

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I hope that Summer Quarter is going well for everyone. Judging by the "Center Participants" activities noted below, this would certainly seem to be the case for many of you. Faculty and Graduate/Professional student affiliates of the Center are continuing to publish important works on crime and justice issues, to earn degrees, grants and fellowship, and to contribute to policy discussions around the state and nation. Among the accomplishments noted below, I would like to take this opportunity to offer special congratulations to Joshua Dressler and Doug Berman on their involvement in launching a new journal and becoming its first editors. This will provide an additional outlet for all of our work.

Regarding administrative activities, there are several items of note. First, Michele Whitt has joined us as a half-time administrative associate. She will try to keep us organized and will set up many of our events during the next academic year. Michele was a Spanish and Criminology undergraduate major here at OSU, and is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Education. Second, as a part of her administrative duties, Michele will soon be attempting to set up a series of "meet and greet" meetings for Center affiliates. I would appreciate your cooperation with her when she contacts you. Jamie Selhorst, who is also pursuing a Master's of Education will continue to assist with special projects for the Center as she did last year. Third, recently many of you received notice from the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC) of their upcoming research conference. This conference brings together researchers (from academic and policy arenas) from around the state to discuss their work, and also provides an opportunity to hear from a nationally reputed keynote speaker about important crime and justice policy issues. During the last ODRC conference, we were able to showcase on-going research of OSU faculty and graduate/professional students. I hope that we will be able to do so at the upcoming conference. Thus, Michele will also be contacting you in an effort to see if we can once again organize a couple of sessions to present our research. So, please be thinking forward about your own work and whether you may be able to participate in this forum.

WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING

Profs. Joshua Dressler (Law) and Doug Berman (Law) will be the Faculty Managing Editors of a new journal publication: "Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law" to be produced by the Michael E. Moritz College of Law. The journal is to be inter-disciplinary in scope, with the intention to publish relevant scholarship from non-law faculty. Prof. Dressler also recently published in the Minnesota Law Review: "Why Keep the Provocation Defense?: Some Reflections on a Difficult Subject."

Greg Ellifritz (Public Policy and Management) recently published research in The Firearms Instructor entitled: "Stand, Move, or Seek Cover... what works in a gunfight?" Greg is also a full-time training officer for the Upper Arlington Police Department.

Prof. Dana Haynie (Sociology) recently coauthored a paper with Richard Felson entitled: "Pubertal Development, Social Factors, and Delinquency Among Adolescent Boys." Dana's work will soon appear in Criminology. Dana will also be presenting a paper this summer at a workshop for users of the Adolescent Health data in Bethesda, MD. The paper is coauthored with Scott South and is titled "Friendship Networks of Mobile Youth."

Prof. David Jacobs (Sociology) and Jason Carmichael (Sociology) recently published research in Social Forces. The paper is entitled: "Subordination and Violence against State Control Agents: Testing Political Explanations for Lethal Assaults Against the Police."

Dr. Ken Litwin (Sociology) has been appointed as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Central Michigan University for the upcoming academic year.

Prof. Glenn McNair (African American History, Kenyon College) is organizing a panel entitled "African Americans, Crime and Criminal Justice in the South" for the Southern Historical Association's annual meeting in Baltimore held between November 6-9. Glenn is also presenting his own research at the conference, "He Can Only Be Reached Through His Body: African Americans and Theories of Punishment in the Old South."

Jeremy Wilson (Public Policy and Management) won the School of Public Policy and Management's Robert W. Backoff Research Award for two articles published on the effects of legalized gambling and directed patrol on crime outcomes. Jeremy also defended his dissertation on July 19th and will be joining the faculty at the University of Toledo this fall.

Rachael Woldoff (Sociology) will be presenting part of her dissertation work "The Effects of Wealth on Neighborhood Locational Attainment) at the American Sociological Association meeting next month. Rachael was also recently awarded a PEGS fellowship (Program for Enhancement of Graduate Excellence).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

As a reminder, the National Science Foundation (www.nsf.gov) has two upcoming deadlines that should be of interest to center participants. The Law and Social Science Program, Political Science, and also the Sociology Program have deadlines of August 15th for research proposals on topics within these fields. Additionally, the Law and Social Science Program invites Dissertation Improvement Grant proposals with the same deadline of August 15th. The Sociology Program deadline for Dissertation Improvement Grants is October 15th.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Researchers, policy makers, public police and private security professionals and members of NGOs are invited to submit a proposal to present a paper or organize a session for the upcoming conference, "In Search of Security An International Conference on Policing and Security." The purpose of the conference is to bring together the world's leading experts on policing and security to examine the complex relationship that is emerging between public and private police. The program will be designed to examine the provision of security from a variety of disciplines, and through both theoretical and empirical lenses. The conference organizers are particularly interested in papers that advance our understanding of the issues pertaining to public/private policing by presenting results from empirical research or through thoughtful analysis of relevant public policy. Presenters whose work links research to practice and policy, connects public policing and private security, or presents international/comparative research and policy analysis are especially encouraged to participate. If you are interested in submitting a proposal or would like more information about the conference, please contact the Commission at: policing@lcc.gc.ca or dcooley@lcc.gc.ca

"In Search of Security An International Conference on Policing and Security"

February 19-22, 2003

Montreal, Quebec

Deadline for submissions July 31, 2002

The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences requests panel presentations or roundtable presentations for their upcoming conference. More information about specific area themes is available at www.acjs.org. If you are interested in submitting a proposal or would like more information about the conference, please contact Elizabeth L. Grossi, Program Chair grossi@louisville.edu.

“The Globalization of Crime and Justice”

March 4-8, 2003

Boston, MA

Deadline for submissions October 1, 2002

The theme for this year’s Midwestern Criminal Justice Association meeting is: Crime, Justice, and Inequality. Any paper that is quantitative, qualitative or a think piece and deals with some aspect of crime, law, corrections, or deviance is welcomed. The Annual Meeting is a good forum for expressing ideas in a relaxed and stimulating environment that is especially supportive of students. Please send abstracts to Michael J. Leiber, Program Chair, michael.leiber@uni.edu.

October 9-11, 2002

Chicago, Illinois

Deadline for submissions September 3, 2002

FEATURED FACULTY PARTICIPANT

Dr. Townsend Price-Spratlen

Department of Sociology

The Ohio State University

Townsend obtained his B.S. in Psychology from the University of Washington (UW) in 1985. A native to the state, he remained in the area to work after college, before pursuing his M.A. and Ph.D in Sociology from UW where he completed his graduate education in 1993. After venturing east for a two year Post-Doctoral position in the Sociology department at Penn State, Townsend joined the Sociology faculty at OSU in 1995, and was promoted to Associate Professor last year.

Following his undergraduate experience, Townsend’s original intention was to pursue a career as a clinical psychologist. It was during this time, however, that his work experience at a halfway house for mentally challenged adults led him to consider other outlets. “I became frustrated by what seemed like a fostering of chemical dependency. It wasn’t proactive intervention, but more like individualized oppression. It made me realize that I didn’t want to spend my time not really helping to empower my clients through meaningful and sustainable life change.” A second turning point came through a class he attended that was taught by the Prison Awareness Project, an experimental course at UW taught almost exclusively by prisoners (<http://students.washington.edu/th123/>). This course, along with his familiarity with UW professor Robert Crutchfield’s research on sanctioning, opened Townsend’s eyes to the realities of the Prison Industrial Complex, and he became intrigued by the race and class patterning of contemporary corrections. As an alternative to Psychology, Townsend met with several social science faculty members in Linguistics, Political Science, and Communications among others before deciding on Sociology. He cites the discipline’s emphasis on understanding group differences, and its roots in the legacy of W. E. B. Du Bois as important for helping him “find my niche.”

Working with UW professor Avery “Pete” Guest, Townsend began developing a dissertation proposal looking at the Harlem Renaissance. The project eventually evolved into a historical analysis of African American communities. Much of Townsend’s research has focused on changes in communities during the African American migration of the earlier part of the century. Specifically, Townsend collected data for 136 urban counties between 1930 to 1980 to compare intra and inter regional variation in migration streams, as well as community outcomes. He examined NAACP activism, and African American newspapers as important predictors for increased migration flows. His findings support the significance of ethnogenesis, or the establishment of social networks as an important foundation of community that helped shape historical migration. His work has been published in *Social Forces*, *Demography*, and *Sociological Forum*.

Currently, Townsend’s research focuses on African American community development, and the impact of settlement patterns over time. He is a recipient of the CJRC’s Summer Faculty Research Fellowship and is working on a multimethod grant proposal to evaluate the role of gentrification and crime on informal neighboring, civic engagement and related neighborhood outcomes. Among other issues, the project will examine how neighborhood variations in class and sexual identity prevalence impact African American middle and working class settlement patterns in specific neighborhoods.

Townsend also intends to study the role of formal political bodies in contributing to local area outcomes, including the comparative dynamics of policing, block watch programs and the provision of essential city services. Ultimately, Townsend feels that his research should help policy-makers understand the importance of new and diverse coalitions that are crucial to the maximization of local resources. “I’m hoping to effectively illustrate a continuum of cooperation, where diverse groups must work together to promote equity and the quality of life within a community.” As the 21st century urban area faces even greater economic challenges from a global economy, Townsend stresses the need for strong coalitions among urban residents to retain economic viability without generating rampant inequities or the persistence of urban social problems.

Outside of academia, Townsend is currently being trained as a facilitator through Alternatives to Violence, an international organization devoted to empowering people to lead nonviolent lives through education and community building (<http://www.avpusa.org/home.htm>). Townsend is preparing to work within Ohio’s prisons, and is excited about this opportunity. Townsend also enjoys writing poetry and short stories, and he is an avid sports fan. Eventually, he would like to bring a small puppy into his home, but laughing he says “that one is still to be determined.”

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 e-mail Seth at feinberg.13@osu.edu. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Seth your e-mail address.