Hilton
2027	November 17 - 20	Dallas, TX	Dallas Anatole Hilton
2028	November 15 - 18	New Orleans, LA	New Orleans Riverside Hilton
2029	November 14 - 17	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia Marriott Downtown
2030	November 20 - 23	San Francisco, CA	San Francisco Marriott Marquis
2031	November 12 - 15	Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C. Marriott Marquis
2032	November 17 - 20	Chicago, IL	Palmer House Hilton
2033	November 16 - 19	Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C. Marriott Marquis
2034	November 11 - 19	New Orleans, LA	New Orleans Riverside Hilton
2035	November 10 - 18	Chicago, IL	Palmer House Hilton
2036	November 19 - 22	San Francisco, CA,	San Francisco Marriott Marquis



2025 ASC ANNUAL MEETING

Venue: Marriott Marquis Washington, DC | **Location:** Washington, DC | **Date:** 11/12-11/16/2025

Chairs: TaLisa Carter, American University & Kevin Drakulich, Northeastern University

Theme: *Criminology, Law and, The Democratic Ideal*

Visit the [ASC website](#) for additional details.