

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

CONGRATULATIONS DOUG BERMAN AND AMY IDA for an extremely successful conference on the death penalty. It was very well attended, with no less than 50 audience members at any given time. Importantly, the mix of presenters and audience members included academics and practitioners. The discussions reflected this mixture. For example, theoretical ideas about potential legislative approaches were met with practical critiques, and the everyday realities of the application of the death penalty were examined for their general not just unique consequences. From a personal standpoint, as one who focuses on the judiciary, the consideration of legislative approaches yielded an array of new insights for me.

Turning to other intellectual activities, mid- and late-April will be a very busy time for the CJRC. The Reckless Lecture events will occur on April 23-24. At the end of that week, John Powell of the Institute on Race and Poverty at the University of Minnesota will be on campus to discuss issues related to race and social justice. And at the end of the month, our own research will be showcased during the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections' Ohio Criminal Justice Conference. The following section of the newsletter will provide more details on all of these events. Please plan to participate in as many as you can. We would love to see you at any of these forums.

On the administrative side, we would like to welcome Beckett Broh as the CJRC's new Graduate Administrative Associate. Beckett is a graduate student in the Department of Sociology, specializing in the sociology of education (we're working hard to turn her into a crime and justice specialist). Beckett worked part time for us last quarter to get our web page in order. While she still has some work to do, the web page is now accessible and much improved over our previous version. To see her handiwork, log on to: <http://www.sociology.ohio-state.edu/cjrc>. If you go to the faculty page, you will note that some faculty descriptions are missing. If this is true for you, please forward the appropriate information to Beckett as soon as possible so that this page can be completed. Also, if you have suggestions for web page postings, please let Beckett know. She can be reached via e-mail at broh.1@osu.edu or by phone at 247-7846.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

April Events:

Thursday, April 12th. The Center for Law, Policy, and Social Science is hosting a Center Workshop/Lunch at noon on Thursday, April 12, 2001. Professor Victor Streib, Ohio Northern University, Pettit College of Law and Visitor to the Center, will be presenting "Severe Punishment for Kids Who Kill" in the College of Law faculty lounge (Drinko Hall, Room 314). Professor Streib's advance material can be found on the web by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.osu.edu/units/law/CLPSS/clpssconferences.htm>

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by April 9 to Nancy Darling (darling.30@osu.edu / 292-6820) so a determination can be made of how much food to order.

Tuesday, April 24th. There are several events on Tuesday, April 24th, related to the Walter Reckless Memorial Lecture. This year's Reckless lecture features Wesley Skogan, Professor of Political Science and Faculty Fellow at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University.

1. At 8:30 am, there will be a breakfast for graduate students so that they can meet and talk with Professor Skogan. Students interested in attending should email María Vélez at velez.17@osu.edu

to sign up for the breakfast. It will take place at 58 Lincoln Street.

2. From 2:15 to 3:30 pm, Professor Skogan will lead an informal discussion in Bricker Hall 385. The title of the discussion is "Evaluation Research: Evaluating Police in Communities."

3. On Tuesday evening, there will be a reception at 5:45 p.m. at the OSU Faculty Club, with the lecture beginning promptly at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Skogan's Reckless lecture will focus on "The Dilemmas of Community Policing." We are also pleased that the Director of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, Domingo Herraiz, will provide comments on Professor Skogan's talk.

Thursday, April 26-27th. Professor John A. Powell, Executive Director and Founder of The Institute on Race and Poverty and Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota Law School, will be speaking at OSU. Professor Powell will give a keynote speech on Thursday, April 26th. On Friday morning, April 27th, Professor Powell will conduct an informal roundtable discussion. Professor Powell's visit is sponsored by the Urban and Regional Analysis Initiative. More detailed information will be provided in the next newsletter.

May Event:

Monday, May 21st. Dr. George Tita, assistant professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at University of California at Irvine, will be visiting OSU's School of Public Policy and Management and the CJRC on May 21st. He will give a talk from 10 to 11:30 am in 300B Fisher Hall. Additional information regarding Dr. Tita's visit will be forthcoming.

WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING

Ohio Criminal Justice Research Conference

On Monday, April 30th, CJRC participants will take part in the fifth Ohio Criminal Justice Research Conference at the Holiday Inn Worthington. The first panel will examine contemporary issues in policing and features papers by Seth Feinberg, Dr. Bill Ackerman, Kent Shafer, Jeremy Wilson, and Dr. Joseph Donnermeyer. The session begins at 9:50 in the Ferarra Room.

The second panel will investigate issues of community context and race in violence research; it highlights research by Dr. Richard Lundman, Dr. Christopher Browning, María B. Vélez, Dr. Lauren J. Krivo, and Dr. Ruth D. Peterson. The session begins at 1:25 pm in the Ferrara Room.

The third panel investigates issues of adult corrections research and features a paper by Brian Kowalski and Dr. Paul Bellair titled "Community Context and Recidivism: A Study of Recent Ohio Parolees." This session begins at 1:25 in the Palermo Room.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The American Society of Criminology announces its Gene Carte Student Paper Competition. The deadline is April 15, 2001. These awards are given to recognize outstanding scholarly work of students. Any student currently enrolled on a full-time basis in an academic program at either the undergraduate or graduate level is eligible. Papers may be conceptual and/or empirical but must be directly related to criminology. Papers must be typewritten, double-spaced on 8-1/2 x 11 white paper, and no longer than 7,500 words. The Criminology format for the organization of text, citations and references should be used. Papers must be submitted with a postmark on or before April 15, 2001

to: Steven P. Lab, Criminal Justice Program, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403 (email: slab@bgnet.bgsu.edu). Please check out the following website for more information:

<http://www.asc41.com/cartesp.html>

The ASA Section on Crime, Law and Deviance announces its Student Paper Competition. The deadline is April 30, 2001. The winner receives \$500. Papers should not exceed 30 double-spaced pages and should use the manuscript preparation guidelines of the American Sociological Review. Submit six printed copies to Brad Wright, Department of Sociology, University of Connecticut, U-2068, Storrs, CT 06268 (bradley.wright@unconn.edu).

FEATURED FACULTY PARTICIPANT

Professor Paul E. Bellair

Professor of Sociology

The Ohio State University

Dr. Paul Bellair is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology who was just recently recommended to the Board of Trustees for tenure and promotion to associate professor. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the State University of New York at Albany where he also obtained his Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Sociology. This past summer, Paul received a Summer Faculty Research Fellowship funded by the CJRC to study Local Labor Market Opportunity, Subcultural Formation, and Adolescent Violence.

In general, Paul's research agenda is guided by an interest in the relationship between community conditions and crime as well as an interest in using multi-level models to more fully understand the factors that lead to juvenile delinquency. Stemming from these two interests, he is currently investigating how labor market characteristics influence adolescent delinquency. In particular, Paul is assessing the extent to which the effects of labor market conditions are mediated by more proximate family-level factors such as family structure, and adolescents' social bonds to family, school and unconventional peer groups. In a related project, Paul assesses the role of community conditions, exposure to violence and family well-being in explaining racial differences in violent behavior. Given his interest in incorporating the role of labor market conditions into explanations of individual outcomes, Paul hopes in the future to explore in future projects how local economic conditions influence early childhood developmental outcomes.

Drawing upon his long time interest in community context and insights from multi-level models of delinquency, Paul is also working at this time on a project that investigates the impact of community conditions on recidivism among 1,750 Ohio parolees. He is collaborating with Brian Kowalski, a CJRC graduate student participant, on this project. A primary goal of this study is to assess the impact of local labor market conditions on the risk of recidivism. In particular, Paul is interested in evaluating the extent to which high unemployment rates increase the risk of recidivism and whether the availability of low-skilled jobs such as those found in construction or retail lessen the risk of recidivism. Paul hypothesizes that community characteristics may be important because parolees released into contexts where there are few employment opportunities for low-skilled jobs or where there are high unemployment rates may be less likely to secure a job. In turn, these conditions may increase parolees' likelihood of returning to prison. To assess this issue, Paul and Brian received permission from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to use data from the Community Corrections Information Sample. These data are ideal for the project because they include current home addresses for released parolees in 1999. With this address information,

parolees can be linked to their corresponding census tract so that local labor market information can be examined. These data also are ideal because they include important offender characteristics such as age, type of offense, prior criminal history, marital status and level of education. By including both census tract and offender level information, multi-level analyses can be performed in order to assess the role of community conditions on recidivism while adjusting for important parolee characteristics.

On a more personal note, this past summer Paul was married to his wife, Nichole.

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.