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From the ASC President, Natasha Frost

First and foremost, some fantastic news related to the Executive Director search. The Executive Director search committee, working with the search firm Sterling Martin, recently identified finalists for the ASC ED position. Finalist interviews with the search committee, executive board and association staff (via Zoom), and in-person interviews with the finalists and Executive Committee plus the Treasurer, took place through the month of June. We anticipate a new full-time Executive Director will be announced and in place before the end of the summer. Our sincere gratitude to the members of the search committee (Todd Clear (Chair), Rod Brunson, Elsa Chen, Laura Dugan, and Claire Renzetti) for their work on this incredibly important search. We look forward to announcing and introducing the ASC's next Executive Director soon!

Congratulations to the newly elected Executive Board members, President-Elect Nancy La Vigne, Vice President-Elect Vera Lopez, and Executive Counselors Janice Iwama, Andrea Leverentz, and Sue-Ming Yang! We look forward to working with you when you join the ASC Executive Board.

During the 2026 election, the proposed constitutional amendments passed by an overwhelming majority. We are grateful for the support of the membership as we continue to work with Nancy Kidd Consulting, LLC to update the society's governing documents and processes. The board will develop an implementation plan to ensure a smooth transition for the soon-to-be-elected positions of Secretary and Treasurer. At its midyear meeting, the ASC board voted to extend our work with Nancy Kidd consulting through the summer to allow us to complete the third and final phase of our work together. Some additional member votes will be required to complete this laborious but important work, likely in September, so look out for notice of a special ballot forthcoming.

Earlier this year, the board voted for a modest increase in membership dues, effective with 2027 memberships, to ensure the long-term fiscal sustainability of the association. While we recognize that any increase in dues causes hardship for some of our members, costs have been increasing far more frequently than dues and have lagged behind those of other comparable associations. Going forward, the ASC will increase dues incrementally each year rather than through less frequent, but much larger increases.

ASC 2027 Membership Dues

Tier	Current Rates	2027 Membership Rates
Active – Tier 1 (Salary \$75,000/yr or less)	\$105	\$125
Active – Tier 2 (Salary \$75,001-\$125,000/yr)	\$125	\$145
Active – Tier 3 (Salary \$125,001-\$150,000/yr)	\$145	\$165
Active – Tier 4 (Salary \$150,001/yr or more)	\$165	\$185
Retired	\$60	\$80
Student	\$55	\$60
Student (Journals in Print)	\$105	* Discontinued
Life Membership (if eligible)	\$3000	\$3000

* Per our new publishing contract with Taylor & Francis, print journals will no longer be included with membership (all members have full, but online only, access). Members can opt for print journals at an additional fee of \$60.

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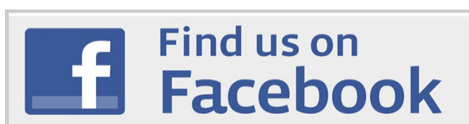
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President's Update [cont.]

As part of increasing dues, the board is committed to ensuring the ASC offers more than just an annual conference to its members. Almost 1,000 people participated in our first annual member survey earlier this year, which provided the most comprehensive view of member perspectives in many years. It is clear there is much more we could and should be doing and we are very grateful for the feedback from the membership.

As we launch the next chapter of ASC with a new Executive Director, we plan to survey the membership annually and use the member survey results to improve the quality of our annual conference and to develop new programs, initiatives, and offerings that responsive to member expectations. We will publish a synthesis of the results from our 2026 survey in the next issue of *The Criminologist* (and will post a full report on the ASC website). Until then...

Book Review: Copaganda: How Police and the Media Manipulate Our News by Alec Karakatsanis

Stephanie Cecava-Scott, Illinois State University
Brenna Jones, Illinois State University
Brian Pitman, Lander University

Alec Karakatsanis's *Copaganda: How Police and the Media Manipulate Our News* offers criminologists a powerful pedagogical framework for helping students interrogate how dominant narratives about crime, safety, and punishment are constructed and sustained. This book is an important exploration of how police in the United States, in coordination with the media, facilitate the public's misunderstanding of crime and the punishment bureaucracy¹ using copaganda. Karakatsanis (2025) defines copaganda as:

the system of government and news media propaganda that promotes mass incarceration, justifies the barbarities and profits that accompany it, and distorts our sense of what threatens us and what keeps us safe (pg 4).

As a public defender and executive director of Civil Rights, Karakatsanis explores these misunderstandings as an insider to the punishment bureaucracy, integrating his experiences within this system throughout his book. Our review outlines the importance of Karakatsanis' work and highlights ways that criminology and criminal justice instructors can lean on his work to help students unlearn these misunderstandings.

Crime, as most students and the broader public understand it, follow a predictable, uncomplicated script: "bad" individuals commit "crime"; and the "good guys," the police, arrest them. These narratives begin early, from children's media such as Paw Patrol to the normalization of school resource officers in educational settings (Baggett & Selman, 2025). Over time, the punishment bureaucracy becomes synonymous with safety itself, while alternatives are dismissed as unrealistic or "radical."

Copaganda, according to Karakatsanis, reinforces this dominant narrative via news, social media, and entertainment like "true crime", which creates "a gulf between the image and reality of the punishment bureaucracy" (pg. 4). Karakatsanis argues that copaganda operates through three main roles. The first role is that copaganda narrows our understanding of threat by defining "crime" almost exclusively as interpersonal offenses committed by the poorest and most marginalized people, while rendering structural, corporate, and state harms largely invisible. As Karakatsanis shows, media and punishment bureaucracies measure "safety" through selective crime statistics rather than through indicators of social well-being such as access to clean drinking water, healthcare, housing stability, environmental safety, or freedom from state violence.

The second role is to manufacture fear by creating "crises and panics about this narrow category of threats" (pg. 13) that directs public anxiety toward poor people, immigrants, and racialized communities. According to Karakatsanis, "This matters because when people are in a perpetual state of fear for their physical safety, they are more likely to support the punishment bureaucracy and authoritarian reactions against those fears" (pg. 13). In so doing, copaganda also deflects scrutiny away from powerful actors like politicians, corporations, landlords, and employers.

The third and perhaps most politically consequential role of copaganda is its insistence that the punishment bureaucracy is both the primary and necessary solution to harms and threats everyday people face. According to Karakatsanis, copaganda works by tightly linking the concept of "safety" to the activities of the punishment bureaucracy such as policing and incarceration, while systematically downplaying or erasing the relationship between safety and the material conditions of people's lives. Structural determinants of harm such as poverty, housing insecurity, environmental toxicity, workplace exploitation, and inadequate healthcare are reframed as peripheral or apolitical concerns rather than central criminological issues.

To make his argument, Karakatsanis uses various stories told in the media to show how copaganda operates. For example, he opens by discussing his work in Genesee County, Michigan, whose county seat is Flint. Historically, Flint residents have been the victims of decades-long neoliberal policies that have resulted in the reduction of jobs, increases in violence and poverty, and the loss of tens of millions in revenue from the state (Lederman, 2016). Then, in 2013, under the undemocratic rule of emergency manager Darnell Early, the city switched its water source from the Detroit water system to the Flint River to save \$2 million per year (Lederman, 2016; Mohai, 2017). Residents complained immediately about the switch, reporting discolored and odorous water, and body rashes, among other symptoms (Chariton & Dize, 2021). The switch in water source led to a mass poisoning of city residents and a widespread government cover-up (Chariton, 2024).

As Karakatsanis outlines, copaganda shapes societal perceptions of crime and safety, where safety from the government sanctioned distribution of poisoned public drinking water is not interpreted through the same ideological lens as other "serious" crimes. In this way, copaganda rendered Flint's structural violence comparatively less important, shaping public perceptions of what counts as "real" harms and threats. Karakatsanis's framework of copaganda enables us to consider that if the punishment bureaucracy actually kept people safe, the government-caused mass poisoning that continues to threaten the health, safety, and well-being of a city's population over a decade later would have resulted in arrests, convictions, and incarceration for those responsible, as well as reparations and enhanced safety mechanisms for the victims.

Moreover, Karakatsanis uses Flint and the media's coverage of the city in the aftermath of the 2020 uprisings as an example of copaganda. He describes how Genesee County Sheriff and current Michigan gubernatorial candidate Chris Swanson "achieved national fame" when he "walked with protestors in Flint, declaring that police 'love' them" (pg. 2). The media coverage of Swanson's actions during the protest, according to Karakatsanis, did not mention that, since 2014, the Genesee County Sheriff's Office had banned in-person family visits and Swanson had not overturned this. According to Karakatsanis, "the contract [Swanson] negotiated generates huge profits for the sheriff's office and the telecom monopoly, even though research shows that eliminating visits makes both the jail and society at large less safe" (pg. 3). By highlighting this symbolic unity without covering his enforcement of dehumanizing jail policies, copaganda again obscures the structural violence of state actors. At a moment when a poll showed the public believed the burning down of a Minneapolis police precinct was partially or fully justified (Murray, 2020), police leaders across the country, including Flint, reframed themselves as allies rather than architects of violence.

According to Karakatsanis, copaganda also works by tightly linking the concept of "safety" to the activities of the punishment bureaucracy, while systematically downplaying or erasing the relationship between safety and the material conditions of people's lives. In this way, copaganda narrows not only how people understand crime, but how they imagine solutions, foreclosing non-punitive responses before they can be seriously considered. Structural determinants of harm such as poverty, housing insecurity, environmental toxicity, workplace exploitation, and inadequate healthcare are reframed as peripheral or apolitical concerns rather than urgent criminological issues that the state must address.

Teaching Copaganda in the Classroom

As scholars and teachers in criminology and criminal justice, we are often confronted with, and must confront in our classrooms, the consequences of widespread consumption of copaganda. Thus, the value of teaching *Copaganda: How Police and the Media Manipulate Our News* lies not only in critiquing media representations but in equipping students with analytical tools to recognize copaganda across institutions, popular culture, and policy debates. Incorporating this text into college-level courses allows students to practice exposing, confronting, and ultimately resisting the deeply entrenched narrative that the punishment bureaucracy is necessary and inevitable. Using Karakatsanis' book can help students learn to identify how it disciplines public imagination and makes the punishment bureaucracy appear natural. Meanwhile, alternatives to the punishment bureaucracy rooted in social provision, accountability, and collective care are framed as naïve or radical.

What might this look like in practice? One approach is to begin courses with a discussion about the difference between crime and harm. Not all crime is harmful, and not all harms violate criminal law. Karakatsanis shows throughout his book how the most significant harms everyday people face are policed differently than "conventional crime." For example, we are socialized to call the police when someone burglarizes our home. We are not socialized to call the police when our wages are stolen. As Karakatsanis writes, "Measured in dollars lost, total estimated wage theft is more devastating than all other police-reported property crime combined" (pg. 21). The culturally dominant image of danger remains the armed robber lying in wait, even though statistically students are far more likely to have their earnings stolen by their employer. Copaganda not only distorts perceptions of threat at the societal level but also structures how individuals interpret their own experiences of harm, rendering economically powerful actors less visible as perpetrators of harm and violence.

Furthermore, this book sensitizes readers to the pervasiveness of this narrative in our communities, opening up possibilities for resistance. Throughout his book, Karakatsanis poses a series of important questions that criminologists can use to also engage students about the punishment bureaucracy and the media. These questions include (pgs. 5-6):

1. Why is this story *news*?
2. Why are other potential stories about things that harm us not in the news?
3. How did *this* story get to *this* reporter?
4. Who are the sources interviewed, and who counts as an expert?
5. Whose perspective is included in this story, and whose perspective is left out?
6. Who benefits from how the story is framed, from what words are used, from what facts the reporter tells us, and from what the reporter ignores?
7. What *kind of person* is created by consuming today's news about crime and punishment?

These questions encourage students to interrogate how "crime" is narrowly constructed. For example, why are interpersonal acts of violence routinely labeled "criminal," while state leaders overseeing genocidal violence are rarely, if ever, framed through the same moral or legal lens in corporate media (Johnson, 2024)? Why is it that the *New York Times* and authorities rightfully refer to the potential kidnapping of Savannah Guthrie as a kidnapping (Bogel-Burroughs et al., 2026), but the *Times* and other media outlets refer to kidnapped Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro as captured (Shupak, 2026)? Why is it that media outlets condemn the lack of sympathy for the assassination of a healthcare CEO (Paul, 2024), while not condemning that same CEO for nearly tripling prior authorization denials and denying Medicare and non-Medicare insurance claims at "double the rate of the national average" (Marques, 2024, para 11)?

An example from the book instructors can use in class is a case Karakatsanis outlines on page 170. Karakatsanis describes a case

where “a woman died and babies and adults were taken to the hospital in Akron, Ohio, after a carbon monoxide leak at an apartment building.” The [Akron Beacon Journal](#) framed the death as an accident, even though Ohio’s updated fire code standards implemented five years prior required the owner of the property, AIY Properties, to install carbon monoxide detectors. The reporting did not disclose that AIY Properties broke the law and that this resulted in the woman’s death. Instructors could introduce students to the reporting on this event by the *Akron Beacon Journal* to evaluate the framing of the article. Who or what is to blame for the death and injuries? What are examples of language used in the article that indicate blame? How were the building owners discussed and what were the proposed responses? Afterwards, instructors can introduce students to the state law that requires the installation of carbon monoxide detectors. From there, students rewrite the article describing the deaths and injuries that includes discussion of state law. This exposes students to all the functions of copaganda and introduces them to how the media conceptualizes law-breaking by corporations. Students also learn the process of unpacking and critiquing the framing of events in the news media themselves.

When students learn to question why certain harms are foregrounded while others are obscured, why some perpetrators are criminalized while others are shielded, and why social investments are framed as unrelated to safety, they develop the capacity to challenge dominant assumptions about justice itself. This pedagogical shift is particularly urgent in a moment when public resources continue to flow toward the punishment bureaucracy despite mounting evidence of their harms and limitations. Once students learn to identify copaganda in the media, they quickly begin to see its logics everywhere. By tracing how threats are narrowed, fear is manufactured, and punishment is framed as the only viable response to harm, students come to understand that the seeming inevitability of police and prisons is the result of sustained ideological work rather than empirical necessity. Teaching *Copaganda: How Police and the Media Manipulate Our News* helps students recognize the punishment bureaucracy as a political project that can be challenged, reimagined, and resisted. Instructors play a vital role in equipping students not only to critique dominant narratives, but to envision and advocate for responses to harm grounded in social provision, democratic accountability, and collective care rather than punishment alone.

¹ Karakatsanis uses punishment bureaucracy instead of the criminal justice system “because it is a more accurate and less deceptive way to describe the constellation of public and private institutions that develop, enforce, and profit from criminal law” (pg. 8). We use that terminology throughout this review.

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POLICY CORNER

The role of academics in the United States' changing climate for democracy and freedom¹

Ragnhild Sollund, Professor, University of Oslo, Dept. of Criminology and Sociology of Law

I write this essay from a privileged position. I am a professor at a reputable university in a country where freedom of speech and academic freedom are not questioned. I reflect on this, just as the call comes out to register for ASC's annual meeting. This is a conference I have attended since 2009, when it was held in Philadelphia, which is significant because this was the location where the Declaration of independence was signed. I have attended the conference for many years and have enjoyed increased collaboration within the field of green criminology, with colleagues who reside in the US, but also with many others who have found the ASC a valuable meeting point. While I have never particularly enjoyed encounters with the US Customs and Border Protection (will they find out that I have given lectures in Cuba and visited Iran?), the Trump Administrations' policies, practices and rhetoric have caused me additional anxiety. With this essay I intend to express my sympathy with colleagues in the US, and my concerns about the political situation the way it looks to me and likely also to others, from a North European critical criminological perspective.

While Norway ranks at the top of the democracy index of Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for 2024 (the last available data), the US ranks 29th²—reflecting the deterioration of democracy and civil rights in the country. The EIU (2026) report states that the Trump Administration is imposing greater control from above and stifles dissent. It will continue to monitor the situation closely to see if the US under Trump should be defined as a classic hybrid regime, like the illiberal democracies in Russia, Hungary and elsewhere in Central Europe (Rupnik 2023).

In the report, the EIU creates a Democracy index indicating top score deteriorations of how government fragility interacts with democratic outcomes between 2011–2025 (EIU report 2026). The US is listed as number seven under one of the five pillars of the Democracy Index sub-pillars of the EIU – political culture. With this position US is now grouped with countries one would not previously have expected, such as Nicaragua under President Daniel Ortega. He was once a revolutionary hero and leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (*Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional* or "FSLN") who became the first president in the 1980s. This was after a revolution, which overthrew the dictator Anastasio Somoza who had held this position due to US involvement. After fighting Somoza, Ortega fought the US-backed Contras that were financed by the Reagan Administrations in alliance with dictator Manuel Noriega of Panama. But as the vice president for Daniel Ortega, Sergio Ramirez, said to me in a personal conversation in which we discussed Ramirez' utopia in 1988, shortly before he left the FSLN, power corrupts.

The EIU report further establishes the loss of civil rights in the US, stating that Trump has taken extraordinary actions to limit free expression in media: he has sued media outlets over reports he felt depicted him badly or favored an opponent, barred the Associated Press from White House briefings, and threatened to use the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to withhold or withdraw licences from broadcast media outlets (EIA report 2026, p. 22).

The ongoing actions of the Trump Administration is causing increased worry, and the future looks grim, indeed, because the Trump Administration sees no limits to its imposition of draconian measures to stifle dissent. If this continues, the US will sink further into the "flawed democracy" category (EIA report 2026, p. 23).

Hungary serves as an example of a flawed democracy in Europe, and yet the US seems eager to emulate it: in April 2026, J D Vance flew to Hungary to show support for Prime Minister Victor Orbán in the upcoming elections. Much to my delight and to that of Ursula von der Leyen—President of the European Commission—Vance's efforts were unsuccessful. Péter Magyar defeated Orbán, giving hope for Hungary, at least.

While I am unsure whether I will travel to Chicago in November for ASC's annual meeting—and risk being hassled, arrested or worse—I am deeply concerned about what the present situation means for academia in the US. I can empathize with the distress my colleagues in the US must be experiencing with their loss of academic freedom, and fear what this may mean for transnational collaboration.

Being a critical criminologist

I was a student at the then Department of Criminology and Penal Law of the University of Oslo in the early 1980s, a department in which the professors were heavily influenced by Marxism, and several were members of the Marxist-Leninist party, which advocated armed revolution. I was struck then by the revolutionary character of the criminology we were taught, and the role of criminology as it was explicated by Professor Nils Christie, who was critical of the penal law and its procedural apparatus. We were encouraged to align with and support the individuals who had been incarcerated by an oppressive state, and to advocate for penal abolitionism as did Professor Thomas Mathiesen, author of *The Defences of the Weak* (2012).

Professors Christie and Mathiesen—and others—taught us that as criminologists, we should be critical of the state and its exercise

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of power. We were prompted to conduct research that would *benefit* marginalized and under-privileged people who are often (just) the subjects of criminological studies.

Since then, critical criminology has developed to offer critiques of states and state-corporate collusion and crime. For instance, Penny Green and Tony Ward assert that there are several components embodied within the social process of state crime, such as “organisational deviance, involving human rights violations, in pursuit of state organisational goals” (Green 2017, p. 348). State crime is not comprised by isolated acts but a broader process in which harmful practices are produced and justified within institutional structures. This can be exemplified by the actions of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the homicides they have committed in furtherance of Trump’s immigration policies. Indeed, Gregg Barak (2022) makes the eloquent case that there is a criminal in the White House, and that Trump’s criminal actions and alliances started long before he was elected president of the United States. Such offenses are likely to continue to have a devastating impact, further transforming a beacon of freedom into a shadow state.

As the world watches with increased consternation in regard to the next erratic step of POTUS—from his eagerness to annex Greenland, to his abduction of Venezuela’s (illegitimate) president, to his war on Iran—all because he desires these countries’ natural resources—it is important for us to remember that as academics, we have a role to play. What then when the same state deprives US universities of their funding? As Levy (2026) maintains, academic freedom in the US has declined since 2022 and is on the verge of collapse: “Universities can no longer credibly guarantee protection for research or teaching against political interference that leads to the wholesale suppression of fields of inquiry or politically unpopular conclusions.” Levy notes that at the federal level, the funding of research has become increasingly politicized, with expert peer review panels dissolved and funding decisions subordinated to administration priorities.

My new research project, funded with 12 million NOK (1 303 008 USD) from the Research Council of Norway, about wildlife trade, trophy hunting and zoos, would never have received money from the Trump Administration—one that cares so little for the natural environment. Rather, my university might have faced the same fate as those in the US, where the Trump Administration withdrew funds and used the threat of withholding grants to try to coerce universities to comply with its partisan priorities about race, gender, and student discipline (Levy 2026).

Over the course of my career, I have visited a number of authoritarian regimes to work for human rig, The statement “He is a bastard, but he is our bastard³” from CIA director William Casey with reference³ to Manuel Noriega, can illustrate how several of these countries’ dictators, such as in Guatemala, Honduras and Chile came to power in Latin America with the help of the US. Think for example of Augusto Pinochet in Chile after the CIA orchestrated coup against the elected president Salvador Allende. Although the US installed dictators in its “backyard,” it was still regarded as a democratic country—perhaps because it stood in contrast to the USSR. Today, the US has its own dictator—Trump, who is transforming the country from democracy to an unpredictable, authoritarian state. This is all happening before our very eyes.

The dilemma I find myself in, as a European, is whether to travel to the ASC to support my colleagues, or whether such a regime should be boycotted. Does entering the United States confer legitimacy? Does visiting the United States and spending my money there communicate approval of Trump’s presidency and policies? This dilemma is not peculiar to the United States. Other countries violate human rights (e.g., Israel). The risk is that rather than punishing the regime, I hurt my colleagues and weaken academic cooperation. Should I decide not to attend this year’s conference in Chicago, I want to assure you all that I stand by you. I just fear for my own safety.

¹ I am grateful to Avi Brisman and Victoria Terranova for comments to this essay.

² Democracy Index, 2024

³ [How the US Captured Manuel Noriega in 1989 | HISTORY](#)

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AROUND THE ASC

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AROUND THE ASC



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Chris Sullivan, University of Missouri-St. Louis

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RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY**

Jordan Michael Parker, Michigan State University
Sukanya Bhattacharya, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Godwin Egbe, University of Mississippi
Taylor Gonzales, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Mindy L. Thai, George Mason University

**THORSTON SELLIN & SHELDON AND
ELEANOR GLUECK AWARD**

Stephen Farrall, University of Nottingham

EDWIN H. SUTHERLAND AWARD

Todd Clear, Rutgers University

AUGUST VOLLMER AWARD

Thomas G. Blomberg, Florida State University

W.E.B. DU BOIS AWARD

Robert D. Crutchfield, University of Washington

AROUND THE ASC

FROM THE ASC OFFICE

Have you registered for the
2026 Annual Meeting!

2026 Annual Meeting Details

2026 Annual Meeting
Registration Details

Advertise or Exhibit at
the ASC Annual
Meeting!

Click to
[View opportunities](#)
and submit your form.

Need to fill a position?
Want to fill a position?

start here...

ASC CAREER CENTER

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)
<https://ascdhdc.org/>

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)
<https://ascdqr.org/>

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

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

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

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

White Collar and Corporate Crime (DWCC)
<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



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/>.



Division of Experimental Criminology Academy of Experimental Criminology

EXECUTIVE BOARD



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CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

The DEC/AEC are currently accepting nominations for the following awards:

- **Jerry Lee Lifetime Achievement Award:** The Jerry Lee Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded to a scholar who has demonstrated a lifetime of achievement in the field of experimental methods.
- **Award for Outstanding Experimental Field Trial:** The Award for Outstanding Experimental Field Trial is given to a researcher, or team of researchers, in recognition of a rigorous and impactful experimental field trial.
- **Student Paper Award:** The Student Paper Award is given for a single outstanding paper utilizing experimental methods to analyze criminology/criminal justice-related topics/issues.
- **Joan McCord Award:** The Joan McCord Award recognizes a scholar who has made distinguished experimental contributions to criminology and criminal justice over the course of their career.
- **Outstanding Early Career Experimental Criminologist Award:** The Outstanding Early Career Experimental Criminologist Award recognizes exceptional early career scholarship.
- **AEC Fellows/Honorary Fellows:** Fellows are scholars who have successfully led field experiments in criminology and/or whose work has made substantial contributions to experimental criminology.

Award nominations are due by August 1, 2026. For full award and nomination information, please see: <https://expcrim.org/call-for-awards/>.

SUMMARY OF DEC 2025 STUDENT PAPER AWARD WINNER

Hill, S. L., Brimbal, L., Maguire, E. R., & Stephens, E. (2025). Does humanizing the police improve the effectiveness of police recruiting efforts? *Criminology & Public Policy*, 24(3), 453-471.

U.S. police agencies are facing a serious recruiting and staffing crisis. As a result, scholars and police leaders are increasingly re-examining police recruiting methods. This study draws on intergroup communication to examine how police portrayals in recruitment materials influence perceptions. Using a randomized survey experiment, we tested the effects of humanizing how officers are portrayed in a recruiting video relative to a more traditional, action-oriented portrayal. We showed police recruiting videos to a sample of 325 university students. Within the videos, we varied how a female police officer described her career and her personal life. We then measured the extent to which the treatment influenced participants' general attitudes toward police and their interest in working in policing. The treatment had significant effects on the two general attitudinal outcomes (shared identity and institutional trust) but did not have a significant direct effect on respondents' interest in working in policing. Notably, the treatment had significant indirect effects on respondents' interest in a career in policing via shared identity, but not via institutional trust. Applying principles from intergroup communication can help police agencies develop recruiting materials that humanize officers and promote shared identity, thereby attracting a larger and more diverse pool of candidates.



HOW TO JOIN:

New ASC Members should refer to the Divisions section of the membership form.

Existing ASC Members may add this Division to their current ASC membership as per the member's membership portal landing page.

DUES:

Active/retired ASC members (\$15)
Students (\$5)



Check us out at our [website!](http://ASCDQR.org)

ASCDQR.org

The purpose of the **Division of Qualitative Research** is to provide a supportive community for all researchers in criminology and criminal justice and to build a better understanding of qualitative research across the field.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Members can:

Access resources (e.g., webinars, resource guides) featuring new developments and how-tos in qualitative research;

Be part of a network of support, including opportunities for mentoring and platforms for sharing info on publishing qualitative work in specific journals; and

Participate in advocacy efforts to improve the status of qualitative research in criminology and criminal justice.



Division of Victimology Call for 2026 Award Nominations

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

Robert Jerin Book of the Year Award – This award will be given to the author(s) of a book published in the previous five years (i.e., 2021-2026) that has had a major impact on the field of victimology and/or serves to highlight a key issue in the field. Nominations must include: (1) one letter of support (1 to 2 pages) and (2) a description of the book and its relevance to the field of victimology. In the letter, the nominator must provide an explanation of why the book should be considered as a key text in the discipline of victimology.

Faculty Researcher of the Year Award – This award will be given to a scholar who has made a significant contribution in the area of victimology in the past two years (e.g., peer-reviewed publications or books published in 2024-2026). Nominations must include: (1) one letter of support (1 to 3 pages) and (2) an up-to-date CV for the nominee. In the letter, the nominator must provide explanation and evidence for why the nominee's research has made significant contributions to the discipline of victimology.

Faculty Teacher of the Year Award – This award will be given to a teacher who shows excellence in teaching victimology and/or victimology-related courses taught during the past two academic years (i.e., 2024-2025, 2025-2026). Nominations must include: (1) one letter of support (1 to 3 pages) and (2) evidence of teaching excellence. In the letter, the nominator must provide explanation and evidence for why the nominee's teaching is excellent. Evidence of teaching excellence could include (but is not limited to) letters from students or examples of assignments.

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

Graduate Student Papers of the Year Award – Two awards will be given to graduate students for an exceptional, published or unpublished, paper on a victimology-related topic that was written or published during 2025-2026. Nominees must be current graduate students during the Fall 2026 semester. Faculty co-authors are allowed; however, the graduate student must be lead/first author and any faculty co-authors must be in an advisory role only. Graduate student award recipients will receive \$300 each (if there are multiple student co-authors on a selected paper, the \$300 will be split evenly among them). Nominations must include: (1) one letter of support (1 to 2 pages) and (2) a PDF of the paper. In the letter, the nominator must provide a statement explaining why he/she believes the paper makes a contribution to the discipline of victimology.

Submission Deadline: September 1, 2026

- Please upload your award nomination here: <https://form.jotform.com/261398526887173>
- Please consolidate your award nomination documents into one PDF, when possible.

Additional Notes:

- Please contact Dr. Brendan Lantz (blantz@fsu.edu) and Mackenzie Kile (mjk047@shsu.edu) with any questions or submission issues.
- Recipients of each award will be made aware that they have won the award by October 2nd.
- Winners will be honored at the annual DOV meeting and receive a plaque.
- With the exception of the Practitioner/Activist of the Year award, all award recipients must be members of the DOV.
- Previous award winners are ineligible to be considered for the same award.
- We hope you will self-nominate or nominate someone you know who you think is worthy of these awards. We are especially hopeful that you will pinpoint student papers that may be suitable for nominations for the graduate student paper awards.



Division of Victimology

2026 Graduate Student Travel Awards

The DOV is pleased to announce two Student Travel Awards (\$500 each) to help graduate students with ASC travel to Chicago, Illinois. Applications will be reviewed by the DOV Awards Committee.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be current graduate students at institutions of higher education within the United States.
- The graduate student's research focus must be on victimology.
- Applicants must submit evidence of conference participation (e.g., abstract acceptance, award, roundtable).
- Applicants must be current members of the DOV.
- Applicants are expected to attend the DOV award ceremony.

Submission Deadline: September 1, 2026

Application Materials:

Applications must be submitted to <https://form.jotform.com/261405425932151> and include the following:

- 1) Evidence of ASC 2026 conference participation (e.g., abstract acceptance, award, roundtable)
- 2) A 500-word personal statement about the importance of the award and how it will support the student's career path, especially in the field of victimology
- 3) Current CV/resume

Selection Criteria:

Applications containing all materials referenced above will be assessed based on merit and need as described in the personal statement.

Award:

The awards will be given during the award ceremony at ASC in November.

Contact:

Please contact Dr. Brendan Lantz (blantz@fsu.edu) and Mackenzie Kile (mjk047@shsu.edu) with any questions or submission issues.



Join us!

Chair: Emily Homer

Vice Chair: Katelyn Golladay

Secretary/Treasurer: Yuliya Zabyelina

Executive Counselors: José Atilas, Heidi Chio, Miranda Galvin,
and Li Huang

Student Committee Chair: Megan Parker

What's our Division Doing?

- Hosting a Student Book Club
- Recognizing our membership with annual awards
- Preparing for roundtables, panel sessions, meetings, award ceremonies, and socials in Chicago
- Running a student mentoring program

What are our Members Doing?

- Publishing in the *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime* and other outlets
- Presenting at the European Society of Criminology and American Society of Criminology meetings
- Conducting research into how to increase students' exposure to the fields of white-collar and corporate crime
- Leading anti-fraud initiatives all over the world

For more information about the DWCC, scan the QR code or visit <https://ascdwcc.org/>



CRIMINOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

Conferences, Webinars & Workshops

INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND DIALOGUE – 16th SUMMER ACADEMY

Event Type: Academy | Location: Basel, Switzerland | Date: August 4 – 14, 2026

<https://www.ipdinstitute.ch/Trainings-Events/>

INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND DIALOGUE – SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

Event Type: 3 month program | Location: Basel, Switzerland | Date: August 4 – October 30, 2026

<https://www.ipdinstitute.ch/Trainings-Events/>

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS (SSSP)

Theme: Resisting Colonization of Lifeworlds

Event Type: Annual Meeting | Location: New York City, NY | Date: August 6-9, 2026

https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/1044/2026_Annual_Meeting/

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY MEETING

Event Type: Conference | Location: Warsaw, Poland | Date: September 9 – 12, 2026

<https://esc-eurocrim.org/v2/eurocrim-2026-the-26th-annual-conference-of-the-esc-will-take-place-in-warsaw-poland-from-9-to-12-september-2026/>

BEYOND THE CITY: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON CRIME, JUSTICE, SECURITY AND SOCIETY IN RURAL CONTEXTS

Event Type: Conference | Location: Bialystok, Poland | Date: September 14 – 15, 2026

<https://konferencje-prawo.uwb.edu.pl/beyond-the-city-international-conference>

DCJS PUBLIC SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

Theme: Building Safer and Stronger Communities

Event Type: Symposium | Location: Albany, NY | Date: September 22 – 24, 2026

https://registration.expologic.com/registration/start/F77D8C38-BE31-4700-8C2F-A8A1D13150F9?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Event Type: International online Conference | Location: Online | Date: October 3 – 4, 2026

<https://www.icccj2026.com/>

WESTERN REGION REENTRY SUMMIT

Event Type: Summit | Location: Reno, Nevada | Date: October 14 – 16, 2026

<http://www.reentrysummitwest.com/>

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY (ANZSOC) CONFERENCE

Event Type: Conference | Location: Adelaide, Australia | Date: December 1 - 3, 2026

<https://anzsoc.org/#>

Eurocrim 2026: Frontiers of Criminology | Warsaw, Poland | 9-12 September 2026

Eurocrim 2026, titled "Frontiers of Criminology," will take place in Warsaw, Poland, from 9 to 12 September 2026. Organized by the University of Warsaw and the European Society of Criminology, the conference will bring together scholars from around the world to reflect on how rapidly changing, fluid societies are reshaping crime, harm, and criminological inquiry.

As technological, environmental, and social transformations push the boundaries of contemporary life, criminology faces new questions about emerging forms of crime and harm, shifting crime patterns, and responsibilities in the face of uncertainty. Eurocrim 2026 will provide a forum to explore these evolving frontiers and their implications for theory, research, and policy.

We invite you to follow the conference website and social media channels, where updates and calls will be posted regularly:

<https://eurocrim2026.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/eurocrim2026>

The Criminologist

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FUTURE ASC ANNUAL MEETING DATES

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



2026 ASC ANNUAL MEETING

Venue: Palmer House Hilton

Location: Chicago, IL

Date: 11/18 - 11/21/2026

Chairs: Carlos E. Monteiro, Suffolk University & Jennifer B. Robinson, Salem State University

Theme: *Criminology and Justice Policy*

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