

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

GREETINGS TO ALL!!! And welcome back from a much deserved winter break. I hope that your quarter is off to a good start. CJRC is poised for a stimulating and productive term. Indeed, we hit the ground running with a fascinating talk by Lance Lochner (co-sponsored with the Department of Economics) on January 10th. Using two different survey data bases (our own National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, and the National Youth Survey), Lance's work demonstrated that young males (regardless of race/ethnicity) overestimate the probability of arrest for various crimes. However, their perceptions of this probability is related to their involvement in crime in a manner that is consistent with deterrence theory. Also, young men's perceptions of the likelihood of arrest are directly affected by their own experiences (and their siblings) experiences with arrest. There was a tremendous amount of give and take related to the choice of statistical techniques, the racial patterning of his findings, and the implications for criminal justice policies. Thanks Lance for a stimulating morning.

We are looking forward to two additional seminars this winter. Up next, on January 31st, our own Alan Murray (Geography) will speak with us about his work on spatial analysis of crime data. This talk promises to educate us about both the promises and pitfalls of applying current spatial analysis tools to crime data. Later in the quarter, February 21st, our own Reginald Wilkinson, Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, will discuss research priorities and opportunities regarding criminal justice and corrections. Please join us for both of these important presentations.

Looking ahead to Spring Quarter, please mark the evening of April 24th, 2003 on your calendars for our annual Reckless Lecture. Professor Lawrence Marshall (Northwestern University Professor of Law and Legal Director of the Center on Wrongful Convictions) will give the 2003 Reckless Lecture. Look for additional information about this upcoming event in future newsletters and other CJRC communications. Also in the spring, we look forward to presentations by Professors Ric Sheffield (Kenyon College) and Peggy Giordano (joint with sociology), and graduate student Seth Feinberg (Sociology). See the upcoming events section below.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST**

Please mark your calendars for the following CJRC seminars; the titles of talks and descriptions are forthcoming:

Friday, January 31st, Dr. Alan Murray, Associate Professor of Geography, Ohio State University will present on "Imperfect spatial information and the analysis of crime." 9:00-10:30 a.m., 243 Journalism Building (Initiative in Population Research Conference Room).

Friday, February 21st, Dr. Reginald Wilkinson, Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction will present on criminal justice research priorities for Ohio and possible areas of research and grant collaboration between ODRC and CJRC. 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Friday, April 4th, Dr. Ric Sheffield, Professor of Sociology, Kenyon College will present on his work on the role of apologies in the outcomes of court cases. 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Friday, April 11th, Dr. Peggy Giordano, Professor of Sociology, Bowling Green State University will present some of her work on juvenile crime. This presentation is in conjunction with sociology and will be held at a time and location to be announced.

Thursday, April 24th, 2003 Walter C. Reckless Memorial Lecture, Professor Lawrence Marshall,

Northwestern University Professor of Law and Legal Director of the Center on Wrongful Convictions. The Reckless Lecture will be held at the OSU Faculty Club. This will be an evening presentation with the time to be announced.

Friday, May 16th, Seth Feinberg, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Sociology, Ohio State University will present on his work on community mortality, crime, and social organization. 9:00-10:30 a.m.

### **WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING**

Prof. Chris Browning (Sociology) and Matisa Wilbon (Sociology) had a paper accepted for publication in the Journal of Marriage and the Family. The paper is entitled: "Neighborhood Structure, Social Organization and Number of Short-Term Sexual Partnerships."

Prof. Sharon Davies (Law) was named the John C. Elam/Vorys Sater Designated Professor of Law. Sharon is one of six professors at the law school to be named to designated professorships funded by alumni during the past year. Sharon also recently delivered a paper entitled "Profiling Terror" at the 16th International Conference of the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law held in Charleston, South Carolina. Finally, Prof. Davies was recently appointed to serve as the Secretary of the Criminal Justice Section of the American Association of Law Schools. As a result of the appointment, she will serve as Chairperson-Elect of the Section in 2004-05, and as Chairperson in 2005-06.

Seth Feinberg (Sociology) recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Montana State University beginning in August.

Prof. David Jacobs (Sociology) co-authored a paper with Ronald Helms entitled: "The Political Context of Sentencing: An Analysis of Community and Individual Determinants." Their article appears in the December issue of Social Forces.

Prof. Ken Steinman (Medicine and Public Health) recently co-authored a paper entitled: "Episodic and Persistent Gun-Carrying Among Urban African-American Adolescents" to appear in the Journal of Adolescent Health. Ken also recently led a graduate seminar on "Youth Violence in America."

### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

W.E.B. DuBois Fellowship Program: The National Institute of Justice Research Opportunity. As part of the W.E.B. DuBois Fellowship Program, NIJ is soliciting proposals for research that explores diverse perspectives of the criminal justice field. The DuBois Fellowship places particular emphasis on crime, violence, and the administration of justice in diverse cultural contexts. DuBois Fellows will contribute to NIJ's national criminal justice research program by studying topics of mutual interest to the Fellow and the Institute.

The application deadline is February 3, 2003.

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is soliciting proposals for research on sexual violence against women age 12 and older by strangers and non strangers. NIJ anticipates awarding up to four grants with a funding total of up to \$1,000,000.

The application deadline is February 21, 2003.

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/Vera Institute of Justice Postdoctoral Fellowship on Race, Crime, and Justice - Applications are available for this fellowship, which encourages new scholars of diverse backgrounds to work and publish in this important field. One fellowship is awarded each year for a two-year residency at the Vera Institute in New York. Fellows receive a generous annual salary and benefits package, as well as research and travel allowances, to pursue scholarly projects of their own design. Applicants must have completed a doctorate within seven years of applying for the fellowship. Information and an application are available at <http://www.vera.org/mellon>, or contact Suzanne Mueller, Administrative Director, Research, Vera Institute of Justice, 233 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10279; e-mail: [smueller@vera.org](mailto:smueller@vera.org); fax: 212/941-9407, to request a brochure and application.

Applications are due February 3, 2003.

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

American Society of Criminology. The 2003 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology will be held from Wednesday, November 19 through Saturday, November 22, 2003 in Denver, Colorado. This year's theme: "The Challenge of Practice, The Benefits of Theory." The 2003 Program solicits papers for presentation in five broadly defined areas: Theory, Research Methods, Offenders and Victims, Prevention and Intervention, and Criminal Justice Policy.

Visit the ASC for more information: <http://www.asc41.com/cfppg2003.htm>

Deadline: March 1, 2003

British Society of Criminology conference will be held June 24-27, 2003 at the University of Wales in Bangor. This year's theme is: "The Challenge of Comparative Crime and Justice."

Contact Claire Davis, conference administrator at [BSC2003@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:BSC2003@bangor.ac.uk), or visit <http://www.bangor.ac.uk/so/4cj/BSC2003/>

Deadline: January 31, 2003

International Police Executive Symposium. The 10th annual meeting will be hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain, May 24-28, 2003. The theme for the symposium is "Police and the Community." Papers are invited on this topic from police, justice practitioners and scholars for the meeting. Those with no papers are welcomed to participate as well.

Contact Dr. Dilip K. Das for further information: [dilip.das@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:dilip.das@plattsburgh.edu)

Deadline: February 10, 2003

### **FEATURED FACULTY PARTICIPANT**

Deborah J. Merritt

Director, The John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy

## John Deaver Drinko/Baker & Hostetler Chair in Law

Deborah Merritt describes herself as fascinated by learning new things, and her varied scholarly background suggests a great number of successes in these efforts. As Director of The John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy, Debby said she is in a “dream position” to continue taking on new academic challenges. Growing up in northern New Jersey, Debby said she knew from early on that she wanted to be a teacher. After earning her B.A. in History from Harvard, she was interested in pursuing graduate work in history. It was at this point, however, that Debby said she began questioning that path because of the difficult job market in arts and sciences, but also intellectually. “I started feeling frustrated and bored by history. There was not a clear application to current events, and that’s something I wanted for myself.”

With support and encouragement from her father, a Professor of Law at Columbia, Debby made a change of plans and applied to Columbia Law, where she earned her J.D. in 1980. “I loved it from the very beginning,” she said. Debby began delving into the intellectual challenges embedded within law, and given her undergraduate background, pursued a particular interest in legal history. She then began working in the area of Law and Social Science which allowed her to explore her intellectual interests, while having a vehicle through which to apply her learning to contemporary problems. After clerking for United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and future Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Debby went to work as a litigation associate in Atlanta for two years before moving into the academy as an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana. Debby worked her way to full professor and then was appointed as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs before leaving Champaign in 1995 for a position as John Deaver Drinko/Baker & Hostetler Chair in Law at Ohio State. She accepted the position as director of the Glenn Institute in 2000.

In terms of her research, Debby points to her work on Federalism as of particular interest in the broader scope of criminal justice. In particular, she has focused her research on the issue of political accountability, when Federal laws simply order states to legislate without relying upon conditional preemption, links to federal spending, or other techniques of cooperative federalism. “This violates the principles of Federalism,” she said. When states must pass federally mandated laws, the state politicians are most vulnerable to negative repercussions from the electorate. “A republican form of government is supposed to be responsible to the people who elected them.” Her research on the topic has been published in the Columbia Law Review, Michigan Law Review, and Vanderbilt Law Review. Debby’s other research agendas include analyzing gender discrimination in occupational hiring practices, specifically in academia, and economic analyses of teenage pregnancy. She is also currently engaged in a project assessing the fluctuating standards for the Bar Exam and its impact on the gender makeup of the profession.

In recognition of her efforts, Debby was honored with the Distinguished Scholar Award from Ohio State in 2002. “I really like to look at the law from new angles by questioning intellectual flaws in arguments, particularly when there is an application to a contemporary issue.” This problem-oriented approach to research is in large part the motivating factor in Debby’s work. “It becomes a challenge on many different levels. Some problems are hard to understand, but then even harder explaining to others.”

Debby is currently helping to develop the Glenn Institute’s new Center for the Study of the Second Amendment. The brainchild of History Professor Saul Cornell, who will direct the initiative, the center’s mission is to both promote research on the right to bear arms, as well as provide information to judges, scholars, and the general public concerning multiple interpretations of the amendment. A recent federal court decision has endorsed an “individual’s” right to bear arms, meaning that both

state and federal gun control laws are vulnerable to court challenges. “This is an area where most judges and lawyers are not prepared for the upcoming questions.” Debby said the center’s primary emphasis will be to create a web site containing historical sources and comprehensive research on both sides of the debate. “We want this to be a full source with strong educational value examining how a constitution works and the role of this amendment.”

Away from the office, Debby enjoys spending time with her husband and their 14-year old son. With a law professor mother and a law-professor-turned musician father, her son loves a good policy debate with mom and dad, which Debby really enjoys. She also likes to relax with mystery stories, and travel. While mostly preferring the beach, she did mention a time when the family stayed in a bed and breakfast built into a cave in Northwestern New Mexico. “It was an honest to goodness cave like the Flintstones, except with nice beds and a hot tub. It was really quite extraordinary.”

### **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 new newsletter editor, please email Seth Feinberg at [feinberg.13@osu.edu](mailto:feinberg.13@osu.edu). If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Seth your email address.