

Criminal Justice Research Center News

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Autumn 2008

This issue's feature:
Deanna Wilkinson: a Case Study in Applied Criminology

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Welcome to the start of Autumn Quarter 2008. After a very busy summer, CJRC is pretty well set for fall. Fortunately, with the exception of losing the services of one of our stellar undergraduate students (*Renee Amacher*), we had no staff turnover this year. Returning in their respective roles are: *Candace Anderson* (Undergraduate Associate), *Derrick Bryan* (Newsletter Editor), *Mark Davis* (Research Scientist), *Debbie Flower-Smith* (Administrative Associate), *Laurie Krivo* (Associate Director), *Wayne Miller* (Fiscal Officer), and *Susan Pennington* (back-up Administrative Associate and Human Resources), and, of course, yours truly. Thus, we expect to have a smooth transition into this academic year and to keep our forward progress moving along. By the way, we lost Renee for good reasons. She graduated (Journalism) and is looking forward to succeeding in a new stage of career. We wish her the best in doing so.

As usual, we have an exciting (present company excepted) line up of Autumn Quarter seminars. For the first seminar of the year (Friday, September 26, 2008), *Laurie Krivo* and I will present some of the findings from our research on neighborhood crime. See the Upcoming Events section below for details. We also look forward to presentations by *Chris Uggen* (October 24, 2008), and *Elijah Anderson* (December 5, 2008). These events will take place at our usual time of 9-10:30am (with coffee and other morning refreshments). However, only the Krivo and Peterson talk will be held in our usual setting (243 Journalism); the Uggen seminar is the first of the Excellence in Justice talks of the academic year, and as such, will be held in the Frank W. Hale Black Cultural Center, located on campus at 153 W. 12th Avenue. We are still arranging Eli Anderson's visit. As soon as we have all the details worked out, we will notify you. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for the noted dates and times. We very much look forward to your participation in this year's seminars.

CONGRATULATIONS!!! are in order to CJRC affiliates *Alan Michaels* who is now the Interim Dean of the Moritz College of Law, and *Osei Appiah* who received tenure and promotion to associate professor in the School of Communication. These are very exciting appointments. *Go Alan! Go Osei!*

Good luck with the start of the quarter. I look forward to seeing you at all CJRC events.

--Ruth

UPCOMING CJRC EVENTS OF INTEREST

Friday, September 26, 2008 Ruth Peterson and Laurie Krivo (Sociology and CJRC, Ohio State University). "Does Spatial Location Explain the Connection Between Race-Ethnic Composition and Neighborhood Violence?" **Journalism 243, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Coffee, juice and refreshments will be served.

Friday, October 24, 2008 Institute for Excellence in Justice Symposium on "Entries and Exits: Contrasting Pathways to Community Reentry" Featured Speaker: **Chris Uggen (Sociology, University of Minnesota)**; Discussants: **Paul Bellair (Sociology)**, **John Flinn (Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services)** **Frank Hale Black Cultural Center, Martin Luther King Lounge Room 100A, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Coffee, juice and refreshments will be served. The Black Cultural Center is located on OSU's campus at: 153 W. 12th Avenue.

Friday, December 5, 2008 Elijah Anderson (William K. Lanman, Jr. Professor of Sociology, Yale University). Anderson's CJRC talk will focus on urban youth and violence. However, the actual Title and Location of the talk will be announced at a future time. **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Coffee, juice and refreshments will be served.

CJRC RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

CONGRATULATIONS!!! to the following faculty and graduate students who received small grant awards from CJRC for the 2008-2009 academic year:

Christopher Browning (Sociology); *Seed Grant* to study "Neighborhood Social Processes and Adolescent Substance Use."

Theresa Early (Social Work), *Linda Bernhard* (Nursing and Women's Studies), *Cathy Rakowski* (Human and Community Resource Development and Women's Studies); *Collaborative Research Project* on "A Multi-Stage Interdisciplinary Assessment of Battered Women's Service Needs and Agency Programming: Collaborative Research Involving CHOICES and the Ohio State University,"

Atika Khurana (Human Development and Family Science); *Graduate Research Award* to study "Longitudinal and Multi-Contextual Assessment of Risk and Protective Factors Associated with Early and Risky Sexual Involvement among Adolescents."

Jessica Veneskey (Social Work); *Graduate Research Award* to study "Risk Factors for Negative Outcomes in a Prison-Based Therapeutic community."

Deanna Wilkinson (Human Development and Family Science), *Angela Harvey* (Sociology-Newark), and *Mark Davis* (CJRC); *Seed Grant* to study "Building Capacity for Community and Youth Impact in Distressed Urban Neighborhoods."

WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING

Walter DeKeseredy (University of Ontario Institute of Technology) gave a keynote presentation on September 16th at the 13th International Conference on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma in San Diego where he received the Linda Saltzman Memorial Intimate Partner Violence Research Award. This award is dedicated to the memory of Linda Saltzman, who dedicated her life to ending intimate partner violence through research.

Walter also has the following book chapters in press:

DeKeseredy, W.S. (in press). Epilogue: Moral Panics, Violence and the Policing of Girls: Reasserting Patriarchal Control in the New Millennium. In M. Chesney-Lind & N. Jones (Eds.), *Girls and Violence: Beyond Denial and Demonization*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press.

DeKeseredy, W.S. (in press). The Hidden Violent Victimization of Women. In P. Knepper and S.G. Shoham (Eds.), *International Handbook of Victimology*. Oxford, U.K.: Taylor & Francis.

Townsend Price-Spratlent (Sociology) has a brand new publication entitled "Urban Destination Selection among African Americans during the 1950s Great Migration." This article can be found in *Social Science History*.

Stephen Gavazzi (Human Development and Family Science) has two new publications:

Gavazzi, S.M., Lim, J.Y., Yarcheck, C.M., Bostic, J.M., & Scheer, S.D. (2008). The Impact of Gender and Family Processes on Mental Health and Substance Use Issues in a Sample of Court-Involved Female and Male Adolescents. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 37, 1071-1084.

Gavazzi, S.M., Bostic, J.M., Lim, J.Y., & Yarcheck, C.M. (2008). Examining the Impact of Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Family Factors on Mental Health Issues in a Sample of Court-Involved Youth. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 34, 353- 368.

Marianna Klochko (Sociology; OSU-Marion) has been invited to speak on "Prison Rehabilitation in Ukraine" at St. Anthony College, Oxford University, UK as part of their Russian and Eurasian Studies Center Seminar series.

Jim Taylor (Sociology; Ohio University) presented a paper titled "Gun Collectors and Skydivers: Conflict and Commitment in Constructing Serious Leisure Identities." on August 2nd at the Annual Conference of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. He co-authored this paper with Leon Anderson Ph.D. of Ohio University. Jim also successfully defended his dissertation titled "GUN SHOWS, Gun Collectors and the Story of the Gun: An Ethnographic Approach to U.S. Gun Culture."

CALLS FOR PAPERS, CONFERENCES, AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

The *Sociology of Crime, Law, and Deviance* is a series of edited volumes, published by the JAI Press/Emerald that includes work in the areas of the sociology of deviance, criminology and criminal justice, and sociology of law. Each volume of the series revolves around one specified theme in any of these areas and includes chapters by some 12 to 14 authors showcasing theoretical contributions, empirical research, and methodological innovations.

Prior editions in the series have included volumes on such topics as surveillance and governance, restorative justice, terrorism and counter-terrorism, the legal profession, and crime and human rights, with contributors including Richard Rosenfeld, Ross Matsueda, Donald Black, Thomas Mathiesen, Bruce Arrigo, Gary LaFree, Gregg Barak, Margaret Zahn, Ronald Akers, Joachim Savelsberg, and Jeffery Ulmer.

The Series Editor is currently soliciting proposals for volumes on themes to appear in the coming years. The proposal should contain a brief exposition of the planned volume, including the name of the editor, a one-paragraph description of the theme, and a list of potential contributors to the volume.

For more information please contact: Mathieu Deflem, Sociology of Crime, Law and Deviance Series Editor, University of South Carolina, email: deflem@sc.edu.

The *National Institute of Justice* offers a Graduate Research Fellowship Program, which provides assistance to universities for dissertation research support. This program supports doctoral students pursuing research related to crime and justice, specifically, students who have completed, or are near completion of, all doctoral degree requirements except the research, writing, and defense of a dissertation. **The next deadline is 11-21-08.** For more information, please visit the following link: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sl000836.pdf>.

The Criminal Justice grant program of the *JEHT Foundation* works to strengthen the voice for systemic criminal justice reform in the United States by:

- promoting equity and fairness in the criminal justice system for all people, with an emphasis on reducing discrimination and other practices that lead to racial and ethnic disproportionality in the system;
- reducing incarceration and recidivism in the U.S. prison system without risk to public safety; and
- redirecting savings from reduced incarceration and recidivism into programs serving at risk persons and former prisoners in communities impacted most by crime.

JEHT reviews grant requests on an ongoing basis and makes funding decision twice a year.

For more information go to: <http://www.jehtfoundation.org/criminaljustice/>

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Criminologists, like other scientists, contribute to knowledge by collecting and analyzing data and reporting the results in scholarly and professional journals. It's a time-tested model, but for Deanna Wilkinson, Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Science at OSU and CJRC affiliate, that model does not always get the research into the hands of those who need it most.

Consequently, Deanna spends much of her time and resources exploring ways to translate research findings into innovations in crime prevention and service delivery. Even though certain strategies have not been proven ineffective, Deanna finds that they are still in place and receiving support. She is committed to identifying and sharing credible strategies with those "in the trenches" and finding more fruitful media for disseminating this knowledge.

One way Deanna keeps her finger on the pulse of what's happening in Columbus is by attending community meetings, and she's attended more than 30 over the past couple of years. She participates in these meetings not as a researcher, but as a citizen who wants to help Columbus neighborhoods through quality research knowledge. Not one to sit quietly when she feels she has something important to offer, Deanna speaks up. This has gotten the attention of a wide variety of community leaders, and she has earned their trust. In turn, some of these leaders have vouched for her, and her contacts in the community have snowballed.

Perhaps the most visible manifestation of Deanna's community work to date is the OSU Youth Violence Prevention Advisory Board, a partnership comprised of researchers and representatives of seven different community organizations. Also represented are law enforcement, the judiciary, the health department, legal aid, and the Ohio Department of Youth Services. To help with her agenda, Deanna asked her board members how they get information. The results confirmed her suspicion that those in the community need to participate in a culture of exchanging good information in user-friendly ways.

Deanna says she got into criminology to make a difference. She maintains that we need to work smarter, not harder, on the problems facing communities like Columbus. The model she has adopted is different, and she's okay with that. Apparently, a lot of locals are, too.

If you would like further information or are interested in getting involved with the Youth Violence Prevention Advisory Board or in other ways to assist your violence prevention efforts in Columbus, please contact Deanna Wilkinson via email at dwilkinson@ehe.osu.edu.

Please visit the OSU Youth Violence Prevention advisory board group and its Google group discussion forum to learn more about this organization, upcoming events, etc. The address for the group is: <http://groups.google.com/group/osu-youth-violence-prevention-advisory-board>.

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 Derrick Bryan at bryan.127@osu.edu. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Derrick your e-mail address.