

## **FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK**

The summer is winding down for CJRC, and indeed, we are beginning to look ahead to Autumn. First, an update on our renovations. We have moved the offices for graduate associates working on research projects with CJRC faculty affiliates to Journalism 151. Current residents (and projects) of the office include Beckett Broh and Danielle Payne (national neighborhood crime project), Seth Feinberg (social networks and crime), Susanne Bunn (Columbus area survey), and Lisa Leitz and Valerie Wright (Ohio incident-based crime). If you need work space for a graduate/professional research associate, please let me know and I will determine if it is possible to accommodate him/her in our new space. The renovation of Journalism 147 is still in progress. Though there have been some delays, I am still optimistic that the offices for the Director and two CJRC projects will be available by the start of Autumn Quarter.

Space additions and renovations are not the only changes that we face this academic year. You will recall that during the 2000-2001 academic year, we improved our communication by establishing the newsletter and developing a web page. We will continue these services this year, but with some changes. María Vélez has done an excellent job as the newsletter editor. Maria is working off-campus, writing her dissertation. But, she has agreed to continue writing the newsletter. María is open to suggestions regarding its format and content. To retain the quality of the newsletter, I encourage you to continue to provide her with timely information about your activities, and with feedback about things that you find or don't find to be informative. María thanks for an excellent job with the newsletter. I look forward to continuing to work with you during the upcoming academic year.

While the newsletter will continue to be in María's capable hands, Beckett Broh will no longer be serving as our web master (or general administrative associate); as noted above, we are fortunate that she will be working with us as a research associate on the national neighborhood crime project. Beckett, we thank you very much for getting the web page started and laying a good foundation for the next web master. Unfortunately, we have not identified a person to replace Beckett in this administrative role. If you are aware of an available candidate with excellent skills in this area, please let me know. Along different lines, this year we expect to add a substantive page which features aspects of on-going CJRC projects.

Laurie Krivo is finalizing our fall seminar schedule. It will be reported in our next newsletter; we will also preview the schedule for the remainder of the year. In addition to our regular seminar series, we also hope to inaugurate a "meet and greet" event during the 2001-2002 academic year. Let us hear from you about other activities that you believe might contribute to achieving the general goals of CJRC.

## **WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING**

Co-Principal Investigators Bill Ackerman (Geography), Joe Donnermeyer (Human and Community Resource Development), Laurie Krivo (Sociology), and Ruth Peterson (Sociology) received a Byrne Memorial Grant Program Subgrant from the Office of Criminal Justice Services to examine "Crime in Ohio: Analyses of Ohio Incident-Based Crime Data." The project gets underway on October 1, 2001 and promises to provide a more comprehensive picture of crime in Ohio jurisdictions using incident-based reporting than can be garnered through the current Uniform Crime Reporting System.

Kate Federle (Law) has been invited to speak at a conference at the University of Florida's Fredric G. Levin College of Law on December 7-8. The conference is entitled "Defending Childhood: Developing a Child-Centered Policy Agenda."

Danielle Payne (Sociology) successfully defended her Master's thesis, "Reconsidering Urbanism: Interactions with Individual-Level Determinants of Adolescent Substance Use" in early August. Since her defense, she has been admitted to the Ph.D. program in Sociology.

Randy Roth (History) is working on a project that examines "Why Northern New Englanders Seldom Commit Murder: How America Became a Homicidal Nation." The study runs from colonial times to 1900 (and extends in the portions on Europe to the mid-16th century). The focus is on homicide, but Randy also studies other violent crimes and deaths such as suicides and accidents. For this project he collected comparative data on New England, Ohio, Virginia, Maryland, and Georgia. Randy received funding to conduct this project from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Science Foundation.

María B. Vélez' (Sociology) paper on "The Role of Public Social Control in Urban Neighborhoods: A Multi-Level Analysis of Victimization Risk" was accepted for publication by Criminology.

Jeremy Wilson (Public Policy) successfully defended his dissertation proposal ("Context, Organizational Structure, and the Implementation of Community Policing in Large Municipal Police Organizations: Investigating A Structural Model)" this past summer. Jeremy also has been invited to join two research projects. The first is a collaboration between Indiana University, Michigan State University, and the Hudson Institute in Indianapolis; it evaluates the effectiveness of the Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership in reducing crime. The second, a collaboration between Northwestern University and OSU, is an assessment of mediation as an alternative to formal processing in the Federal civil court system.

Several CJRC faculty and students participated in this year's American Sociological Association Meetings held in Anaheim, California on August 18 - 21.

Chris Browning (Sociology) led the discussion for a panel on "Cities, Neighborhoods, and Crime in the 21st Century." He also presented his paper "Negative Social Capital and Urban Crime: A Negotiated Coexistence Perspective (with Robert Dietz and Seth Feinberg) for the "Social Capital and the City" session.

Susanne Bunn (Sociology) presented a paper on "Adolescent Substance Use: The Interactive Influence of Parents and Peers" for the Parenting Adolescents roundtable session.

Dana Haynie (Sociology) led the discussion for a panel on "The Influence of Social Networks on Crime and Deviance."

Dave Jacobs (Sociology) organized and presided over the Political Sociology session where he also presented a paper titled "Towards a Political Sociology of the Death Penalty: A Pooled-Time Series Approach" (with Jason Carmichael).

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Session on "Demography of Crime and Incarceration," Population Association of America (PAA) 2002 meetings. The deadline for submission is October 1, 2001. Professor Laurie Krivo, a CJRC faculty affiliate from Sociology, is organizing a panel titled "Demography of Crime and Incarceration" (session 707) for the Population Association of America (PAA) 2002 meetings. The conference will be held on

May 9 - 11 in Atlanta, Georgia. Authors interested in submitting papers should complete an on-line Submission Form at the PAA 2002 Program website (<http://paa2002.princeton.edu>), and submit a full paper to Laurie by October 1, 2001. These may be sent either by mail or e-mail:

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The Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice announces calls for papers for two special issues.

(1) Sexuality, Law, and Justice. The deadline for submission is October 1, 2001. Manuscripts focusing on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gendered issues in the criminal justice system are especially encouraged. Manuscripts must be written in English; be typed, double-spaced; have in citations, notes, and references in APA format; and be between eight (8) and twenty (20) pages in length, excluding tables, figures, and references. Three "blind copies" of the manuscript should be submitted for anonymous review. A fourth, complete copy of the manuscript, accompanied by an abstract of 100 words or less and a brief biographical sketch of the author(s), indicating affiliation, research grant numbers, acknowledgments, research interests, and recent publications must also be submitted. Tables, figures, and drawings must be submitted on separate, camera ready sheets. Please send manuscripts to the guest editor of the Journal for this special edition:

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(2) The Supreme Court and Criminal Justice. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2002. This issue will explore recent Supreme Court decisions affecting the administration of criminal justice. Articles are invited on a variety of topics, including, but not limited to, recent search and seizure decisions, corrections law, administration of the death penalty, and the interpretation of federal statutes. Contributors can examine one case, or a series of cases. All article submissions will be subject to blind peer review. Persons interested in submitting an article should contact the special issue editor at the address below:

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Prentice Hall College Publishing invites scholars to submit manuscripts for its Women's Issues in Criminal Justice series. Through this series, the Editor and contributing authors will explore issues that impact women and justice such as studying the effects of the criminal justice system on female criminals, criminal justice practitioners, and victims. Topics include women who abuse drugs or alcohol, the disparate treatment of women, and women and employment within the criminal justice system. Please send all proposals and inquires to:

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### **FEATURED GRADUATE STUDENT**

Seth Feinberg  
Department of Sociology  
The Ohio State University

Seth is a fourth year Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology at OSU. He is currently preparing to take his candidacy exams in Crime and Community with a special focus on urban policing and social control. Seth completed his Master's in Sociology at OSU and obtained his B.A. in Political Science from Tufts University.

Two hands-on experiences have shaped Seth's interest in studying crime and criminal justice. First, while an undergraduate at Tufts University, he helped the Massachusetts Lifers Organization, a group of individuals serving life sentences without parole, compile their magazine, *Odyssey*. This group was started so that these "lifers" could help younger inmates make the most of their incarceration time and successfully re-enter society. While working with the prisoners, Seth saw first-hand the importance of inmates participating in activities like writing for the magazine in the rehabilitation of prisoners. Nonetheless he witnessed the state reduce spending on rehabilitation programs. This change in budgetary priorities made Seth question the state's commitment to providing prisoners with the tools necessary for reentry into society. In addition, he realized the influence of politics on the criminal justice system. Second, after graduation from Tufts, Seth worked as a newspaper reporter covering the courts in Blaine County, Idaho. In investigating stories, Seth interacted with various criminal justice actors, including judges, prosecutors, lawmakers, police officers, and defendants. This experience showed him that social and political factors play a role in criminal justice decision-making.

Drawing from these experiences, Seth is generally interested in understanding the factors that shape law-making and law enforcement, and in particular the roles of race and class in criminal justice outcomes. His Master's thesis focused on an important criminal justice outcome – the police. In particular, Seth investigated the extent to which the media shapes why some municipalities employ larger police forces than do others. To that end, he tested the impact of newspaper coverage relating to local policing on future investments in law enforcement. Seth found that cities that devote more attention to policing in their newspapers hire more police, even after adjusting for important factors like crime and poverty rates. A paper developed from his thesis research was presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology, and is currently under review for publication

consideration.

For his dissertation, Seth is interested in studying the impact of neighborhood context on policing styles. That is, how do neighborhood conditions like poverty, race or extreme levels of disadvantage, influence the way the police react to neighborhood incidents? For instance, why do some police departments employ community policing strategies in poor neighborhoods while others employ more aggressive stances like street sweeps and the aggressive enforcement of misdemeanors. In addition, Seth is interested in how different policing styles influence the community and its relationship with the police.

In addition to his work on policing, during the past year Seth worked with Laurie Krivo and Ruth Peterson on their project to develop a large data base on neighborhood crime in large cities of the U.S. Currently, he is collaborating with Professor Chris Browning on a project that examines the influence of social networks on crime. They pay particular attention to whether these networks reduce or increase crime. Utilizing data from the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN) Community Survey, they find that dense social networks help reduce crime by generating neighborhood social capital that can be directed toward the informal social control of crime. However, their work also suggests that to the extent that offenders are integrated into dense neighborhood networks through kin and friendship ties, they may mobilize their network ties to facilitate continued criminal activity (e.g., through discouraging local residents from contacting the police).

Apart from his research, Seth enjoys teaching and developing innovative teaching strategies. Indeed, he has published on innovative pedagogical methods in *Teaching Sociology*. Seth particularly enjoys teaching undergraduates about social inequality in courses such as *Social Stratification* and *Introduction to Criminal Justice*. A major goal in his classes is for students to understand that inequality is structured such that it goes beyond individual attitudes. In addition, Seth mentors future teaching assistants (TA) each year during the TA orientation sponsored by the Office of Faculty and TA Development. To do so, Seth acts as a leader and facilitator for small group sessions that address topics like multi-culturalism as well as learning styles and strategies. Lastly, Seth enjoys tutoring *Sociology* and *Criminology* for athletes on scholarship from the Athletic Department.

On a more personal note, Seth likes spending time with his six cats and one dog. He also enjoys traveling, running and other outdoor activities.

## **CREDITS AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

Thanks to all of you who sent your suggestions and announcements. We encourage you to keep us informed about any events that might be of interest to CJRC participants as well as any suggestions that you have for activities or programs. To contact the newsletter editor, please email María Vélez at [velez.17@osu.edu](mailto:velez.17@osu.edu) or by phone at 247-6736. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send María your email address.