

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

As we approach the end of the quarter, CJRC once again has much to celebrate. We had three terrific seminars over the term. Reflecting our focus on "Youth, Crime and Justice," Randy Roth got us off to a wonderful start with a discussion of child killings across the centuries. Thanks again Randy for a very stimulating discussion. This was followed by Jody Miller's visit from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Jody's collaborative research on African American girls' experiences with violence was extremely insightful about the dynamics of the contexts in which different types of violence are perpetrated on girls, and also about how girls interpret and deal with these experiences. This research enlightened us but also pointed up the difficulty of developing interventions that will impact this troublesome situation. In a later forum, Jody talked with graduate students about the prospects and pitfalls of conducting qualitative research to better understand violence or other crime and justice phenomena. This too was a very productive discussion.

Finally, Brian Kowalski's (Sociology) analysis of how neighborhood characteristics affect the likelihood of re-incarceration and time to first failure after prison release was another stimulating discussion with relevance to two of our themes: "Crime and Community," and "Criminal Justice Policy." Brian's talk was based on his Master's thesis research, which combined neighborhood data from the census with prison release data drawn from records of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC). Thus, we were very pleased that a number of our colleagues from ODRC attended the lecture. Their comments and questions enriched our discussion, especially with regards to the policy and future research implications of Brian's results. Thanks Chin, Coretta, Don, Ed, Paul, and Steve for joining us. Brian's talk was also our first seminar presentation by a graduate affiliate of the Center. Thanks Brian for being willing to go first and for setting a high standard for us all.

Laurie is currently in the process of finalizing our Winter Quarter seminar series. She asks that you please mark your calendars for a talk by graduate affiliate Khalilah Brown-Dean (Political Science) on January 25, faculty affiliate Sharon Davies (Law) on February 15, and Patricia White (National Science Foundation Program Officer) on March 8. Thanks to all of these colleagues for agreeing to share their work with us. Additional information will follow.

Administratively, we also made progress during the quarter. We are settling into our new offices in Journalism 147 and 151. Except for a few computer glitches, all is going well with on-going projects. We are still struggling a bit with the best way to staff the Center, but are making some progress in that regard. Overall, CJRC is off to a good start for the academic year. I wish all of you a good and well-deserved holiday break, and look forward to continued progress during Winter and Spring.

## **WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING**

Khalilah Brown-Dean ((Political Science) has recently been invited to present a paper co-authored with Professor D'Andra Orey (Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln) entitled "Heritage or Hate: An Analysis of Public Attitudes Surrounding the Confederate Flag" at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics to be held in March at The Citadel Military College in Charleston, South Carolina.

Laurie Krivo (Sociology) was just appointed to the editorial board of Social Forces for a 3 year term. She also serves on the editorial board of Criminology.

McGarrell, Edmund F., Chermak, Steven, Weiss, Alexander, & Jeremy M. Wilson (Public Policy and Management) recently had a paper published in the first volume of Criminology and Public Policy. Their paper examines "Reducing Firearms Violence Through Directed Police Patrol."

## **UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS**

The 15th Annual Training Conference of the Correctional Accreditation Managers Association will be held in Columbus, Ohio on May 4-7, 2002. The theme of the conference is "Exploring Excellence in Corrections." Panel topics will include accreditation procedures, the impact of correctional standards and accreditation in view of the Prison Litigation Reform Act, and correctional litigation and accredited programs. The Correctional Accreditation Association of Ohio (CAAO) is serving as the sponsoring agency for the 2002 CAMA Conference. The cost of advanced registrations will be \$85.00 per person with a \$100 per person on-site registration. Room reservations at the Hilton Hotel must be made by April 12, 2002 and will be \$119 for single or double occupancy. For more information, contact Julie Riley, SPPM graduate student and CAAO Executive Board Member at riley.15@osu.edu or 614-877-2306, ext. 366.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Gender, Crime and (In)Justice. The Journal of Contemporary Ethnography announces a special issue on Ethnographic Perspectives on Gender, Crime and (In)Justice. The deadline is December 31, 2001. This issue will focus on problems related to gender inequality, situated femininities/masculinities, and their relations to crime, juvenile delinquency, and justice. In addition to traditional topics within criminology and criminal justice, the themes of crime and justice will be considered broadly to include legal, human rights, and labor issues associated with the commercial sex industry and other criminalized activities, as well as issues facing women in prison. All papers will be peer reviewed. If you are unsure whether your topic or research is suitable, or are interested in reviewing for this issue, contact the Special Issue Editor, Jody Miller, via e-mail at millerja@msx.umsl.edu or phone at 314-516-5426. Please send four manuscript copies and a U.S. \$10 submission fee (payable to Jody Miller) to:

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The Supreme Court and Criminal Justice. The Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice announces a special issue that will explore recent Supreme Court decisions affecting the administration of criminal justice. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2002. 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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Access to Justice. The Journal of Law & Social Challenges is soliciting articles for a special volume on "Access to Justice". Papers can include topics such as the provision of legal services at all levels, the availability of judicial remedies, financial and structural barriers, the impact of alternative dispute resolution, and judicial and legislative challenges. For more information, contact:

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### **FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

2002 ASC Fellowship for Ethnic Minorities.

The deadline is March 1, 2002. The fellowships are designed to encourage African American, Asian American, Latino, and Native American students to enter the field of criminology and criminal justice. The recipients of the fellowships must be accepted into a program of doctoral studies. Generally three (3), \$6,000 fellowships are awarded each year. For further information, please go to the website: <http://www.asc41.com/minorfel.htm>

2002 ASC Gene Carte Student Paper Competition.

The deadline is April 15, 2002. These awards are given to recognize outstanding scholarly work of students. For further information, please check out the website: <http://www.asc41.com/cartesp.html>.

### **FEATURED FACULTY PARTICIPANT**

Joseph F. Donnermeyer  
Department of Human and Community Resource Development  
The Ohio State University

Dr. Joseph Donnermeyer is a Professor and Chair of the Rural Sociology program in the Department of Human and Community Resource Development. He is also Director of Graduate Studies for the Rural Sociology program. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Kentucky. He earned his B.A. in Sociology from Thomas More College, a small liberal arts college in the Cincinnati area.

Joe's research focuses on three areas: 1) rural crime and delinquency, 2) evaluation of prevention programs, and 3) police and community leadership. According to Joe, a concern for research that is field-oriented and applied in nature underlies these three areas. From his perspective, such an approach gives the researcher "a better handle on research and theory."

Although Joe started his career as a victimologist, he now focuses on how variations in community

structures (e.g., poverty) help explain juvenile delinquency, adolescent substance abuse, and farm crime in mostly rural settings. For example, one project in Australia compares an aboriginal community with high levels of crime with an other aboriginal community that has low levels of crime. The key issue of interest in this project is to examine how social control efforts vary across these two racially similar communities and whether these differences translate into varying levels of crime. Studying crime in rural areas, Joe argues, is very important. "Smaller places are ideal laboratories to test criminological theories because there is more variation and it provides a better chance to examine communities that are not contaminated by nearby communities." According to Joe, it is unfortunate that the major emphasis in criminology is on urban areas, leaving a lot to be learned about rural areas, where most of the world lives.

Regarding evaluation research, some of Joe's work has focused on the programmatic impacts of Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) on youth substance abuse. For instance, in a study of Ohio's DARE program, Joe found that adolescent behavior is most influenced by exposure to a variety of drug and alcohol programs over time. Joe suggests that this finding means that no one program works well by itself but over time there can be a cumulative effect from being exposed to a variety of programs. In collaboration with Jeremy Wilson, a graduate student in Public Policy and Management, Joe is also examining problem-solving teams within the Columbus Division of Police. With assistance from a Byrne Memorial Grant, they study the evolution of these teams in the Columbus Division of Police (CDP) in terms of variation in team characteristics and implementation and perceived effectiveness.

Joe also has devoted considerable effort to the training of law enforcement officers. Specifically, he has worked with agencies like the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Ohio Crime Prevention Association to develop workshops that provide certification for law enforcement officers. Joe also teaches courses on executive development for Northwestern University's Institute for Public Safety. By working directly with law enforcement officials, Joe has been instrumental in efforts to professionalize law enforcement officials.

Apart from these three general areas, Joe is embarking on two new projects. First, he has become active in efforts to assess local and state preparedness for agricultural terrorism, with the likely possibility of funding in the near future. Helping local and state agencies become prepared is important given the devastating impact that agricultural terrorism would have on Ohio's economy. This work is a follow-up to a report he prepared on local preparedness for terrorism as part of a statewide conference held in June, 2000 that was co-sponsored by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, the Ohio Department of Public Safety and The Ohio State University. Second, Joe with Co-Principal Investigators Bill Ackerman (Geography), 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 is designed 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.

Taken together, Joe's research is fundamentally motivated by a desire to connect theory and practice. As such, Joe seeks to remain grounded so that he can conduct research that is meaningful and applicable to the real world.

In addition to these projects, Joe also enjoys teaching. He teaches courses on Introduction to Sociology, Rural Crime, Rural Youth Problems, and most recently on the Amish.

## **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). If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send María your email address.