

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

For CJRC, Winter Quarter 2001 certainly started off with a bang. Mary Pattillo-McCoy's visit was a resounding success. Approximately 50 persons from a variety of disciplines attended her featured talk on "Ethnographic Lessons on Urban Structure, Crime, and Racial Disadvantage." In this talk, Mary revisited with us themes from her book, *Black Picket Fences*, highlighting the ways in which crime and crime control become manifest within black middle class Groveland, and how both are partially explained by close ties (a la social organization) among residents in a community that has spatial proximity to more economically marginalized communities. A stimulating discussion followed her presentation. Additional people met with Mary in smaller forums throughout the day. I attended an informal discussion session on "Doing Participant Observation." This session was also extremely informative both because Mary offered her expertise, but also because of the wisdom shared by faculty and graduate students at Ohio State regarding their own experiences as participant observers.

Victor Streib is the next presenter in our seminar series. Vic is a Visiting Professor in the College of Law. One of his major foci has been the death penalty in the United States, with particular emphasis on its application to youth and to women. An important part of his contributions to death penalty research in the U.S. is the maintenance of an archival data base on all executions. He will speak with us on Friday, February 16 from 9:00-10:30 am in Journalism 106 (the Hall of Fame Room). Vic's seminar on the death penalty for juvenile offenders anticipates an upcoming (March 30-31) College of Law conference on the Death Penalty. CJRC is a co-sponsor of this conference organized by Douglas Berman (also a CJRC affiliate). We hope that you will join us for Vic's talk; if my own experiences in hearing him present are telling, it will be another interesting and stimulating session.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

February Seminar:

Friday, February 16 from 9:00-10:30 am in Journalism 106 (the Hall of Fame Room). Professor Victor Streib will discuss "The Death Penalty for Juvenile Offenders." Professor Streib is currently a Visiting Scholar (WI and SP quarters) at the Center for Law, Policy and Justice in the College of Law at OSU. He is Professor of Law at Pettit College of Law, Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio.

March Symposium:

Friday and Saturday, March 30th-31st at the Ohio State University College of Law. The symposium "Addressing Capital Punishment Through Statutory Reform" will bring together a number of prominent law and social science professors, legislators, and attorneys to discuss the problems said to be plaguing the current system of capital punishment, and to assess the value of and possibilities for legislative reform of the modern administration of the death penalty. It will feature panels on topics such as: devising legislative solutions to problems of racial inequities and other disparities in the administration of the death penalty; and legislative reforms to the process of capital punishment: inadequate defense counsel, death row appeals, and innocents on death row.

If interested, please check out their website for more information:

<http://www.law.ohio-state.edu/LawJournal/dpsymposium.html>

Reckless Lecture:

We are finalizing plans with Wesley Skogan, Professor of Political Science and Faculty Fellow at

the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University, to be the Reckless lecturer. Professor Skogan is author of several books including *On the Beat: Police and Community Problem Solving* with Susan M. Hartnett, Jill DuBois, Jennifer T. Comey, Marianne Kaiser and Justine H. Lovig (Westview Publishing Co., 1999); *Community Policing, Chicago Style* with Susan Hartnett (Oxford University Press, 1997); and *Disorder and Decline: Crime and the Spiral of Decay in American Cities* (Free Press, 1990). The time and date of the lecture will be announced in the next newsletter.

WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING

A paper by Bruce Weinberg, Eric Gould (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) and David Mustard (University of Georgia), "Crime Rates and Local Labor Market Opportunities in the United States: 1979-1997," was accepted for publication at the *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

Ruth Peterson, Lauren Krivo and María Vélez discuss a possible research agenda to better understand the linkages between racial residential segregation and youth criminal violence in a paper recently published in Susan O. White's *Handbook of Youth and Justice* (Plenum Publishers, 2001).

The Research Office of CJRC (Journalism 147) is now the home of several on-going research projects, including Moody et al.'s study about whether social networks, perceptions of crime and deviance, and related solutions are similar across racially and economically distinct neighborhoods; and Peterson and Krivo's study entitled, "Crime and Community: A National Neighborhood Crime Study."

FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Directives and applications will be available in the next two weeks for the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program. This Program aids states and units of local government with funding for projects to reduce crime and increase the effectiveness, fairness, and coordination of criminal justice systems at all levels of government. We will provide contact information for this funding opportunity in the next newsletter.

FEATURED GRADUATE STUDENT

Jeremy Wilson
Ph. D. candidate in the
School of Public Policy & Management
The Ohio State University

Jeremy completed a B.S. from the University of Toledo and an M.A. from Indiana University in Criminal Justice. Looking for a Ph.D. program that would broaden the way he studies criminal justice, he enrolled in the School of Public Policy & Management at OSU in 1998. Jeremy has passed his candidacy exams, and is now working on his dissertation and other research projects.

Jeremy is primarily interested in the organization of policing. He is particularly interested in how police organizations structure themselves to go about their day-to-day activities, and in turn, how this structure and practice facilitate and impede their ability to achieve their goals. Jeremy's dissertation is a study of the way police organizations choose to implement community policing. This includes an analysis of the factors that determine the type of implementation a police department adopts and how this decision further influences the extent that police organizations implement community policing.

A second policing project concerns problem-solving in the Columbus Division of Police (CDP). The CDP introduced cross-functional problem-solving teams to address community problems. These teams bring together specialists from various functional units to collaborate in a problem-solving process that involves scanning, analysis, response, and assessment (SARA). With assistance from a Byrne Memorial Grant from the Franklin County Justice Programs Unit, Jeremy and Joseph Donnermeyer are studying the evolution of these teams in terms of their conception and transition between organizational bureaus, variation in team characteristics and implementation, and perceived effectiveness.

In a final policing project with Edmund McGarrell (Indiana), Steven Chermak (Indiana), and Alexander Weiss (Northwestern), Jeremy is examining the impact of two types of directed patrol on reducing firearms-related violence in Indianapolis, Indiana. Findings indicate that one of the two strategies is effective both in removing illegal firearms from the community and in targeting police attention to high-risk areas. A paper based on this research has been accepted for publication in *Crime and Justice Research*.

Jeremy is also completing two other projects. The first uses the theoretical perspective of routine activities to think about how legalized gambling in the form of river boat casinos might influence crime in their host communities. An interrupted time-series analysis of crime and qualitative interviews with city administrators in two Indiana river boat communities revealed that the benefits of river boat gambling tend to outweigh the costs in terms of crime. This research recently won Third Prize in the American Society of Criminology's Gene Carte Student Paper Competition and has been accepted for publication in *Crime & Delinquency*. A second project with Joseph Donnermeyer explores the extent to which rurality/urbanity mediates the relationship between influences of peers and family on reported substance use by adolescents.

Jeremy plans to finish his Ph.D. by summer 2002 and hopes to obtain an academic position in a research university that allows him to work cooperatively with both academics and practitioners. With a research agenda focused on policy-and-practice-related questions, Jeremy is optimistic that his research will influence and advance how we think and go about policing.

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 or by phone at 247-6736. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send María your email address.