

Criminal Justice Research Center News

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**This issue's feature:
Where is Crime at Election Time?**

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Hello, everyone. We are just over half way through autumn quarter and CJRC seems to be in full swing. Let me begin by thanking **Laurie (Krivo)** for presenting our work on spatial location and neighborhood crime during the first we of the quarter. She and I were both gratified by the great attendance and we especially appreciated your helpful comments on the paper. We took them to heart in revising the paper for publication in an upcoming issue of *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. On October 24th, we also held the first of our three "**Excellence in Justice**" seminars for this academic year. **Christopher Uggen** (University of Minnesota) joined us to discuss his new Minnesota Exits and Entries Project." As I noted in an earlier issue of the newsletter, this project takes a comparative perspective on re-entry by focusing on how young adults fare once they leave a variety of institutional settings, including: foster care; mental health treatment; chemical health treatment; the armed forces; the juvenile justice system; county jail; and, the state prison system. Needless to say, researchers and policymakers attending the talk were alike in being impressed with the scope and importance of this research. Through their own voices (literally), Chris demonstrated how respondents re-entering communities from these different contexts define/understand their situations and what is needed for success "on the outside." He drew our attention to commonalities and differences in these views and to what definitions and organizational contexts distinguish individuals who seem to be managing a successful re-entry from those who are not. Notably, this project is in its early stages and Chris promises to return to update us on the final outcomes of the research in about 18 months. We are all looking forward to his doing so; he certainly whetted our appetites to know more. **Thank you so much Chris for undertaking this important project and for sharing your early findings with us.**

Up next is renowned urban scholar **Elijah Anderson** (William K. Lanman, Jr. Professor of Sociology, Yale University) visit to CJRC on December 4-5, 2008. Anderson's visit is co-sponsored by the following OSU units: the College of **Social and Behavioral Sciences**, the Department of **Sociology**, the **Kirwan Institute** for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, and the **Office of Minority Affairs**. In line with this broad interest, Anderson will give two talks:

Thursday, **December 4th at 3:30pm** in the Pfahl Executive Conference Center (Room 140 of the Pfahl Building at 280 W. Woodruff Avenue) Anderson will give a talk entitled "[From Affirmative Action to Diversity: The New Black Middle Class.](#)"

Friday, **December 5th from 9:00-10:30am** in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Lounge (Room 100 of the Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center located at 153 W. 12th Avenue), Anderson will speak on "[Violence and the Inner City.](#)"

I look forward to seeing you at both these talks. In the meantime, I hope that you are having a great quarter.

--**Ruth**

UPCOMING CJRC EVENTS OF INTEREST

Thursday, December 4, 2008 **Elijah Anderson (William K. Lanman, Jr. Professor of Sociology, Yale University)**. "[From Affirmative Action to Diversity: The New Black Middle Class.](#)" **3:30pm**, Pfahl Executive Conference Center (Room 140 of the Pfahl Building at 280 W. Woodruff Avenue) **A reception will follow immediately after the talk.**

Friday, December 5, 2008 **Elijah Anderson (William K. Lanman, Jr. Professor of Sociology, Yale University)**. "[Violence and the Inner City.](#)" **9:00-10:20am**, Martin Luther King, Jr. Lounge (Room 100 of the Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center located at 153 W. 12th Avenue) **Coffee, juice and refreshments will be served.**

WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING

Walter DeKeseredy (University of Ontario Institute of Technology) received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society of Criminology's Division on Critical Criminology. The award is in honor of his sustained and distinguished scholarship, teaching, and service in the field of critical criminology.

Walter also has a new publication entitled "Woman abuse in a sample of minority low-income women." This article can be found in *Women's Health & Urban Life*, Vol. 7, 51-67 (2008).

Danielle C. Kuhl (Sociology; Bowling Green State University) and **David Maimon (Ph.D. candidate, Sociology; OSU)** have a new publication entitled "Social Control and Youth Suicidality: Situating Durkheim's Ideas in a Multilevel Framework." This article is forthcoming in the December issue of *American Sociological Review*.

Victor Streib (Law; Elon University School of Law) has three new publications:

“Media Misuse: Criminal Lawyer Advertising and Prosecutor Campaigning Under the Guise of the Public's Need to Know.” *Ohio Northern University Law Review*, Vol. 34. (2008).

“Precocious Killers: Justice for Homicidal Pre-Teens.” 28 *Children's Legal Rights Journal* 33 (2008).

State of Criminal Justice 2007-2008 (Chicago: ABA) (2008) (editor/coauthor).

Jeremy M. Wilson (Criminal Justice; Michigan State University) has recently assumed a new position at Michigan State University. He is the Associate Director for Research and Associate Professor in the School of Criminal Justice.

Jeremy was also recently named a visiting scholar at the Australian Resource Council's Center of Excellence in Policing and Security at Griffith University and still continues his work at RAND, serving as the Associate Director of the Center on Quality Policing and Director of the Police Recruitment and Retention Clearinghouse.

Maria Velez (Sociology; University of New Mexico) has received the following two grants to study the impact of long term bank disinvestment on neighborhood crime in Albuquerque neighborhoods (1990-2006):

1. Research Allocation Committee Grant, University of New Mexico, with Christopher Lyons (\$4,000)
2. Faculty Research Grant with Christopher Lyons (\$10,000) with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation at the University of New Mexico (2008)

Maria is the new chair of the Minority Affairs Committee for ASC next year and she also has a new publication:

Vélez, María B., Ana L. Campos, and Stephan Arndt, 2008. “City’s Racial Composition Shapes Treatment Center Characteristics and Services.” *Journal of Ethnicity and Substance Abuse* 7(2):188-199.

CALLS FOR PAPERS, CONFERENCES, AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

2008 Justice Assistance Program-Law Enforcement (JAG LE) Funding Available: OCJS is pleased to announce the availability of 2008 Justice Assistance Program-Law Enforcement (JAG LE) funding to provide essential law enforcement services in Ohio. JAG LE funds projects that reduce crime, increase public safety, and support the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS).

Seven-month awards will be issued from February 1, 2009 to August 30, 2009. If your agency will receive 2008 JAG funds directly from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance, you will not be eligible to apply for this JAG LE solicitation through OCJS. **Applications must be postmarked or hand delivered to OCJS by 11-17-08.**

For more information, please visit OCJS' website at the following link:
<http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/funding/reports.htm>. Please call 614/466.7782 with questions.

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 request on an ongoing basis and makes funding decisions twice a year.

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

This Issue's Feature:

Where is Crime at Election Time?

By: Mark Davis and Derrick Bryan

With the presidential election just days behind us, some of us may be wondering, where was crime at election time? Are politicians not all that interested in crime control? Or were they overwhelmed with other issues they deem more pressing?

Clearly, for most people the economy has eclipsed just about every other election issue. The “Joe Six-Packs” and “Joe The Plumbers”- as average, middle-class Americans have been labeled - are necessarily more interested in hanging onto their houses and retirement accounts. It's much harder to get credit now, and so a lot of people find themselves listening to politicians for some shred of hope that things will improve in the foreseeable future.

While crime may not rival the economy or Iraq in the national consciousness; have politicians considered what this failing economy might do to the crime problem? Criminologists know that economic downturns can spawn crime.

Renters, including those who have faithfully paid their rents, have recently found themselves out on the street when their landlords couldn't make the mortgage payments. Survival is a strong instinct, and prevailing economic forces may pressure citizens to consider unlawful options. With the holidays approaching, it's not hard to imagine financially strapped parents pondering theft or buying stolen merchandise as a means of putting gifts under the Christmas tree.

There are other aspects of the current economic crisis that should interest presidential candidates and criminologists alike. Federal authorities suggest they are looking closely at corporations that have recently benefited from the government bailout. It may be that under close scrutiny what appears to the public as lack of foresight or mismanagement could be far more sinister. Both political parties have vowed to investigate the practices that have led to the current crisis.

Looking back, what do we know about the status of crime and justice in the current political debate? We can extract tidbits from the respective party platforms. The Republicans stated that they “...remain the party of vigorous action against crime...” The specifics of their platform target child predators and child pornography, internet gambling, street gangs, tough sentences for violent offenders, and protecting crime victims. On the other hand, they acknowledged the importance of softer approaches such as drug education and prevention, reforming prisons, protecting civil liberties, and renewing families and communities. In a much more concise statement, the Democrats committed to being “smart on crime,” defined as being tough on violence, funding strategic and effective community policing, holding offenders accountable, as well as addressing the root causes of crime. Thus there was not a lot that separates the official stance of one party from the other.

Recently, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) called for the next president to establish a Presidential Commission on Law Enforcement and Homeland Security. President-Elect Obama stated that he supports Senator Joe Biden's idea of a National Commission on Crime Intervention and Prevention Strategies. He also agrees that integrating state and local agencies into national homeland security strategy and providing them with necessary resources are important steps to take. President-Elect Obama firmly criticized the Bush Administration's decimation of the COPS program, saying that he would reinvigorate the federal partnership with state and local agencies through programs such as Byrne Justice Assistance Grants and COPS.

So where was crime at election time?! And where will it be now that the 2008 election is over? Will it play a more important role in post-election politics? No one knows, but one thing is for sure...only time will tell!

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.