

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

As we approach the new year, CJRC has much to celebrate. We had three terrific seminars during Autumn Quarter, starting with Dana Haynie's (Sociology) analysis of the mobility-violence relationship among adolescents, which was followed by Ralph Taylor's (Temple University, Criminology) discussion of issues related to spatial design, crime and fear. Most recently, on November 14th Kenny Steinman (Public Health) treated us to a thought-provoking discussion of his research testing a variety of models (e.g., social bonding, social networks supporting drug use, purposeful business activity) of drug selling among high-school youth. A very interesting dimension of Kenny's talk was its focus on youth in Franklin County, Ohio. He found that the incidence of drug selling among this population is not uncommon, though it is slightly lower than that reported in the national Survey of Adolescent Health. Needless to say, Kenny's presentation provoked a variety of questions related to the context of drug selling, race/ethnic and gender differences in such behavior, any resulting criminal justice contact, and the relationship of drug selling to drug use. Thanks Kenny for a very interesting presentation. We look forward to hearing more on this topic as your research progresses.

On the administrative front, CJRC may have seemed a bit quiet during Autumn Quarter. However, we were busy behind the scenes working on a number of initiatives that we hope will evolve into interdisciplinary research projects. These include: collaborating with the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race/Ethnicity to conduct a study of the impact of incarceration in Columbus neighborhoods; organizing working groups to address the possibility of developing long-term projects on topics related to our focal concerns; and planning and carrying out the first of two day-long conferences on race/ethnicity, crime and criminal justice. The first of these conferences was held in conjunction with the American Society of Criminology meetings in Denver on November 18th. We anticipate holding the second conference in Columbus in July.

In addition, Rita Van Buren took charge as the new administrative associate for CJRC. We have Rita, Valerie Wright, John Callery, Lori Muccino, Susan Pennington, and Patrick Burke to thank for the fact that our day-to-day activities are moving forward successfully and quietly. I am sure that they, in turn, are grateful to each of you for being responsive to their requests for information and assistance. Indeed, I thank you as well.

As we move forward, I wish all of you a Happy New Year and a good start to the new academic term. As always, I look forward to our interactions during Winter and Spring 2004, starting with the Jacobs and Kent seminar on January 9th (see details below).

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Please mark the following dates for CJRC's 2003-2004 Seminar Series and other notable events on your calendar:

Friday, January 9, 2004, 9:00-10:30, Journalism Building, Room 106, Professor David Jacobs (Sociology) and Stephanie Kent, a doctoral candidate in sociology at Ohio State, will present "The Historical Determinants of Executions: How Politics, Public Opinion, and Social Divisions Influence Capital Punishment."

Friday, January 30, 2004, 9:00-10:30, Journalism Building, Room 106, Walter DeKeseredy, Professor of Sociology, Ohio University, will present "Understanding Separation/Divorce Sexual Assault in Rural Communities: The Contributions of an Exploratory Ohio Study."

Friday, February 20, 2004, 9:00-10:30, Journalism Building, Room 106, Paula C. Johnson, Professor, College of Law, Syracuse University, will discuss her research on African American women in prison. Stay tuned for the official title of her talk.

Wednesday, April 14, 2004, Marc Mauer, Assistant Director of The Sentencing Project, will be the 2004 Reckless Lecturer. Additional information on the topic, time, and place of this event will be reported in future issues of CJRC News.

Tuesday, April 20, 2004, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's 7th Ohio Criminal Justice Research Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn East in Columbus. (See also the section on "Calls for Papers" below.)

WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING

Beckett Broh (Sociology) defended her dissertation on November 7th and graduated December 14th. Her dissertation topic was entitled, "Racial/Ethnic Achievement Inequality: Separating School and Non-School Effects through Seasonal Comparisons." During Spring 2001-Summer 2003, Beckett worked in the CJRC first as an administrative associate, and more recently as a graduate research associate on the National Neighborhood Crime Study with Professors Krivo and Peterson. She has accepted a position with the State of Ohio in its Legislative Office of Education Oversight. Congratulations, Beckett!

Professor Mark Davis (Associate Director at the Institute for the Study and Prevention of Violence at Kent State University) recently published a paper entitled, "The Role of Culture in Research Misconduct" in *Accountability in Research* 10 (3):189-201 (2003).

Professor Walter DeKeseredy (Sociology, Ohio University) delivered a keynote address with Shahid Alvi and Martin D. Schwartz entitled: "Curbing Woman Abuse and Poverty: Is Marriage the Cure?" at the Trapped by Poverty/Trapped by Abuse Conference in Austin, Texas.

Professor Joshua Dressler (Moritz College of Law) recently published an article entitled, "The Model Penal Code: Like a Classic Movie in Need of a Remake?" in *1 Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law* 157 (2003). Professor Dressler has also published a book, *Cases and Materials on Criminal Law* (3rd edition 2003) (Thomson West). In addition, he has been appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Legal Education*.

Professor Katherine Federle (Moritz College of Law) spoke on December 12th at the Juvenile Law Symposium in Cleveland, Ohio, sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Bar Association. Her presentation was entitled, "ABA Standards for Representing Children and the Justice for Children Project."

Professor Stephen Gavazzi (Human Development and Family Science) reports that a group of CJRC affiliated faculty (and other Ohio State faculty members) participated in a grant application to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to form a research group dedicated to examining the etiology and epidemiology of female delinquent behavior. Professors Andrews, Bartle-Haring (HDFS), Cooksey and Peterson (Sociology), Federle (Moritz College of Law), Scheer (Agricultural Education), and Vasey (Psychology) are involved in this effort. Professor Gavazzi also reports several recent publications, including: (with J.Y. Lim) "Advances in measurement of global risk indicators in lives of court-involved youth: brief evidence for concurrent validity." 2003. *Psychological*

Reports 93:759-752; and (with C.M. Yarcheck, E.E. Rhine, and C. Partridge) "Building bridges between parole officers and the families of serious juvenile offenders." 2003. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* 47:291-308.

Professors Richard Lundman and Robert Kaufman (both Sociology) presented "Racial Profiling by Police: The Perspective of Citizens" at the Third National Symposium on Racial and Ethnic Profiling by Police, Center for Public Safety, at Northwestern University on November 4, 2003. Professor Lundman was also featured with Janice Puckett in the "Research Reports" section of the November issue of the OSU Alumni Magazine (page 8) for their work on the determinants of solved homicides.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice is seeking manuscripts for a planned peer-reviewed special issue on the Criminal Event Perspective. Both theoretical and data-based papers which focus simultaneously on offenders, victims, and the context/situation will be considered. Papers cannot exceed 25 typewritten, double-spaced pages. Inquiries about the appropriateness of topics should be directed to Ineke Haen Marshall, JCCJ Guest Editor, via e-mail (imarshall@mail.unomaha.edu) or telephone (402-554-3898). Four copies of each manuscript should be sent, along with a copy on disk, to: Ineke Haen Marshall, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Department of Criminal Justice, Omaha NE 68182-0149.

Deadline: January 15, 2004

As noted above, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction would like to invite all Criminal Justice Scholars to present papers at the 7th Ohio Criminal Justice Research Conference which is to be held on April 20, 2004, at the Holiday Inn East in Columbus, Ohio. The program consists of several areas, which include Corrections, Juvenile Justice, Community Corrections, Policing, Sentencing and Courts, and Mental Health in Criminal Justice. Abstracts should not exceed 150 words, and should be submitted to: Kelly Ward, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Bureau of Planning and Evaluation, 1050 Freeway Drive North, Columbus, Ohio 43229, or kelly.ward@odrc.state.oh.us. Please see the conference website at <http://www.drc.state.oh.us/web/conference.htm> for more details.

Deadline: February 20, 2004

In addition, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction is pleased to announce its Graduate Student Paper Award in conjunction with the 7th Ohio Criminal Justice Research Conference. Any student enrolled in an academic program at the graduate level is invited to participate. Only papers authored by a single student will be accepted. Papers may be conceptual and/or empirical, but must be directly related to criminal justice issues. Papers must be typewritten, double-spaced, with a maximum length of 15 pages of text. Students who receive awards will present their papers at the conference on April 20, 2004 at the Holiday Inn East in Columbus, Ohio. For additional information on the procedures for submission, please see the conference website at <http://www.drc.state.oh.us/web/conference.htm>. Submissions should be sent to: Kelly Ward, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Bureau of Planning and Evaluation, 1050 Freeway Drive North, Columbus, Ohio 43229. Deadline: Papers must be postmarked on or before January 30, 2004.

Notification of Awards: Winners will be notified in writing by February 20, 2004.

FEATURED PARTICIPANT - KECIA JOHNSON

Kecia Johnson received her Bachelor's degree in sociology from Clemson University in 1992. Upon graduation, she entered the Master's program in applied sociology at Clemson, and received her M.S. in 1995. After receiving her degree, Kecia returned to her hometown of Savannah, Georgia, where she served as a substitute teacher in the same elementary school she attended as a child. Although she enjoyed the opportunity to work as a peer to her former teachers (who were younger and shorter than she remembered), she decided to return to graduate school to obtain her PhD in sociology. She entered North Carolina State University, and graduated in May of this year.

Those who attended the recent American Society of Criminology conference may have had an opportunity to see Kecia discuss the topic of her doctoral dissertation, entitled "Prison, Race and Space: The Impact of Incarceration on Career Trajectories and Labor Market Outcomes." As a result of her work on this important topic, Kecia received a prestigious 2-year postdoctoral fellowship from the National Science Foundation in support of her research on "The Consequences of Incarceration on Individuals and Communities." This postdoctoral fellowship naturally led her to Ohio State and the Criminal Justice Research Center, where she is able to work alongside others who are interested in the complex interplay between contexts and outcomes.

Kecia's research focuses on an important effect of incarceration: its impact on future earnings and life chances. Those who enter the prison system find that their troubles do not end upon completion of their sentences. Their opportunities for future employment are shaped both by their own skills (or lack thereof) and employer perceptions of prior offenders as future employees. Kecia is keenly interested in the potential for effective policy to increase former prisoners' options upon release.

In particular, Kecia hopes that her work "highlights the need for more funding to prepare future offenders when they try to reintegrate into society." As one example, in North Carolina, programs that used to provide college educations and trade skills have been cut. However, she cites a program at a minimum security prison in North Carolina where inmates make the state's license plates. While prisoners in this facility are among the most likely to be released in the state's prison system, most of the skills they learn from making license plates cannot be meaningfully translated into work for a private employer.

Even in states where prisoners receive training for future employment, however, options may be limited upon release. Employers perceive "ex-cons" as dangerous and risky employees. This stereotype prevents even those who are capable and motivated from contributing to society; their prior mistakes come to define their value in the marketplace. Kecia believes that educational and partnership programs targeting employers may help to revise preconceptions, so that individuals will be considered for employment based on potential rather than past indiscretions.

An additional element of Kecia's research is the role of community in the incarceration and reintegration process. In communities in which a disproportionate number of residents have been incarcerated, the absence of effective programs for reintegration may impact the community as a whole. Unemployed former prisoners who return to their communities may, for example, engage in crime in the absence of legitimate opportunities. Kecia is particularly interested in resiliency: are some communities, contexts, and individuals better equipped for reintegration? What factors foster this resiliency?

Kecia's drive and intellectual curiosity are well-known to her friends and associates. She can often be found working late in the CJRC offices. However, she does make time for family and relaxation. She was married to her husband, Jesse, in October of this past year, and they both enjoy attending

movies each weekend. Kecia enjoyed “Mystic River,” gives “The Matrix Reloaded” mixed reviews, and is anxious to catch the latest installment in the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy.

On her drive to Columbus from Cincinnati, she listens to audio books, choosing a different theme each month. This month’s theme is “African-American women authors.” She recently listened to Toni Morrison’s novel Jazz. Next on the list: mysteries with women protagonists.

Finally, Kecia is a big fan of ACC football and basketball. Hopefully, we can introduce her to some fine campus area locations for viewing the NCAA tournament this March.

CREDITS AND CONTACT

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 Lori at muccino.1@osu.edu. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Lori your e-mail address.